

Body:	Cabinet
Date:	13 th December 2017
Subject:	Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership Annual Report
Report Of:	Nazeya Hussain, Director of Regeneration and Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillor Ungar, Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Ward(s)	All
Purpose of the report	To enable Cabinet to consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) and seek Cabinet's endorsement of the proposed Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 and the formal merger formal merger of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnerships, subject to consultation with Partners and approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner
Recommendation(s):	<p>(1) That Cabinet note the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership during 2016/17 and future risks/opportunities to performance.</p> <p>(2) To endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 set out at Appendix A and recommend to Full Council for approval.</p> <p>(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.</p>
Reasons for recommendations:	For Cabinet to endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 and merger of Eastbourne and Lewes District 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. They are formed from a number of responsible authorities, such as the police, fire and rescue service and local authorities.
- 1.2 Amongst other obligations, CSPs have a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in their local authority area. Eastbourne Borough Council has a key role in coordinating partners of the

Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) and contributing towards the delivery of local community safety priorities.

- 1.3 The ECSP works in partnership with the County CSP (namely the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership) to address pan-county issues such as offender management and domestic abuse.

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 plan was approved by the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group on 15 November 2017, subject to Cabinet endorsement.

- 2.4 Cabinet is asked to endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19.

3.0 Performance Against Targets

- 3.1 Crime in Eastbourne has reduced over the years with around 11,000 crimes being recorded by the police in the year ending March 2005/06 compared to 6,632 in the year ending March 2015/16.

- 3.2 However, by end of 2016/17 7,883 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. Moreover, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) identified a 13% annual rise in police recorded crime in the year ending June 2017 nationally.

- 3.3 Whilst it is difficult to identify why there has been an increase in police recorded crime, Home Office iQuanta data demonstrates that Eastbourne compares

favourably against its Most Similar Group (see Appendix B for grouping).

3.4 The target set by Eastbourne Borough Council is to maintain a position of 4th or lower in overall crime. By the year ending March 2017 Eastbourne was 3rd lowest.

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 which focuses 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 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has suggested that the results of the review will be announced by the end of 2017. Whilst it is likely that the outcome will have an impact on the CSPs ability to deliver local community safety priorities, it is understood that CSPs will not see any significant changes until 2019/20.

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 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.

7.6 Cabinet is asked to note the completion of the Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership 'Soft Merger' and endorse the full merger of the two Partnerships.

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 section of this report:

10.2 *Lawyer consulted 9.11.17*

10.3 *Legal ref: 006857-EBC-OD*

11.0 Equality Screening

11.1 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⁾.

11.2 An Equality and Fairness Analysis has been carried out on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2018/19⁽²⁾.

12.0 Conclusion

12.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- note the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership during 2016/17 and future risks/opportunities to performance.
- endorse the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19, set out at Appendix A and recommend to Full Council for approval.
- 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

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