

Agenda Item No: 6

Report No: 39/17

Report Title: Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

Report To: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17th February 2017

Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners

Ward(s) Affected: All

Report By: Director of Service Delivery

Contact Officer(s)-

Name(s): Harry Williams
Post Title(s): Community Safety Officer
E-mail(s): Harry.williams@lewes.gov.uk
Tel No(s): 07809100745

Purpose of Report:

To enable the Committee to scrutinise and consider the current performance of the Lewes District Community Partnership (LDCSP) against the Lewes District Community Safety Plan and to outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) performance.

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1** To note the achievements and activities of the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership during 2016/17 and future risks/opportunities to performance.
- 2** To endorse the Community Safety Action Plan for 2016/17 which will be adopted by Director of Service Delivery under delegated authority.
- 3** To note the levelling off of crime within performance years 2015/16 and 2016/17 and the favourable comparison of crime levels in our Most Similar Group.
- 4** To note the upcoming completion of the Eastbourne, Lewes District & Wealden Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger'.
- 5** To agree any further recommendations the Committee would wish to make to the Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners with regard to the work of the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.** For the Scrutiny Committee to fulfil its duties under the Police and Justice Act 2006

Information

7.0 Summary

- 7.1** Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were initially established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act required partnerships to be set up to consider and tackle crime at a local level and are often defined as an alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area.
- 7.2** Central Government published the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy in May 2016 which builds on research, techniques and technology, aimed at addressing the changing nature of crime⁽¹⁾.
- 7.3** The LGA is currently undertaking a review into Community Safety Partnerships in light of the increasing recognition into the role Councils play in relation to Community Safety and the challenges of less funding and increased expectations⁽²⁾.
- 7.4** Both factors demonstrate the changing landscape of the CSPs.
- 7.5** Between 2011/12 to 2013/14 crime had substantially reduced. However owing to Sussex Police changing recording procedures in response to national guidelines, a substantial increase in overall crime was experienced in 2014/15. This increase has begun to level out and performance compares favourably when considered alongside our 'Most Similar Group' (see Appendix A).
- 7.6** Central Government funding changes continue to impact on local delivery structures. This is likely to affect policing and Police & Crime Commissioner funding of the CSP in 2017/18.
- 7.7** Enhanced work at a local level for Prevent, in addition to Protect & Prepare, is essential to respond to the Councils new legal duty and the impact of cybercrime will be a continuing priority for the future. The CSP is responding to these challenges by continued focus on partnership work to deliver the Community Safety Plan and improve crime reduction.

8.0 Lewes District Community Safety Plan & Priorities

- 8.1** The current Community Safety Plan has been developed in consultation with key partners including the Police and other members of the LDCSP. This is set out at Appendix B. It uses a standard countywide format, with a focus on what can realistically be achieved within current resource constraints. The priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and Sussex Police, have been taken into account in developing this plan, as well key local issues.
- 8.2** The 2016/17 LDCSP Priorities are attached as Appendix C. It should be noted that performance targets are reviewed at the end of each performance year. A copy of the performance objectives for 2017/18 have been attached

as Appendix D.

9.0 Performance

9.1 Looking back to 2009/10 Lewes District was subject to around 4701 crimes within that year⁽³⁾ compared with 2013/14 when there had been 3638 crimes in this period - a reduction of 22.6%⁽⁴⁾.

9.2 By the end of 2015/16 Lewes District was subject to around 4357 crimes⁽⁵⁾. It should be noted that due to; (i) Sussex Police strict adherence to Home Office Crime Recording Procedures and (ii) the PPC led initiative to increase crime reporting in a number of categories including, domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offences there had been a considerable increase in recorded crime.

9.3 However, by November 2016, crime appeared to be levelled off, with minor reductions being seen⁽⁶⁾.

9.4 Performance for 2015/16 compared with the baseline performance year 2014/15⁽⁵⁾ is set out below.

- Number of incidents of personal Anti-Social Behaviour reduced from 470 to 386 (-17.9%).
- Number of Burglaries at Dwellings increased from 136 to 142 (+4.4%).
- Number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads reduced from 82 to 71 (-13.4%)⁽⁷⁾.
- Reports of Domestic Abuse Crime increased from 445 to 551 (+23.8%)
- Number of incidents of Fly-Tipping reduced from 171 to 152 (-11.1%)⁽⁸⁾.
- Overall number of crimes increased from 3823 to 4357 (+14.0%)

9.5 Home Office data, which compares numerous categories of crime with other towns in our Most Similar Group (See Appendix D for grouping), demonstrates that Lewes District compares favourably⁽⁹⁾:

November 2016 Data shows:

- 3rd lowest – overall crime
- 1st lowest – burglary
- 3rd lowest – Robbery
- 2nd lowest – vehicle crime
- Below median - Arson

