

Body:	Scrutiny Committee
Date:	4 December 2017
Subject:	Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership Annual Report
Report Of:	Nazeya Hussain, Director of Regeneration and Planning
Ward(s)	All
Purpose	<p>To enable the Committee to scrutinise and consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP).</p> <p>To outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) performance.</p> <p>To enable the Committee to scrutinise and consider the proposed Community Safety Plan for 2018/19, including the Partnership priorities for this year.</p> <p>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.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To note the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership during 2016/17 and future risks/opportunities to performance. 2) To endorse the Community Safety Action Plan for 2018/19 set out at Appendix A. 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 Community Safety with regard to the work of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership.
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1.0 Background and Introduction

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were 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 duty to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in their local authority area.
- 1.2 There are many types of CSPs across the Country. Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.

2.0 Eastbourne Community Safety Plan and Priorities

- 2.1 CSPs have a statutory duty to set out a partnership plan and monitor progress. The 2018/19 Community Safety Plan has been developed to fulfil this duty and it has been developed in consultation with key partners including Sussex Police and other members of the ECSP. 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 3rd October 2017.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The 2017/18 ECSP priorities are attached as Appendix B.

3.0 Performance Against Targets

- 3.1 Looking back to 2005/06 Eastbourne was subject to around 11,000 crimes.

By performance year 2010/2011 this had dropped to approximately 7,500 crimes and to the end of June 2014 this has reduced to around 5,700 crimes, a further reduction compared with the same period the previous year.

3.2 However, by end of 2016/17 7883 crime 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.

3.3 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 3.2 but also include a genuine increase in some crime types.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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 379 to 333 (-12.1%).
- Number of reports of Burglaries increased from 365 to 469 (+28.5%).
- Number of reports of Criminal Damage to a Dwelling reduced from 246 to 240 (-2.4%)
- Number of reports of Robbery to a person reduced from 55 to 49 (-10.9%)
- Reports of Domestic Abuse Crime increased from 884 to 935

(+5.8%)

- Reports of Serious Sexual offences increased from 166 to 201 (+21.1%).
- Overall number of Police Recorded crimes increased from 6681 to 7883 (+18.0%)

3.8 Police recorded crime has increased nationally (as shown in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.6) and whilst Eastbourne is no exception to this, Home Office data, which compares numerous categories of crime with 15 other towns in our Most Similar Group (MSG) (See Appendix C for grouping), demonstrates that Eastbourne compares favourably:

March 2017 data shows:

- 3rd lowest – overall crime
- Lowest – burglary
- Lowest – vehicle offences
- 3rd lowest – theft offences
- 4th lowest – criminal damage
- 4th lowest – arson offences
- 10th (median) – violent crime

4.0 Progress in Priority Areas

4.1 **Locality Based Responses:** Actions agreed and carried out by the Eastbourne Joint Action Group have made a positive contribution to Community Safety in the borough.

4.2 Officers of Eastbourne Borough Council have been working closely with Sussex Police to address ASB related issues in Devonshire and St Anthony's Ward.

4.3 **Street Community:** the Eastbourne Joint Action Group Street Community sub-group (now named the Eastbourne and Lewes Street Community Partnership) has been coordinating a multi-agency response to ASB related to the Street Community. The group has a focus on target hardening ASB hot-spots, reducing drug waste and prosecuting key perpetrators. The group also closely alongside the Eastbourne HUB (a multi-agency drop in service), which aims to address the multiple and complex needs of the Street Community.

4.4 Other achievements in priority areas include:

- Raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation in children, practitioners and hoteliers by providing training and supporting the Chelsea's Choice production
- Running diversionary sports to reduce youth related ASB in the summer holidays
- Introducing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) to replace existing control orders in Eastbourne, aimed at addressing alcohol and dog

related ASB.

- Equipping Business Wardens with new powers to help tackle ASB, especially around the Street Community, as a secondary function of their role
- Reducing reoffending by funding the Restoring Eastbourne shoplifting diversion scheme and the Safer Eastbourne Project, which provides one to one sessions to help offenders find employment.

5.0 Prevent

- 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. Over recent months the national threat level has increased 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.
- 5.2 Although East Sussex is a low risk area, Prevent forms a standing Agenda item for the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group and EBC is an active member of the East Sussex Prevent Board. The legal duty placed on EBC has led to the development of a separate joint EBC and LDC Prevent Duty Action Plan and activity in this area has so far involved training for front line staff, incorporating Prevent into safeguarding mechanisms and improving online safety when using EBC owned equipment.
- 5.3 The Home Office is launching a national pilot named Dovetail to test local authorities' capability on taking overall responsibility for Prevent from the police. It is intended that this will position Prevent activity closer to local communities and link more effectively with Safeguarding and other partnership activity.
- 5.4 Whilst it is not likely that we shall see any changes until summer 2018, a 'light touch' review by the end of 2017 has been proposed by the East Sussex Prevent Board and this includes reviewing the levels of awareness and training within other agencies, such as EBC.

6.0 Liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner

- 6.1 The Cabinet member for Community Safety, Councillor Ungar is Eastbourne'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 ECSP effectiveness by control of budget allocation and their responsibility for monitoring CSP effectiveness.
- 6.2 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. Eastbourne CSP has received £26.2k per annum from the PCC over the last five years.

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

7.0 Proposed Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership

7.1 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.

7.2 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 1st April 2016 and March 2017.

7.3 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 agreed 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.

7.4 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.

7.5 In line with Local Government Association (LGA) guidance, consultation with relevant authorities will now be undertaken to gain consent 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 April 2018/19.

8.0 Resource Implications

8.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

9.0 Financial Appraisal

9.1 Finance have made the following comments:

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

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 Relevant legislation is cited in the appropriate sections of this report:

10.2 *Lawyer consulted 9.11.17*

10.3 *Legal ref: 006857-EBC-OD*

11.0 Other Implications

11.1 **Anti-Social Behaviour:** Changes under the Sussex Police Local Policing Programme, present challenges in regards to low level anti-social behaviour and may place additional responsibilities on EBC to tackle ASB within our partnership approach.

11.2 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.

- 11.3 **PCC funding:** In Paragraphs 7.1 to 7.5 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.
- 11.4 **Modern Crime Prevention:** 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. Moreover, 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.
- 11.5 This presents a large number of potential victims as the nature of crimes continues to change. Research shows that a large number of these offences are targeted at vulnerable and elderly people and can impact on victims in a number of ways, including financial, social and mental and physical health implications.
- 11.6 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.
- 11.7 Efforts by the ECSP 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 and work with East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership who have a leading role across the county.
- 12.0 **Equality Screening**
- 12.1 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⁽¹⁾.
- 12.2 An Equality and Fairness Analysis has been carried out on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2018/19⁽²⁾.
- 13.0 **Conclusion**
- 13.1 Scrutiny is asked to:
- To note the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership during 2016/17 and future risks/opportunities to

performance.

- To endorse the Community Safety Action Plan for 2018/19 set out at Appendix A.
- To note the completion of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger' and endorse the full merger of the two Partnerships.

Harry Williams
Policy and Engagement Coordinator

Background Papers

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

- (1) *Equality Analysis of the Merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety partnership*
- (2) *Equality and Fairness Analysis of the Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2018/19*

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2018/19 (page 43)

Appendix B – Eastbourne Community Safety Priorities for 2017/18 (page 55)

Appendix C - iQuanta Most Similar Group (MSG) grouping for Eastbourne (page 57)

Appendix D – Draft Business Case for the proposed Merger of Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnerships (page 59)