

**Agenda Item No:** 8 **Report No:** 160/17  
**Report Title:** Annual Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Report  
**Report To:** Scrutiny Committee **Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> November 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):** Policy & Engagement Coordinator  
**E-mail(s):** [Harry.williams@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:Harry.williams@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)  
**Tel No(s):** 01273 085432

---

**Purpose of Report:**

To enable the Committee to scrutinise and consider the current performance of the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership (LDCSP).

To outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) performance.

To enable the Committee to scrutinise and consider the proposed Community Safety Plan for 2018/19, including the Partnership priorities for this year.

To enable the Committee to scrutinise and endorse the formal merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnerships, subject to consultation with Partners and approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**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 2018/19 which will be adopted by the Director of Service Delivery under delegated authority following consultation and approval of the LDCSP Strategy Group.
- 3** To note the completion of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger' and endorse the full merger of the two Partnerships.
- 4** 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

5. For the Scrutiny Committee to fulfil its duties under the Police and Justice Act 2006

### Information

#### 6.0 Community Safety Partnerships

- 6.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were initially established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are formed from Responsible Authorities, such as the police, fire and rescue service and local authorities. Amongst other obligations, CSPs have a statutory requirement to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in their local authority area.
- 6.2 There are many types of CSPs across the Country. Lewes District Community Safety Partnership (LDCSP) is a District CSP and works alongside the County CSP (namely the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership). District CSPs are best placed to deal with local priorities. County CSPs generally focus on pan-county issues such as offender management and domestic abuse to maximise on economies of scale.
- 6.3 However, a recent report into community safety and CSPs, carried out by the Local Government Association, identified that CSPs are shifting towards new outcomes around effective safeguarding, reducing vulnerability and risk, early intervention and prevention<sup>(1)</sup>.
- 6.4 Whilst the report highlights the increasing recognition into the role that councils play in community safety, it also demonstrates the challenges that District CSPs face in balancing the needs of the local community against a shift towards outcomes around vulnerability and individuals with multiple and complex needs. These challenges are further sharpened by the ever changing nature of crime highlighted in the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy<sup>(2)</sup>.

#### 7.0 Lewes District Community Safety Plan & Priorities

- 7.1 The 2018/19 Community Safety Plan has been developed in consultation with key partners including Sussex Police and other members of the LDCSP. To help develop the priorities in the Plan, an initial questionnaire was shared with partners to collate their feedback which was then discussed at a priority setting workshop held 5 October 2017.
- 7.2 A copy of the Draft 2018/19 Community Safety Plan is set out at Appendix A. 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), Sussex Police and East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership have been taken into account in developing this plan, as well key local issues.

**7.3** The 2017/18 LDCSP priorities are attached as Appendix B.

## **8.0 Performance**

**8.1** Looking back to 2009/10, 4701 crimes were recorded in the Lewes District within that year compared with 3638 crimes in 2013/14 - a reduction of 22.6%.

**8.2** By the end of 2016/17 4871 crimes were recorded. It should be noted that:

(i) strict adherence to Home Office Crime Recording Procedures by Sussex Police and

(ii) the PCC-led initiative to increase crime reporting in a number of categories including, domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offences

Contributed to a considerable increase in recorded crime.

**8.3** Additionally, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) identified a 10% annual rise in police recorded crime in the year ending March 2017 nationally. It is suggested by the ONS that the national rise is likely to be the result of a range of different factors, some of which reflect those identified in paragraph 9.2 but also include a genuine increase in some crime types<sup>(3)</sup>.

**8.4** Alternatively, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), which asks people about their experiences of crime in the past 12 months, noted a 7% reduction in the level of crime experienced by respondents<sup>(3)</sup>.

**8.5** Furthermore, where the number of 999 calls made to Sussex Police in 2016/17 has increased by 10.5% compared to the previous year there has been a 0.4% reduction in the number of calls in 2016/17 compared to the average since 2009/10.

**8.6** Whilst it is difficult to identify why there has been an increase in police recorded crime, there is a view that reducing police resources and a focus on other priorities (e.g. Serious and Organised Crime) has contributed to the rise in some crime types, such as violent crime.