10.0 Progress in Priority Areas during 2016/17

- 10.1 Locality Based Responses:** Actions set by the local Lewes District Joint Action Group have made a positive contribution to Community Safety in Lewes District.
- 10.2** The JAG has initiated the 'Peacehaven Taskforce', following from a series of criminal damage incidents, and supports the Town Council in tackling youth ASB in that area. Efforts include the commissioning of youth diversion activities and co-ordinating multi-agency activity. Further partnership work has again been developed to address ASB at the Landport Youth Centre. These are two recent examples of how the partnership is working with local communities to take action against crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 10.3** The recent purchase of Nomad CCTV Cameras, managed by Sussex Police, will also help to address issues relating to Criminal Damage and broader ASB. In addition, the cameras will begin to respond to local demands following from consultation with the Town & Parish Councils.
- 10.4** To begin positively changing perceptions towards crime and anti-social behaviour within the District, the re-launched Community Safety e-bulletin continues to promote the work of the CSP and its partners.
- 10.5 Road Safety:** There has been a slight reduction in the number of road deaths and serious injuries in 2015/16. The Community Safety Plan includes a number of activities relating to road safety.
- 10.6** The partnership has recently established a new Road Safety Action Group which is working to reduce the number of KSIs within Lewes District. The Group will be scrutinising collision investigation data to inform activity; surveying road users' current understanding and attitudes towards driving with an aim to encourage behaviour change; supporting and developing initiatives to reduce the number and severity of casualties; and promote Community Speedwatch, Operation Crackdown and national, regional and local campaigns.
- 10.7** The Road Safety Action Group reports to the Joint Action Group and includes an officer of the Council. This position will be filled by the Community Safety Officer.
- 10.8 Environmental Crime:** The continued development of 'Paws on Watch' and the 'Fly-tipping Reduction Campaign' have made a positive impact on environmental crime within the District.
- 10.9** There have been significant reductions in fly-tipping in four out of six hot-spot areas and membership for 'Paws on Watch' continues to grow –37 members as of December 2016.
- 10.10 Domestic Abuse:** In conjunction with Eastbourne Borough Council, the Council has been re-accredited as a White Ribbon Council due to the work of the CSP and its partners. A number of engagement events have been carried out this year which in turn raises awareness of Domestic Abuse.

- 10.11** The CSP continues to attend and endorse the Joint Eastbourne & Lewes District Domestic Abuse Working Group.
- 10.12** **Youth:** In 2016/17 the Joint Action Group has financially contributed towards a number of initiatives design to prevent Youth Crime and ASB (see Appendix E).
- 10.13** Additional outreach work by Targeted Youth Support and Diversionary Activities in Peacehaven and Newhaven have been commissioned this year.
- 10.14** The CSP has continued its contributions towards the 'Youth Drop-in' run by the Sussex Community Development Association.
- 10.15** These activities are complementary to work of other agencies such as the Youth Offending Team, Targeted Youth Support, Sussex Community Development Association and East Sussex County Council.

11.0 Prevent, Protect & Prepare

- 11.1** The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a duty on all specified authorities (LDC is such an authority) in exercise of their functions to have due regard to "prevent" people from being drawn into terrorism. The current National threat level remains at "severe" and the risk of individuals being radicalised, usually through the internet, is likely to be with us for sometime.
- 11.2** Prevent is a priority for the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership and the legal duty placed on LDC has led to the development of a separate LDC Prevent Duty Action Plan. Safeguarding processes, staff training and other actions relating to the management of facilities have been progressed.
- 11.3** Reporting structures include, Corporate Management Team, the LDCSP and the East Sussex Prevent Board. Although classified as a low risk area, LDC is required to report on progress direct to the Home Office.
- 11.4** Prevent is a strand of work aligned to three others, namely, Protect, Pursue and Prepare, which together up Central Governments counter-terrorism strategy. Where the responsibility for Pursue sits primarily with the Security Services and the Police, there is a role for LDC in the other two strands: Protect and Prepare.
- 11.5** The protection of buildings & infrastructure and the mitigation of the impact from potential threats fall within this and work is being under-taken to ensure the council is proportionately addressing this risk.

12.0 Police and Crime Commissioner

- 12.1** The second election for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each police area took place in May 2016. PCC's are responsible for policing and crime performance and to hold the Chief Constables' to account
- 12.2** The Cabinet member for Customers & Partners, Councillor Nicholson is Lewes District's representative on the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which has the powers over the PCC and, in particular, in terms of 'policing plan' and

'budget'. PCC's do not directly control local CSP's but directly impact LDCSP effectiveness by control of budget allocation and hold responsibility for monitoring CSP effectiveness.

13.0 Resource Implications

13.1 The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) maintains direct control of determining budget allocation to local CSPs⁽¹⁰⁾. This financial year the PCC allocated £21.9k to the LDCSP.

13.2 The Lewes District CSP is working with the East Sussex Community Safety Partnership to highlight the positive benefits of this funding, and it is therefore hoped that a similar level of grant will be provided in the coming year.

14.0 Eastbourne, Lewes District & Wealden Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger'

14.1 In late 2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex recommended that it would be appropriate for individual District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships to investigate merging options to reflect the new policing district boundaries and made efficiency savings.

