

Report

Body:	Scrutiny
Date:	3 September 2012
Subject:	Eastbourne Community Safety Plan
Report Of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Senior Head of Community
Ward(s)	All
Purpose	To consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Partnership (CSP) under the updated Eastbourne Community Safety Plan and to outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) performance.
Recommendation:	That Scrutiny notes the CSP's achievements and future risks/opportunities to performance and endorses the updated 2011/2014 Community Safety Plan with continued delegated implementation authority to Senior Head of Community.
Contact:	Bob Gough, Eastbourne Crime Reduction Officer, Telephone 01323 415346 or internally on extension 5346. E-mail address bob.gough@eastbourne.gov.uk .

1.0 Background/Introduction

- 1.1 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were initially established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This required partnerships to be setup to consider and tackle crime at a local level.
- 1.2 On 1 April 2011, as a result of a countywide review, a post of Community Safety Partnership Support Officer was appointed to support the administration of the Lewes, Weald and Eastbourne CSPs.
- 1.3 Cabinet has previously endorsed the successful Crime Reduction performance of the Partnership. In 2005/2006 Eastbourne was subject to around 11,500 crimes. For the performance year 2010/2011 this had dropped to approximately 7,500 crimes⁽¹⁾. In the previous performance year 2011/2012 crimes had reduced a further 9.5% to 6,900 crimes⁽²⁾.

2.0 Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2011-2014

- 2.1 The current Plan has been developed in consultation with key partners including the Police and other members of the CSP. Version 2.1 is available as Appendix A. It is modelled on a countywide endorsed layout, with a focus on what can realistically be achieved within current resource constraints.
- 2.2 It is to be noted that although the Plan is for a three year period, performance targets are reviewed at the end of each performance year. These performance targets have been incorporated into the relevant sections of Eastbourne Borough Council's Corporate Plan.

3.0 Performance Against Targets

3.1 The following relates to targets and performance of performance year 2011/2012 compared with the baseline performance year 2010/2011⁽³⁾. In other words, last year's performance.

- i) Target - reduce overall crime by 3%
Performance - Overall crime from 7,631 to 6,892
A reduction of 9.7%, 739 crimes.
- ii) Target - reduce shoplifting by 5%
Performance - shoplifting from 818 to 960
An increase of 17.4%, 142 crimes
- iii) Target - reduce public place violent crime by 3%
Performance - public place violent crime from 1276 to 954
A reduction of 25.2%, 322 crimes
- iv) Target - reduce criminal damage by 5%
Performance - criminal damage from 1441 to 1076
A reduction of 25.3%, 365 crimes
- v) Target - to be the lowest or second lowest for all crimes against our most similar groups (MSG)⁽⁴⁾
Performance - second lowest for all crime against our MSG

3.2 Current performance compares the period April 2012 to July end 2012 inclusive, compared to the same period last year. This year's CSP performance targets remain the same as last year and will be compared to the baseline performance year of 2011/2012 on an ongoing basis.

- i) Target - reduce overall crime by 3%
Performance - overall crime from 2407 to 2254
A reduction of 6.4%, 153 crimes
- ii) Target - reduce shoplifting by 5%
Performance - shoplifting from 294 to 306
An increase of 4%, 12 crimes
- iii) Target - reduce public place violent crime by 3%
Performance - public place violent crime from 350 to 329
A reduction of 6%, 21 crimes

- iv) Target – reduce criminal damage by 5% - target
Performance - criminal damage from 409 to 371
A reduction of 9.3%, 38 crimes
- v) Target - to be the lowest or second lowest for all crime against our
MSG
Performance - second lowest for all crime against our MSG

3.3 It will be noted from paragraph 1.3 above that Eastbourne over the last few years has seen a substantial reduction in crime and despite the recession crime was down further in 2011/2012 with further reduction this year so far. Paragraph 3.1 above shows clearly three of the four targets met and this reduction pattern is again evident so far this year.

3.4 In relation to CSP specific targets, shoplifting clearly remains an issue and in that regard a sub-group of the CSP has been formed to include the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Business Crime Groups to re-address this chronic problem and risk to performance.

3.5 It may also be of interest to note, although not a specific CSP target, overall violent crime is down from 2100 crimes to 1693; a reduction of 407 crimes, or 19.4%.

4.0 Police & Crime Commissioner Update

4.1 Elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each Police area will take place on 15 November 2012. PCCs will be responsible for policing and crime performance and to appoint and hold Chief Constables to account. Candidates must formally declare by early October. Selected Councillors both at a county and local level will form a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which will have scrutiny powers over the PCC and in particular the “policing plan” and “budget”. A shadow PCP is already in place to assist the smooth transition from Sussex Police Authority to the PCC. It is anticipated PCCs will have a direct involvement in community safety.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 The CSP’s Strategy Group, having agreed the updated Plan and its priorities, has matched the priorities with the reduced area based grant funding, smoothed out over a two year period to £43k per annum. This excludes the continued Basic Command Unit funding of approximately £60k for this year, utilised mainly by the District Police in direct support of the Plan’s objectives.

5.2 It is anticipated that the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) due to be elected in November this year will have a direct involvement in determining budget allocation to local CSPs commencing in the 2013/2014 financial year⁽⁵⁾. Eastbourne CSP is working with the East Sussex Community Safety Partnership to highlight the positive benefits for the PCC to retain investment in CSP activity.

5.3 Central Government’s budgetary restrictions placed on Local Authorities and

Police Forces in response to central financial deficits have created major challenges for the public sector, of which the policing is not immune, and this is coupled with uncertain future funding in 2013/2014. These challenges will require a continued determination and creative partnership approach to ensure current performance is maintained.

6.0 Staffing

6.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

7.0 Other Implications - Environmental, Community Safety, Youth

7.1 **Environmental:** The CSP includes a number of activities within its plan to target environmental crime, including fly tipping.

7.2 **Community Safety:** The successful reduction in crime highlighted in the above paragraphs, coupled with our proactive marketing of such success has, it is contended, made a positive contribution to overall Community Safety in Eastbourne.

7.3 **Youth:** Since 2008 the CSP has consistently made targeted financial contribution to youth initiatives and youth outreach designed to prevent Youth Crime and ASB, which has added value to existing agency work as detailed in the current Youth Strategy.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 Overall crime has substantially reduced since 2005/2006 performance year. Notable crime reductions have again been achieved in the performance year 2011/2012 and crime performance is again positive within measured criteria of the refreshed plan in the current performance year to date.

8.2 Central Government cut-backs coupled with the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners from November 2012 may have an adverse impact on local CSP funding from next performance year 2013/2014.

8.3 Further potential countywide changes as a result of a newly 'elected PCC' above have been mitigated by a continued local focus, in addition to adding value in developing initiatives, including Neighbourhood Management.

8.4 Cabinet is requested to note the continued Crime Reduction performance, endorse the updated 2011/2014 Community Safety Plan and continue the delegated authority to the Senior Head of Community to implement actions set out.

Bob Gough
Crime Reduction Officer

Background Papers:

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

1. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
2. *Sussex Police Crime Data*
3. *Sussex Police and iQuanta Data (Home Office)*
4. *iQuanta Data produced by the Home Office compares Eastbourne against fourteen other similar towns in England on a rolling quarter. Crime Data produced monthly.*
5. *Central Government Legislation and Home Office Guidance*

Appendix A – Community Safety Plan Version 2.1 (available on request)

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.

(5 Sept Eastbourne Community Safety Plan)