

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 12 December 2018

**Title:** Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

**Report of:** Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Regeneration and Planning

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Ungar, Cabinet Member for Community Safety

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of report:** To enable Cabinet to consider the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership (ECSP)

**Decision type:** Key

**Officer recommendation(s):** That Cabinet note the achievements and activities of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership during 2017/18 and future risks/opportunities to performance.

**Reasons for recommendations:** For Cabinet 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. They are formed from a number of bodies referred to in the 2015 Act as “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. Lewes District 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 Proposal**

- 2.1 CSPs have a statutory duty to set out a partnership plan and monitor progress. A new Community Safety Plan was developed in 2017 and approved early in 2018 following consultation with the policy and other key partners. The 2018/19 Plan addresses the priorities for Eastbourne at that time. The priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Sussex Police and East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership were taken into account, as well key local issues.
- 2.2 The Plan will be reviewed at a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group in January and, in light of comments raised by members of the group, it is anticipated that the priorities for 2019/20 will be amended at that stage to reflect recent trends and concerns.
- 2.3 The Community Safety Plan for 2019/20 will be brought to Cabinet in 2019 along with an update on activities.

## **3 Outcome expected and performance management**

- 3.1 The number of crimes reported in Eastbourne has increased in the last two years with the number of crimes recorded in the district rising from 6,720 in 2014/15 to 8,761 in 2017/18. There was a 13% increase in reported crimes in 2017/18 compared with 2016/18, a slightly lower increase than the 17% increase reported in 2016/17.
- 3.2 Factors contributing to the increase in reported crime include
- (i) strict adherence to Home Office Crime Recording Procedures by Sussex Police; and
  - (ii) a PCC-led initiative to increase crime reporting in a number of categories including, domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offences
  - (iii) the emergence of County Lines and other forms of crime which have had a significant impact on levels of crime in seaside and rural areas within Sussex.
- 3.3 Cabinet should note that Eastbourne continues to be a low crime area compared with similar towns. Eastbourne was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest for crimes recorded in its Most Similar Group in 2017/18, meeting the target set by the council is to maintain a position in the lowest third of the group, and is currently ranked the lowest.
- 3.4 **Progress in Priority Areas**
- 3.5 **Anti-Social Behaviour:**
- Actions agreed and carried out by the Joint Action Groups have made a positive contribution to Community Safety in the borough. Ward councillors, local businesses, statutory and voluntary agencies are able to bring concerns to the Joint Action Groups to be considered and addressed. Partners have focused

recently on issues raised in Bridgemere and Roselands and in Naomi Place.

3.6 The council's Neighbourhood First teams deliver an important strand of the council's work addressing anti-social behaviour, with a particular focus on environmental anti-social behaviour and promotion of the Report It app.

### 3.7 **Street Communities**

The ECSP has contributed significantly to multi-agency work with street communities by

- contributing funds to Operation Mascot which is a Multi-Agency Street Community Operations Team helping homeless people to access the help they need and focusing patrols on areas of the town with a high profile of anti-social behaviour to tackle problems before they escalate
- contributing funding towards the costs of appointing an Outreach Worker to identify and engage with members of the street community and link them in with the services they need to address their barriers to housing
- collaborating with housing officers at the Council to develop a new Eastbourne and Lewes Street Communities Strategy. The Strategy was launched at the initial meeting of the Eastbourne and Lewes Street communities Partnership in September 2018.

### 3.8 **Proactively respond to emerging threats and priorities:**

The Partnership has also begun work on a County Lines Action Plan to address organised crime through multi-agency work and on the development of a new Streetz Project designed to safeguard young people at risk of being drawn into organised criminal activity through County Lines. This has included presentations to staff and partners, including the Board of Eastbourne Homes and the Eastbourne Youth Partnership.

3.9 Council staff have been trained on a range of safeguarding issues this year to increase their awareness of current exploitation issues and encourage reporting of offences. This has covered Modern Slavery, organised crime and child exploitation, cuckooing and how to identify and report potential terrorist activity. The council has also used its communication networks to promote training tools and raise awareness and understanding of Modern Slavery, Child Exploitation and Rogue Trading and signed up to the Friends Against Scam Charter.

### 3.10 **Contribute to the work of agencies and partnerships that have a leading role in working with victims and offenders:**

The ECSP liaises with members of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership to ensure best use is made of local resources. This year the partnership has continued its work to raise awareness of domestic abuse and promote the White Ribbon campaign, and funded a drop-in service for people seeking advice and support, and has funded the Safe from Harm project to work with victims of anti-social behaviour and hate crime.

3.11 **Prevent**

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a duty on all specified authorities, including local authorities, in exercise of their functions to have due regard to “prevent” people from being drawn into terrorism. The **threat level** to the **United Kingdom** from international terrorism is currently 'Severe'. This means that a terrorist 'attack is highly likely'.

3.12 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 the council is an active member of the East Sussex Prevent Board.

3.13 An audit of the council’s progress and performance on Prevent was conducted in 2017/18 and found overall governance and performance in relation to Prevent to be sound. Recommendations designed to ensure council contractors and tenants of council-owned buildings are made aware of their responsibilities under Prevent have been included in an updated action plan and delivered. We also included basic information on Prevent in our staff training on Safeguarding this year and organised a specialist training session on Prevent for relevant staff in October 2018.

3.14 Home Office plans to transfer responsibility for Prevent from the police to upper-tier local authorities have been delayed until 2019.

3.15 **Liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Cabinet member for Community Safety, Councillor Ungar is Eastbourne Borough Council’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 on their effectiveness by control of budget allocation and their responsibility for monitoring CSP effectiveness.

3.16 CSPs are awarded an annual grant by the PCC, broadly based on population density and crime formula. Eastbourne CSP has received £26,200 per annum from the PCC over the five years up to and including 2017/18. A review of CSPs carried out by the PCC in 2017/18 led to a reallocation of funding between authorities. Eastbourne CSP benefited from an increase in funding and was allocated £37,901 for its work in 2018/19 and £40,733 in 19/20. A Spending Plan focusing on the four ECSP Plan Priorities has been developed.

3.17 **Proposed Eastbourne and Lewes District Community Safety Partnership**

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.

3.18 A ‘soft merger’ of Lewes and Eastbourne CSPs was agreed and has been implemented in 2017/18 and consultation on a formal merger is nearing completion. It is expected that the merger will be finalised in 2018/19, subject to the approval of the PCC.

## **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 The ECSP Community Safety Plan 2018/19 was developed following consultation at meetings and workshops with relevant partners and stakeholders.

## **5 Corporate plan and council policies**

- 5.1 The Community Safety Plan and work of the ECSP contribute to our Thriving Communities vision for Eastbourne to have some of the lowest levels of crime in the South East, and, as a result, our communities to feel safe.

## **6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered**

- 6.1 The Council has a statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in their local authority area working in partnership with the police and a range of other local agencies. The current Community Safety Plan identifies priorities for action in 2018/19 based on local needs and provides a sound basis for the ECSP's spending plans. The Plan will be reviewed early in 2019 in consultation with local stakeholders and partners and will be revised to reflect current concerns and priorities.

## **7 Financial appraisal**

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

## **8 Legal implications**

- 8.1 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 as amended.

*Lawyer consulted 05.11.18*

*Legal ref: 007815-EBC-OD*

## **9 Risk management implications**

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

## **10 Equality analysis**

- 10.1 An Equality and Fairness Analysis was carried out on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2018/19. This is available from the report author.

## 11 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- [Eastbourne Community Safety Plan 2018-19](#)