14.2 After a universal agreement of the individual Eastbourne, Lewes District & Wealden CSPs it was agreed that the Districts and Borough would work towards establishing a new Strategy Group encompassing all three whilst enhancing and maintaining the District Joint Action Groups to deliver a local focus.

14.3 So far the soft merger has enabled greater strategic presence for the individual CSPs and facilitated cross border co-ordination on priority areas such as Scams & Rogue Trading.

14.4 In addition, it has successfully enhanced the JAG by freeing up resources to focus on local priorities and deliver greater multi-agency problem solving. This has been achieved by enhancing operational capabilities through broader partner participation. This in turn has developed JAG commissioning abilities as, similar to the CSP, the group has broadened its skills and knowledge to allow for greater identification of local demand and priorities.

14.5 The soft merger is supported by the Eastbourne, Lewes District & Wealden Community Safety Partnership Steering Group who has the responsibility of monitoring progress. The steering group will be meeting in February to review progress thus far and discuss the future direction for the partnership.

14.6 The report to this committee last year resulted in Members expressing concerns regarding a potential risk that Lewes District issues may take a lower priority to those of other areas. This risk has been mitigated successfully through the Terms of Reference of the merged Board and in particular through enhancement of the Joint Action Group as set out above.

15.0 Staffing

- 15.1** As part of the EBC/LDC Joint Transformation Programme (JTP), in June 2016, the officers of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) were tasked to also undertake work for the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership.
- 15.2** Expertise, knowledge and best practice has been shared across the partnership and some areas of joint working are developing in response to Cybercrime, Scams & Rogue Trading.
- 15.3** Staffing for this area of work going forward will be addressed through the JTP restructure (Phase One) currently underway.

16.0 Financial Appraisal

- 16.1** Finance have made the following comments:

There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

17.0 Legal Implications

- 17.1** The Legal Services Department have made the following comments:
- 17.2** References to all relevant legislation are contained within the body of the report.
- 17.3** Under its terms of reference, the Scrutiny Committee have capacity to agree the recommendations at the head of this report.
- 17.4** Date of legal advice 18.1.17. Legal ref: 005971-LDC-OD.

18.0 Risk Management Implications

- 18.1** Changes to the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), under the Local Policing Programme, present challenges in regards to low level anti-social behaviour (ASB) and may place additional responsibilities on the Council to tackle ASB within our partnership approach. As part of the EBC/LDC Joint Transformation Programme, a review of ASB policy is currently underway. It includes efforts to identify how the Councils could respond to non-tenant related ASB in light of changes under the LPP.
- 18.2** Powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act have enhanced Councils abilities to tackle ASB. Practice is being developed by EBC and is to be shared across both Councils. Such efforts have been taken to ensure that the Council is prepared for possible changes to the management of low level ASB brought about by the LPP.
- 18.3** In view of the change in the nature of crime, where a major transfer to online crime and scams is taking place, it has reached the point where cyber offences are nationally outweighing those committed within the physical world. The new Home Office advice, presented within the Modern Crime

Prevention Strategy⁽¹⁾, introduced above, focuses on this and efforts by the LDCSP have already begun. Cybercrime is listed within the CSP priorities for 2017/18 and officer knowledge is being developed to respond to these demands. A focus on the publication of prevention advice will be taken whilst strategic and operational support for agencies, such as the police, will be co-ordinated by the CSP through the Community Safety Plan.

18.4 At the Safer Communities Board in December 2016, the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner suggested that future funding from the PCC to the CSPs should be spent on projects which reflect PCC priorities. Such direction may present a risk to the commissioning of initiatives, and CSP effectiveness, in relation to local priorities.

18.5 Effective management of CSP finances has ensured that reserves, prior to PCC funding, are available to ensure that funding is available for the commissioning of projects/initiatives which match local priorities.

19.0 Equality Screening

19.1 The work of the Community Safety Partnership positively impacts on a number of groups across the District who share protected characteristics, so has a positive contribution towards our Equalities Objectives, and as this report is a progress update, it does not require an Equality Analysis.

19.2 However, the merger of the three Community Safety Partnerships was subject to its own Equality Analysis which was completed and signed off by the partnership at its first meeting in July 2016.

Background Papers

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

1. *Modern Crime Prevent Strategy, Home Office*
2. *LGA Review into Community Safety Partnerships*
3. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
4. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
5. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
6. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
7. *Safer Sussex Roads Partnership Casualties Data*
8. *iQuanta Data produced by the Home Office compares Eastbourne against fourteen other similar towns in England on a rolling quarter. Crime Data produced monthly.*
9. *Report on Fly-tipping in 2014/15 and 2015/16*
10. *Central Government Legislation and Home Office Guidance*

A copy of the papers relating to this report can be obtained by contacting the Officer listed above.

Appendices

Appendix A – iQuanta Most Similar Group (MSG) grouping for Lewes District

Appendix B – Community Safety Plan Version 1.3 (available on request)

Appendix C – CSP Priorities for 2016/17

Appendix D – CSP Priorities for 2017/8

Appendix E – Copy of Lewes District Joint Action Group YTD spend for 2016/17