

## **HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**5 NOVEMBER 2018**

### **SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the work of the Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership (BNSCSP) and an opportunity for Members to scrutinise the performance of the partnership.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 The Community Safety Partnership is set up as a statutory body under Sections 5-7 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. Newark & Sherwood has a 'combined area' arrangement with Bassetlaw District Council, which formally created the Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership (BNSCSP) in 2010; however, joint working arrangements had been in place on an informal basis since 2005.
- 2.2 The BNSCSP brings together partners from across the community safety spectrum to explore opportunities to work in partnership and make improvements to safety in our communities. There are a number of 'responsible authorities' who come together to form the partnership, namely;
- The District Council's
  - The County Council
  - Probation Services
  - The Chief Officer of Police
  - The Fire and Rescue Authority
  - The Clinical Commissioning Group
- 2.3 Other partners are also invited to attend the partnership meetings e.g. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, the Environment Agency, Newark and Sherwood CVS, as they add to the experience, services and expertise that can be brought to the work of the partnership.
- 2.4 Sitting above the BNSCSP is the Safer Notts. Board (SNB) which is a strategic group of senior officers that meets to coordinate community safety across the County and the City. The Council's Chief Executive, John Robinson, attends the SNB on behalf of the BNSCSP.

#### **3.0 Performance**

- 3.1 **Recorded Crime Data.** The BNSCSP uses data from the Police's recorded crime statistics to monitor trends or patterns in criminal activity and it uses this information as a part of the intelligence to inform and formulate any response. In the current financial year the figures for 'all crime' are showing an increase in Newark & Sherwood of 13.8% (a five month 'year to date' comparison from April to August). This figure is compared to other areas of the County in Table One below.

Area	Figure for 'all crime'
Nottinghamshire (excluding the city)	↑ 14.3%
Ashfield	↑ 21.5%
Broxtowe	↑ 20.2%
Mansfield	↑ 18.2%
Newark and Sherwood	↑ 13.8%
Gedling	↑ 10.1%
Bassetlaw	↑ 8.5%
Rushcliffe	↑ 3.9%

*Table One – Comparison year to date of 'all crime' figures for April to August 2018*

3.2 Although all recorded crime in Newark & Sherwood has risen by 13.8% in the period monitored, this rise is 0.5% lower than the County area (excluding the city). It is worthy of note that recorded crime across Nottinghamshire has been on the rise and that some of this is due to changes to the way in which the Police have been required to record crimes. When the figures are broken down in more detail, it is not generally an increase in serious crimes that result in high levels of harm to the victim - but an increase in low level incidents that may have previously been recorded as an ASB incident but are now being recorded as a crime. Examples where neighbours fall out with verbal threats being made are common and are now recorded as, for example, a 'threat to kill' whereas previously this may not have been included in the crime figures. The increased use of social media has also made it easier to make threats of this nature.

3.3 This change has resulted in a consequential reduction in Police recorded ASB in Newark & Sherwood as can be seen in Table Two below.

Area	Figure for Anti-Social Behaviour
Nottinghamshire (excluding the city)	↑ 0.3%
Mansfield	↑ 16.7%
Gedling	↑ 8.0%
Ashfield	↑ 6.6%
Newark and Sherwood	↓ 3.1%
Bassetlaw	↓ 8.4%
Rushcliffe	↓ 12.0%
Broxtowe	↓ 15.1%

*Table Two - Comparison year to date of ASB figures for April to August 2018*

3.4 The Council's requests for service to investigate ASB have seen an increase over the same period which can be seen in Table Three below. These figures are only those cases received by the Community Safety Business Unit and do not include figures that are investigated by other Business Units e.g. Environmental Health.

2017 April to August	2018 April to August	Change
68	130	↑91%

*Table Three – ASB investigations by the Community Safety Business Unit*

This increase may be attributable to a variety of potential factors;

- Changes to the way that we have been receiving requests for service by integrating the Customer Services Team and also offering a triage service when complaints are first received. This has improved accessibility and more accurate recording.
- Increased awareness through the Council's Cleaner, Safer, Greener campaign and the associated Balderton Safer Partnership 'Report It' campaign.
- A genuine increase in ASB.

