

Scrutiny Report

Body:	Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 th November 2016
Subject:	Eastbourne Community Safety Plan
Report Of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Service Delivery
Ward(s)	All
Purpose	To consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Partnership (ECSP) 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 ECSP's achievements and future risks/opportunities to performance and endorses the updated 2014/2017 Community Safety Plan with continued delegated implementation authority to Director of Service Delivery.
Contact:	Bob Gough, Eastbourne & Lewes Crime Reduction Officer, Telephone 01323 416403 or internally on extension 6403. E-mail address bob.gough@eastbourne.gov.uk .

1.0 Background/Introduction

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships were initially established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This required partnerships to be set up to consider and tackle crime at a local level.
- 1.2 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⁾. In addition, the LGA is currently undertaking a review into CSP's 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⁾. Both factors demonstrate the changing landscape of the CSP's.
- 1.3 Scrutiny has previously endorsed the successful Crime Reduction performance of the Partnership. In 2005/2006 Eastbourne was subject to around 11,000 crimes. For the performance year 2010/2011 this had dropped to approximately 7,500 crimes⁽³⁾ and to the end of June 2014, this

has reduced to around 5,700 crimes, a further reduction of 5% compared with the same period the previous year⁽⁴⁾.

- 1.4 In the last report it was noted that due to; (i) Sussex Police strict adherence to Home Office Crime Recording Procedures and (ii) the PCC 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. Up to the end of June 2015 overall crime has gone up from 5,753 crimes to over 6,811 an increase of 18.5%⁽⁴⁾. By June 2016, crime began to level off with minor reductions being seen⁽⁵⁾.

2.0 Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2014-2017

- 2.1 The current Plan has been developed in consultation with key partners including the Police and other members of the ECSP. Version 1.6 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 and reflects priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Sussex Police, as well as addressing key local issues. Priorities for 2016/17 and measurement criteria are attached as Appendix B.
- 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. Key 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 performance of the performance year 2015/16 compared with the baseline performance year 2014/15⁽⁴⁾. In other words, last year's performance.
- i) Target – overall reduction in Burglary Dwelling.
Performance – Burglary Dwelling offences from 208 to 159. A reduction of 51 or 23.6%.
 - ii) Target - overall reduction in Shoplifting
Performance – Shoplifting from 845 offences to 707. A reduction of 138 offences or 16.3%.
 - iii) Target – overall reduction in Public Place Violent Crime (PPVC).
Performance – PPVC from 1327 crimes to 1649 an increase of 320 crimes or 24.3%
 - iv) Target – reduction in Total Crime
Performance – Total Crime from 6729 to 6665. A reduction of 51 or 1.0%.
 - v) Target – to remain the 4th lowest or better in crime per 000 population compared to our most similar groups (MSG) ⁽⁶⁾. Performance – 3rd lowest in our most similar group.

3.2 It will be noted from paragraph 1.3 above that Eastbourne has seen a substantial reduction in crime and overall crime was down further in 2013/2014. However last performance year witnessed a substantial increase, mainly due to changes in recording procedures by Sussex Police. It is contended that the increase in crime is levelling out as recorded offences in 2015/16 have not reflected the previous rise across number of categories demonstrated in performance year 2014/15⁽⁴⁾.

3.3 When referring to the Home Office iQuanta data, which compares numerous categories of crime with other towns in our most similar group (See Appendix C for grouping) by 000 population, Eastbourne compares favourably⁽⁶⁾:

September 2016 Quarterly Data shows:

- i. 2nd lowest – overall crime
- ii. 1st lowest – burglary
- iii. 5th lowest – robbery
- iv. 4th lowest – shoplifting
- v. 1st lowest – vehicle crime
- vi. median – violent crime

4.0 Community Safety, Business Crime, Environmental & Youth

4.1 **Community Safety:** Evidenced by the successes of geographical projects, such as Shackleton Close, and the commissioning of the Joint Action Group (see Appendix D), the delivery of the 39 point Action Plan has, it is contended, made a positive contribution to overall Community Safety in Eastbourne. Moreover, the ECSP is operating within the wider context of Community Safety by supporting work to encourage defibrillators across the Borough.

4.2 **Business Crime:** As noted in paragraph 3.1, shoplifting has seen considerable reductions in performance year 2015/16 compared to 2014/15. Successes achieved by the Business Warden Pilot and wider multi-agency working of the Eastbourne Business Crime Group (EBCG), are fully endorsed by the ECSP.

4.3 **Environmental & Road Safety:** The ECSP includes a number of activities within its plan to target environmental crime and road safety. Eastbourne claimed the lowest KSI incident rate across East Sussex in performance year 2015/16⁽⁷⁾. The partnership continues to contribute to the Road Safety Agenda by promoting Operation Crackdown, developing Community Speedwatch, supporting community projects such as 'Seven Oaks' and establishing a task group to address parking issues around schools.

