

Report to: Scrutiny Committee.

Date: 6 February 2020.

Title: Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership – Annual Report (Lewes).

Report of: Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive (Director of Regeneration and Planning).

Cabinet member: Councillor Johnny Denis.

Ward(s): All.

Purpose of report: To enable Scrutiny Committee to consider the current performance of the Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership (E&LCSP).

Decision type: Approval.

Officer recommendation(s): (1) That Scrutiny Committee review the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership in 2019/20 and consider any recommendations that they would wish to make to Cabinet.

Reasons for recommendations: For Scrutiny Committee to consider progress on delivery of the current Community Safety Plan.

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1. Introduction.

- 1.1. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which set out a statutory requirement for public service authorities, referred to as 'responsible authorities', to meet regularly to discuss ways of reducing crime and disorder, addressing incidences of anti-social behaviour and minimising re-offending in their local area.
- 1.2. Key members of the Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Partnership (E&LCSP) include Sussex Police; East Sussex Fire & Rescue Authority; the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner; NHS clinic commissioning groups; & East Sussex County Council. Membership can be extended to other key local and voluntary partners as appropriate. Lewes District Councils plays a key role in supporting the work of the local CSP, by co-ordinating the agreed strategic plans and reporting performance on behalf of the Partnership.
- 1.3. Lewes & Eastbourne CSPs have been working on a joint basis since 2017 and in February 2019 the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner formally endorsed their merger (a legal requirement). The merger helps align the work of the CSP

with Sussex Police's district boundaries and provides efficiency savings that allow more of the Commissioner's budget to be allocated to front line priorities. Scrutiny Committee should note that scope is left within the plans to ensure that priorities reflect local issues of concern in each Council area, such as road safety in Lewes and supporting the street community in Eastbourne. The budget allocated by the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner remains ring fenced for use in the Lewes District.

- 1.4. A strategic planning meeting of the E&LCSP takes place every quarter, whilst the Lewes Joint Action Group meets monthly to identify local issues, incidents and risks and put in place local solutions. The CSP works in partnership with the County level CSP (the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership) to address pan-County issues such as organised crime, County Lines and offender management.

2. Role of the Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1. Provisions in sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 – as amended by section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 - enable Scrutiny Committees to bring their unique perspective to bear on how Community Safety Partnerships are tackling crime and disorder.
- 2.2. Guidance produced by the Home Office on the scrutiny of community safety partnerships makes it clear that it is the role of scrutiny committees to “enhance existing partnership arrangements by developing a clear structure for overseeing and reviewing the delivery of joint responses on community safety and by creating a clearer link between partner agencies and the public on community safety.”
- 2.3. The guidance goes on to say that “the role of scrutiny should be focused on the partnership as a whole, if issues arise which relate specifically to a particular partner organisation, it may be appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation for action.” For example, if concerns relate purely to Police activity, then these should be referred to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. Our plans.

- 3.1. CSPs have a statutory duty to set out a Partnership plan and monitor progress. The latest plan, approved by the Partnership in March 2019, took into account key local issues of concern across Lewes, such as anti-social behaviour and road safety, as well as the wider strategic priorities of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Safer East Sussex Partnership. More specifically, the four identified priorities are:
 - Priority 1 – Address the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
 - Priority 2 – Proactively respond to emerging threats and priorities based on threat, risk and harm.
 - Priority 3 – Contributing to the work of agencies and partnerships that have a leading role in working with victims and offenders.
 - Priority 4 – Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Lewes

District's roads.

- 3.2. CSPs are awarded an annual grant by the PCC, broadly based on population density and crime formula. A review of funding carried out by the PCC in 2018/19 resulted in an increased allocation £34,829 awarded to the CSP in Lewes. This is an increase of 13% on the sum awarded in 2018/19 and this additional funding has helped deliver extra programmes and projects that have addressed the above priorities across the District. In addition, the CSP received a £13,026 of 'surge funding', a share of Home Office money allocated to address the nationally recorded increase in serious and violent crime.