**8.7** Performance for 2016/17 compared with the baseline performance year 2015/16 is set out below.

- Number of incidents of personal Anti-Social Behaviour reduced from 392 to 306 (-21.9%).
- Number of reports of Burglaries reduced from 369 to 352 (-4.6%).
- Number of reports of Criminal Damage to Dwellings and Buildings other than Dwellings reduced from 211 to 186 (-15.8%)
- Number of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) on our roads reduced from 71 to 56 (-21.1%).
- Reports of Domestic Abuse Crime increased from 554 to 675

(+21.7%)

- Reports of Serious Sexual offences increased from 101 to 136 (+34.7%).
- Overall number of Police Recorded crimes increased from 4441 to 4871 (+9.7%)

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

March 2017 Data shows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest – overall crime
- lowest – burglary
- lowest – robbery
- lowest – theft and handling stolen goods
- 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest – vehicle crime
- 4<sup>th</sup> lowest – drug offences
- 8<sup>th</sup> (below median) – arson
- 6<sup>th</sup> (below median) – violent Crime

## **9.0 Progress in Priority Areas so far during 2017/18**

**9.1 Locality Based Responses:** Actions agreed and carried out by the local Lewes District Joint Action Group have made a positive contribution to Community Safety in the district.

**9.2** Officers of Lewes District Council have been working closely with Sussex Police to address further emerging issues in Peacehaven. A full analysis of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town has been carried out and an action group is being formed to begin implementing aims and objectives set out by the CSP. This includes establishing Neighbourhood Watch in Peacehaven and engaging with young offenders to encourage a positive change in their behaviour.

**9.3** Further partnership work has been carried out to address ASB at Castle Banks, Lewes. In addition, activity to identify and address an emerging concern around the Street Community in Lewes is being carried by the CSP. As with Peacehaven, an analysis of the issues has been carried out and additional police resources are being deployed across the town to support and manage the impact of the Street Community.

**9.4 Road Safety:** The number of people Killed or Seriously Injured on Lewes district continues to reduce. However it remains a top priority for the Community Safety Partnership and so far this year the newly-developed Lewes District Road Safety Action Group has been working closely with its Wealden counter-part to reduce the number of KSIs.

**9.5** The main focus of the Road Safety Action Group is to encourage behaviour change by working with communities through initiatives such as Community Speedwatch. Activity in this area is led by East Sussex Fire & Rescue

Service who have a dedicated KSI reduction coordinator in post across Lewes district, Wealden and Rother.

- 9.6** Further work has been carried out by other partners of the JAG. Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) has been working closely with the Parishes of Lower Ouse (POLO) to look at road safety improvements along the C7. SSRP will be supporting POLO review recommendations put forward by a consultant and will look at potential sources of funding to implement these.
- 9.7** **Public Spaces Protection Orders:** Following changes brought about by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014, the council reviewed its existing control orders for dog fouling and street drinking to ensure they meet the new requirements of the Act before converting to Public Spaces Protection Orders in October 2017.
- 9.8** After consulting with key partners, such as Sussex Police, Cabinet approved a new Dog Fouling PSPO across Lewes district and a Street Drinking PSPO in Lewes, subject to a wider consultation. Between July and September a public consultation on these proposals was launched. The feedback from this consultation was considered by the Director of Service Delivery and Lead Member for Community Safety before the PSPOs were made in final form.
- 9.9** Once the Orders are made, the Council will put new signage in place and agree enforcement procedures with Sussex Police.
- 9.10** A PSPO review group will be set-up to monitor the operation of these PSPOs and, if necessary, to recommend any changes to their scope. The PSPOs will last a maximum of three years unless formally reviewed and extended, with any such extension subject to consultation with relevant parties.
- 9.11** Membership of 'Paws on Watch' continues to grow with 77 active responsible dog owners working to improve community safety in their areas by reporting unusual or suspicious activity to Sussex Police.
- 9.12** Lastly, the partnership has financially contributed towards the Chelsea's Choice which sets out to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation by showing a 40 minute theatre production to school children and practitioners. This work provides valuable support to wider agencies working with children and young people in Lewes district.
- 10.0** **Prevent**
- 10.1** 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. Over recent months we have seen the national threat level rise to "critical" but this has been quickly reduced back to "severe" as it is likely that the risk of individuals being radicalised, usually through the internet, will be with us for some time.
- 10.2** Although East Sussex is a low risk area, Prevent is a standing Agenda item for the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group and the legal duty placed on LDC has led to the development of a separate LDC Prevent Duty Action Plan. LDC Officers also have an active role in supporting

the East Sussex Prevent Board, which has oversight of the Prevent duty.

- 10.3** Overall responsibility for Prevent currently sits with the police. However, during the last year the Home Office has indicated their intention to move the overall responsibility for Prevent activities to Local Authorities. This reflects a desire by the Home Office to position Prevent activity close to local communities and link more effectively with Safeguarding and other partnership activity.
- 10.4** The Home Office are launching a national pilot named Dovetail to test the proposed arrangements. The new responsibility will sit with County and Unitary Councils and it is not likely that the East Sussex Prevent Board will see any changes until summer 2018.
- 10.5** The possibility of a 'light touch' review by the end of 2017 has been proposed by the Prevent Board and may include reviewing the levels of awareness and training within other agencies, such as LDC.