4.4 **Youth:** Since 2008 the ECSP has consistently made targeted financial contribution to youth initiatives designed to prevent Youth Crime and ASB. Engagement, Targeted Youth Support and Diversionary Activities have been financially supported this year. Such activity has added value to existing agency work as detailed in the current Youth Strategy.

5.0 Prevent, Protect & Prepare

- 5.1 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a duty on all specified authorities (EBC is such an authority) in exercise of their functions to have due regard to "prevent" people from being drawn into terrorism. The current threat level remains at "severe" and the risk of individuals being radicalised, usually via the internet, is likely to be with us for some time.
- 5.2 Prevent is a priority of the CSP and the legal duty placed on EBC has led to the development of a separate EBC Prevent Duty Action Plan. Safeguarding processes, staff training and other actions relating to the management of facilities have been progressed since the legislation came into effect on the 1st July 2015. Reporting structures include, Corporate Management Team, the ECSP as well as the East Sussex Prevent Board. Although classified as a low risk area, EBC is required to report on progress direct to the Home Office.
- 5.3 Prevent is a strand of work aligned to three others, namely, Protect, Pursue and Prepare, which make up central governments counter-terrorism strategy. Where the responsibility of Pursue sits primarily with security services and the Police, Protect and Prepare presents its own challenges to EBC; the protection of buildings & infrastructure and the mitigation of the impact from potential threats falls under these strands and work is being taken under this regard.

6.0 Police and Crime Commissioner

- 6.1 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 Chief Constables' to account. Councillor Shuttleworth is Eastbourne's representative on the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which has scrutiny 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 ECSP effectiveness by PCC control of ECSP budget allocation and are responsible for monitoring CSP effectiveness.

7.0 Resource Implications

- 7.1 The ECSP's Strategy Group, having agreed the updated Plan and its priorities has matched the priorities in concession of a reduced overall budget. This is in addition to the reduced funding from the Basic Command Unit, £5,000 received in 2015/16, utilised mainly by the District Police in direct support of the Plan's objectives.
- 7.2 The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) maintains direct control of determining budget allocation to local CSPs⁽⁸⁾. Eastbourne CSP is working with the East Sussex Community Safety Partnership to highlight the positive benefits for the PCC to retain and increase investment in ECSP activity. Without similar funding next year from the PCC the ECSP's ability to fund worthwhile local community safety projects may be compromised. It is worthy of note that the PCC's allocation for this financial year is £26.3k.

7.3 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 district of Eastbourne is not immune, and this is coupled with uncertain future funding in 2017/2018. These challenges will require a continued determination and creative partnership approach to ensure performance continues on track.

8.0 Staffing

8.1 Aligned to the EBC/LDC Joint Transformation Programme (JTP), in June 2016, the Officers of the ECSP were tasked to undertake work for the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership as well as the ECSP. Expertise, knowledge and best practice is being shared across the partnerships and is encouraging synergies between the districts, seen within the defibrillators initiative raised in paragraph 4.1.

9.0 Other Implications

9.1 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. After a universal agreement of the individual Eastbourne, Lewes and 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. The process began in April 2016; a soft merger will be run within performance year 2016/17 with a business case to be presented in 2017/18.

9.2 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 EBC to tackle ASB within our partnership approach.

9.3 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 the ECSP is working with ESCC to address and communicate prevention advice in relation to these types of crimes; which are not, at present, systematically recorded by central Government. In the future, this will increasingly become a major part of ECSP work.

10.0 Conclusion

10.1 Whilst overall crime has substantially reduced from 2005/06 to 2013/14, owing to Sussex Police changing recording procedures in response to national guidelines, a substantial increase in overall crime was experienced in 2014/15 performance year. However, this increase has now levelled out and performance compares favourably when matched to our MSG.

- 10.2 Central Government cut-backs continue to change local delivery structures. This may impact policing and Police & Crime Commissioner funding of Eastbourne CSP in 2017/18 performance year. Enhanced work at a local level for Prevent, in addition to Protect & Prepare, is essential to respond to EBC'S new legal duty and the impact of cyber crime will be a continuing priority for the future.
- 10.3 Eastbourne CSP is responding to these challenges by continued focus on partnership working to deliver the CSP Action Plan and improve crime reduction.
- 10.4 Scrutiny is requested to note the levelling off of crime in performance year 2015/16 and the favourable comparison of crime levels in our MSG. To endorse the updated ECSP Plan and note Cabinet's delegated authority to the Direction of Service Delivery to implement actions set out.

Bob Gough
Crime Reduction Officer

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. *iQuanta Data produced by the Home Office compares Eastbourne against fourteen other similar towns in England on a rolling quarter. Crime Data produced monthly.*
7. *Safer Sussex Roads Partnership Casualties Data*
8. *Central Government Legislation and Home Office Guidance*

Appendix A – Community Safety Plan Version 1.6 (available on request)

Appendix B – CSP Priorities and Measurement Criteria 2016/17

Appendix C – iQuanta Most Similar Group (MSG) grouping for Eastbourne

Appendix D – Copy of Eastbourne Joint Action Group YTD spend for 2016/17

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