4. Outcomes and performance management

- 4.1. Lewes District continues to be a very low crime area. In 2018/19 the District had a recorded crime rate of 54 crimes per 1000 people, the lowest of the twelve 'Most Similar Group'¹ official benchmark set of local authorities. The average for the group was 72 crimes per 1000 people.
- 4.2. That said, the number of crimes in the Lewes District has been increasing over the last few years. A total of 5,531² crimes were recorded in the year to March 2019 a rise of 8.6% on the previous year (5,091 crimes). Vehicle crime(+23%), public place violent crime (+17%) and alcohol related crime (+16%) all rose, along with criminal incidents of domestic abuse (+13%). Reports of burglary (-10%), theft and handling (-10%) both fell. Separately recorded reports of anti-social behaviour (2,024 incidents) fell by 13% compared to the previous year (2,346 incidents).
- 4.3. Key initiatives spearheaded by the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to raise awareness of the impact and support available to victims of some crimes such as domestic abuse, hate crime and modern slavery, have met their intended purpose of increasing reported figures. The strict adherence to Home Office crime recording procedures is also a contributory factor to some of these trends, particularly in relation to knife and violent crime, though clearly the level of some categories of crime has seen a real time increase.
- 4.4. Road safety remains a key issue of concern across the District. In the year to December 2018, 80³ people were killed or seriously injured on the District's roads, a 36% increase on the previous year (59).
- 4.5. These increases have set the tone for the work of the partnership across the last year, which has, within the context of its four priorities, worked to fund and support initiatives that have helped address anti-social behaviour and driving; support organisations tackling domestic abuse; and tackle increasing levels of

¹ 'Most Similar Groups' are districts / boroughs that have been found to be the most similar to each other based on an analysis of demographic, social and economic characteristics which relate to crime. They are driven by census data and published by the Office for National Statistics.

² Source: Performance Improvement Branch, Sussex Police.

³ Source: Data Portal, Sussex Road Safety Partnership

serious and violent crime. Key highlights and achievements of the work supported by the CSP are set out under each of the four priorities listed below.

Priority 1 – Address the incidence of anti-social behaviour:

- The Lewes Joint Action Group (LJAG) plays an active role in addressing matters of local concern. The meetings are held each month at locations across the District and are regularly attended by invited representatives from Town and Parish Councils. They provide a forum at which local partners discuss assess police reports of crime and disorder, identify local hot spots and agree solutions, supported by a budget of £5,000. The availability of grants is advertised on the Council's website. LJAG is now supported by an officer within the Neighbourhood First team who has a dedicated focus on community safety matters.
- The *Connected Youth* Programme, fully funded by the CSP, is an outreach programme deploying youth intervention officers from Sussex Community Development Association on an agreed rota across key sites in Newhaven to meet young people and reduce their risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. The project has actively supported 55 young people in the first three months, linking them with local activities and providing advocacy and support to address their concerns about mental health, housing and substance misuse.
- A multi-agency team has been set up to address concerns about increasing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Newhaven. The team works out of Saxon House and undertakes designated patrols around known hot-spot areas across Newhaven. In the first few weeks of operation it successfully identified nine individuals known to cause problems locally and worked to support them in partnership with the Youth Offending team and the District's housing team, Homes First.
- Additional 'surge' funding received from the Home Office was made available to extend the provision of free places at local summer activity schemes. The funds were also used to provide free lunches and sport activity 'take-away' packs, which helped increase the number of children attending the *Open Access Activity Workshops* and *Skate & Paint Activity* sessions run by Wave Leisure across the District. A separate grant was provided to the Landport Community Centre in Lewes, to fund a scheme providing diversionary activity for local 10 - 12 year old children.

Priority 2 – Proactively respond to emerging threats and priorities based on threat, risk and harm:

- In partnership with the Safer East Sussex Team, the CSP has worked to raise awareness of *Reboot* the Sussex Early Intervention Youth Programme. This is a county-wide initiative that identifies young people at risk of being drawn into serious violence, gang activity and County Lines. This initiative has worked with 17 young people across the District since its launch in April 2019
- *Streetz*, an initiative that deployed outreach workers to identify 'hotspots' of County Lines recruitment activity, was established with the help of funding from the CSP. The support workers supported those identified as being at risk by signposting them to advice and support services.
- All summer activity programmes funded by the CSP worked alongside local Youth Offending Teams to target free places at those young people identified

at being at risk of engaging in serious anti-social behaviour and crime.