#### **11.0 Police and Crime Commissioner**

- 11.1** The second election for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each police area took place in May 2016. PCCs are responsible for policing and crime performance and to hold the Chief Constables to account
- 11.2** The Cabinet member for Customers & Partners, Councillor Nicholson is Lewes District's representative on the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which has the power to scrutinise the PCC and, in particular, her 'policing plan' and 'budget'. PCCs do not directly control local CSPs but directly impact LDCSP effectiveness by control of budget allocation and their responsibility for monitoring CSP effectiveness.
- 11.3** During this performance year, the PCC has launched a review of CSPs and focusing on accountability and funding arrangements. The objective of the review is to assess how community safety funding can be most appropriately apportioned to support the Police and Crime Plan. Currently CSPs are awarded an annual grant by the PCC, broadly based on population density and crime formula. Lewes District CSP has received £21.9k per annum from the PCC over the last five years.
- 11.4** So far the PCC has introduced new quarterly reporting systems and in May 2017 the PCC outlined plans to consult with CSPs on five funding proposals, including:
- Maintaining the current position
  - Allocating all PCC funding directly to upper-tier authorities
  - Allocating all PCC funding directly to CSPs
  - Having the PCC retain the full amount and CSPs apply to the PCC for funding
  - Maintaining the current position but the PCC would retain a percentage for commissioning projects and services Pan-Sussex.

**11.5** The results of the consultation will be published in November 2017 and it is understood that CSPs will not see any significant changes until 2019/20. However, it is likely that there will be a change to grant funding to CSPs in the near future. Where the CSP maintains reserves that could be used to support the delivery of its priorities, a more long-term solution would be required in the event of a reduction in or removal of the grant funding. This risk is being managed through the proposed hard merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District CSP set out at Appendix D.

## **12.0 Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership**

**12.1** 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 make efficiency savings.

**12.2** As a result of deliberations within the existing Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden CSPs, it was agreed that we should work towards a new Strategy Group encompassing all three districts whilst maintaining and enhancing the individual Joint Action Groups. Work began and a 'soft merger' year was carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and March 2017.

**12.3** In February 2017 Safer Wealden Partnership decided to withdraw from the shared Strategy Group. Following this the Chairs of the Eastbourne and Lewes District CSPs decided to continue with the 'soft merger' with a view to formally combining the two Partnerships by the end of performance year 2017/18, subject to a Business Case and approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**12.4** A copy of the Business Case can be found under Appendix D. However, the main benefits identified during the soft merger period include:

- Efficiency savings gained through the reduction of membership and meeting frequency, totalling to 126 hours of members' time saved.
- Enhanced Joint Action Groups having a role in identifying and delivering local priorities
- The merged Partnership having more influence regionally and with the PCC
- An opportunity to share potential risks and benefits in light of the PCC's review of CSP funding arrangements by jointly funding projects and services that meet shared priorities to maximise on economies of scale and by applying for funding (either to the PPC or other funding streams) as one bigger body.

**12.5** A consultation with relevant authorities will be launched to gain the consent of relevant Chief Executives to a formal merger of the two CSPs. Following final approval from the Strategy Group, an application will then be submitted to the PCC to approve the merger. Officers are aiming to complete the process of the merger by end of performance year 2017/18 with the new CSP operating from Q1 2018/19.

### **13.0 Staffing**

- 13.1** Staffing for this area of work has partly been addressed through Phase One of the JTP restructure. Community Safety sits within the theme Thriving Communities and strategic aspects are the responsibility of the Business Planning and Performance Team.
- 13.2** The operational aspects of Community Safety will be addressed within Phase Two of the restructure. Where Community Safety is a shared responsibility across the council, it is intended that two Specialist Advisors will be recruited through Phase Two with responsibility for delivering Public Health, ASB, Noise and Community Safety in Lewes and Eastbourne and a further Specialist Advisor will cover Business Crime across both Council areas. .
- 13.3** The overall responsibility for Community Safety remains with the Director of Service Delivery, supported by the Strategic and Functional Leads for Thriving Communities.

### **14.0 Financial Appraisal**

- 14.1** Finance have made the following comments:
- 14.2** There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

### **15.0 Legal Implications**

- 15.1** The Legal Services Department have made the following comments:
- 15.2** Relevant legislation is cited in the appropriate sections of this report.
- 15.3** Lawyer consulted 13.10.17. Legal ref: 005971-LDC-OD

### **16.0 Risk Management Implications**

- 16.1** Last year this report highlighted a risk to the Committee that the changes being made under the Local Policing Programme (LPP) might present challenges in regards to low level crime and anti-social behaviour. In November 2017 Sussex Police are scheduled to announce the latest update on the LPP. This may place even further responsibilities on the Council to tackle ASB within our partnership approach.
- 16.2** As highlighted in Paragraph 13.2 it is intended that Specialist Advisors (SAs) with responsibility for anti-social behaviour and community safety projects will be recruited through Phase Two of the JTP restructure. The SAs will provide a valuable resource to the Council and will work with Sussex Police and other agencies in dealing with complex cases of ASB.
- 16.3** A greater partnership focus on ASB to address this risk has also been encouraged through work to develop the 2018/19 Community Safety Plan. The number of overall priorities for the LDCSP has been reduced and work is underway to re-establish the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Risk

Assessment Conference and Problem Solving Group in Lewes district to address individual cases of ASB more effectively.

- 16.4** These steps have been taken to ensure that the council and LDCSP is prepared for possible changes to the management of low level ASB brought about by the LPP.
- 16.5** In Paragraphs 11.3 to 11.5 a risk was highlighted on the future funding arrangements of CSPs across Sussex in light of the PCCs review. This risk has been managed through the proposed merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnerships and further information can be found under Appendix D.
- 16.6** Paragraphs 8.3 to 8.6 highlight a national increase in police recorded crime. Where Lewes district remains 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in its MSG, there are signs that the number of police recorded crimes is increasing in the district, despite initial levelling off after changes to police recording procedures in 2014/15.
- 16.7** It is, as yet, largely unknown why crime is increasing nationally. However this may present risks to future performance levels of the Partnership. In an attempt to reduce this risk the CSP is better focusing its priorities to address areas that have increasing crime types with the introduction of the new 2018/19 priority covering 'emerging risks and priorities'.
- 16.8** Additionally, the Strategy Group will continue to monitor levels of police recorded crime locally to ensure that resources are best placed; to keep abreast of national policy and strategy and ensure that any governmental initiatives (or opportunities such as Home Office grants) to reduce crime are delivered locally; and to work closely with other partnerships such as the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership.
- 16.9** The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that there were 5.9 million incidents of crime covered by the survey. This excluded the new experimental statistics on fraud and computer misuse and if these are included the CSEW estimate a total of 11 million incidents of crime.
- 16.10** Last year's report identified that there is a major transfer to online crime and scams taking place and it has reached the point where cyber offences are nationally outweighing those committed within the physical world. This presents a risk to the performance of the CSP and it is likely this will be a continually expanding area.
- 16.11** The new Home Office advice, presented within the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy focuses on this and whilst the main responsibility for addressing Scams and Cybercrime sits nationally and regionally, there is an expectation that CSPs will work with their local communities to prevent these offences and encourage early intervention.
- 16.12** Efforts by the LDCSP have already begun. Cybercrime is listed within the CSP priorities for 2017/18 and included within 'emerging risks and priorities' for 2018/19. Officer knowledge is being developed to respond to these demands. The CSP will continue to publish advice to the public and to

coordinate strategic and operational support for agencies, such as the police.

**17.0 Equality Screening**

**17.1** 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.

**17.2** However, the merger of the two 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.

**17.3** A Equality and Fairness Analysis of the LDCSP Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 has been carried out and a draft copy can be found at Appendix E.

## **Background Papers**

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

1. *LGA Review into Community Safety Partnerships*. Available at: <http://lga.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s14058/5a%20-%20LGA%20review%20of%20the%20future%20of%20community%20safet y%20services%20report.pdf>
2. *Modern Crime Prevent Strategy, Home Office*. Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/509831/6.1770\\_Modern\\_Crime\\_Prevention\\_Strategy\\_final\\_WEB\\_version.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509831/6.1770_Modern_Crime_Prevention_Strategy_final_WEB_version.pdf).
3. *Office for National Statistics: Crime in England and Wales: year ending march 2017*. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmar2017#main-points>

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Draft Lewes District Community Safety Plan 2018/19

Appendix B – Lewes District Community Safety Priorities for 2017/18

Appendix C - iQuanta Most Similar Group (MSG) grouping for Lewes District

Appendix D – Draft Business Case for the proposed Merger of Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnerships

Appendix E – Draft Equality and Fairness Analysis of Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan for 2018/19.