Priority 3 – Contributing to the work of agencies and partnerships that have a leading role in working with victims and offenders:

- Along with other three CSP's across the County, funding was provided to *Safe from Harm* a project providing emotional and practical support to high-risk victims of hate crime and anti-social behaviour across East Sussex. The programme is set to provide extended support targeted at resolving identified wellbeing needs of 15 victims across the District by the end of the year.
- The CSP continued to support to the Rural Engagement Domestic Abuse Network. The project, initiated with funding provided last year, provides a part-time outreach worker who works with community groups and assists individual victims across the District. At the time of writing, the CSP is considering a separate bid from the provider of the programme, the Rita Project, to deliver awareness and advice sessions in local schools.
- By making an annual funding contribution to support Domestic Homicide Reviews. These undertake detailed assessments of the circumstances surrounding individual cases and apply learning to systems, processes and the practice of all agencies involved to help reduce future risk. There are presently four such reviews taking place or scheduled across East Sussex.

Priority 4 – Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Lewes District's roads:

- By funding the purchase of speed recording equipment, to allow new community groups to participate the *Speedwatch* programme.
- Supporting the production of *Tackling Traffic Dominance in Lewes*, a report summarising a one-day study on observing and reporting issues at five identified locations across the town.
- Initiating a programme of joint Neighbourhood First / volunteer *Speedwatch* visits with the Council's *Neighbourhood First* team.

5. Consultation

- 5.1. An ongoing process of engagement is in place to help assess and evaluate the success of projects and other measures supported by the Partnership. Over the past year this has involved key operational representatives, including those from Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Authority and the Safer East Sussex team. They have met regularly to; consider the implications of issues raised by the Lewes Joint Action Group; analyse crime trends; and respond to emerging threats.
- 5.2. The most recently available figures provide crime data for the twelve months to the end of November 2019. This shows that whilst rates of increase in alcohol related and serious violent crime have slowed, rates for both domestic abuse and especially vehicle crime have increased. Recorded crimes for burglary are also on the rise. We will continue to analyse trends and feed these into the 2020/21 planning process, which will set forthcoming priorities for the CSP plan to be agreed by the partnership in the Spring.

6. Corporate Plan & Council Policies

- 6.1. The objectives of the E&LCSP continue to be in line with the LDC Corporate Plan objective of delivering resilient, healthy and engaged communities by employing strategies that reduce the incidence and fear of crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and work to minimise re-offending. Measures taken to reduce environmental crime and improve road safety raise the quality of the environment for all residents.

7. Business case

- 7.1. The CSP plan sets out the annual approach that the Council, along with other partners, will take to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and re-offending across their local area. The current plan identifies clear priorities, agreed with partners, which will help address local issues up to March 2020. The plan is revised and updated each year, with the new plan due to be signed off by the partnership in early Spring 2020. It will be supported by an accompanying spending plan, once the Council receives confirmation from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner of its 2020/21 budget allocation.

8. Financial appraisal

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations set out in this report. However, a summary of the income and expenditure (forecast) managed by the Council on behalf of the CSP is provided in Appendix 1.

Deputy Chief Finance Officer consulted 07.01.2020

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. This report sets out how the Council has complied, and will continue to comply, with its duties under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.

Lawyer consulted 30.12.19

Legal ref: 8829-LDC-OD

10. Risk management implications

- 10.1. Reviewing the Community Safety Plan and performance each year provides an assurance that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties and contributes effectively to reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour and the harm caused to local communities.

11. Equality analysis

- 11.1. This report provides an update on progress in meeting the objectives set out in the current Community Safety Plan and as such does not contain any proposals or specific recommendations. As such there are no direct impacts on the public

or employees and so no Equality and Fairness Analysis is associated with this report. The requirement to undertake a full Equality & Fairness Assessment will be assessed when we next review the Eastbourne Community Safety Plan in Spring 2020.

12. Environmental impact analysis

- 12.1. There are no direct environmental impact implications for the Council arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

13. Appendices

- 13.1. Appendix 1 – LCSP Income & Expenditure 2019/20

14. Background papers

- 14.1. The following background papers are associated with this report:
- Eastbourne & Lewes Community Safety Plan.