- 3.5 Other qualitative data is also used to inform the activities of the partnership with information and intelligence being shared in various group and individual case meetings that the BNSCSP arranges. Information is shared between agencies to help resolve or improve situations that give rise to concern. Some anonymised case studies are contained at **Appendix One** to give members a flavour for some of the work that is carried out by the partnership. Some cases are very complex and protracted in nature requiring investigating officers to possess a wide range of partnership working skills.
- 3.6 **Domestic & Sexual Abuse.** The CSP continues to work in the area of Domestic Abuse, attending and arranging various meetings to increase awareness, promote access to services that exist and increase reporting. Across the BNSCSP the commissioned service is provided by Notts. Women's Aid, and in Newark & Sherwood we also have Newark Women's Aid working independently to provide refuge for survivors of abusive relationships.
- 3.7 Sadly the BNSCSP has to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) when a death occurs in a domestic setting. We currently have three DHR's ongoing across the BNSCSP, two in Newark & Sherwood and one in Bassetlaw. The DHR's are independently authored and chaired, with the BNSCSP having to fully engage in the process and authorise final submission of the report and findings to the Home Office for sign off. We are currently participating in the countywide Assessment Learning and Implementation Group (ALIG) to improve the way in which organisations can learn and make necessary changes to working practices from the findings of DHR's. The ALIG is aiming to collect all the learning points that come out of DHR's and then monitor their implementation across the County. At the time of writing there are sixteen DHR's ongoing across the County with one of these being in the City. As stated earlier, three of these are in the BNSCSP area.
- 3.8 Educational work around the subject of domestic abuse continues to be delivered primarily by Equation who is commissioned to do so by the County Council. In Newark & Sherwood we have run the 'Help a Friend Campaign' which helps friends and family of people experiencing domestic abuse to support them. It helps people to identify the warning signs and how to respond. The campaign involved promotional social media across the whole district and a leaflet drop focussed on Farnsfield (our area of lowest reporting).
- 3.9 Over the next five years we have secured the Equate programme which will run in the Newark Academy and the Dukeries Academy. This campaign is designed to work with pupils from year seven through to year eleven and will focus on healthy relationships over a five year period. The longer period of the campaign will allow for more meaningful analysis of performance and we are aiming to achieve far better awareness among young people of when they are in a vulnerable position, being abused, or participating in risky behaviour e.g. sexting.

3.10 **Operational Groups.** The BNSCSP continues to deliver and attends a range of operational groups which are outlined below:

- **Partnership Plus** – this group focusses attention on the Magnus, Castle, and Bridge wards as they are our wards with the highest volume of recorded crime.
- **Tolney Lane Working Group** – this group brings together the agencies that work within, or have a responsibility to, the community on Tolney Lane. Although initiated through the BNSCSP, the group considers other issues such as flooding, housing, and planning, which are often outside the traditional scope of CSP's.
- **Local Action Group** – this meeting is held to receive feedback from the Safer Neighbourhood Groups that exists across the district.
- **Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group (LMAPS)** – this group exists to look in detail at specific cases where an individual with vulnerability has been identified and would benefit from multi agency support.
- **Rural Crime Working Group** – meets to identify issues that specifically affect the rural community and take action to reduce the impact of rural crime.
- **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** – held for high risk cases of domestic or sexual abuse. A case conference aimed to manage and reduce risk.
- **Domestic and Sexual Abuse Practitioners Network** – arranged by the BNSCSP to disseminate advice, information and changes to front line practitioners. It is also an opportunity for practitioners to learn from one another's experiences.

3.11 **Thematic Work** – The BNSCSP will also deal with themes that emerge or persist within our communities. Examples are;

- **Modern Day Slavery** – includes forced labour, forced marriage, domestic servitude, human trafficking, as examples. Linked to serious organised crime.
- **County Lines** – gangs and organised crime networks exploiting people, often children, to sell and distribute drugs. Linked to violence, knife crime and child sexual exploitation.
- **Child Sexual Exploitation** – is a form of child sexual abuse where the individual has often been coerced or manipulated into performing sexual acts. This may be perpetrated by a group or an individual.
- **Stalking** – sometimes linked with domestic abuse, stalking is now more common because of the abuse of modern technologies such as social media and the internet which allows stalkers to partake in activities such as defamation of character, surveillance e.g. GPS monitoring, harassment, and unwanted contact. The CSP works with
- **Cyber Fraud and Scams** – another emerging issue affecting individual people right through to global businesses that are often targeted online and often by organised crime operations. Miracle Health Cures, Holiday Schemes, Malware and Ransomware are examples. The CSP works with Trading Standards on this issue.
- **Cleaner, Safer, Greener** – Newark and Sherwood's campaign to deal with low level ASB and environmental crimes will support the aims of the CSP and may result in an increase in the reporting of ASB (see 3.4 above).

- **Prevent Strategy** – this is the government’s counter terrorism strategy and although information provided suggests that the threat of terrorism in our area is low, we do still remain under a duty to have “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*”. Participation in the Chanel Panel, where it is appropriate to do so, does take place. The Chanel Panel is a case management meeting for identified individuals who may be vulnerable to extremism in any form.
- **Substance Misuse** – Change, Grow, Live (CGL) are the commissioned service to deliver substance misuse rehabilitation services across our area. The CSP works with CGL as a partner and is currently paying attention to the possible increased use of synthetic cannabinoids (street names of Mamba, Spice, X, etc.) that have been linked to the ‘zombie’ like state of its users.

3.12 **Vulnerable Persons and Safeguarding.** Many of the issues outlined above link into the vulnerability of certain individuals, families and communities. The BNSCSP will continue to focus its work on identifying vulnerability and then taking actions to reduce or manage the risks where it is possible to do so. Links with the County Council through the safeguarding agenda and the work of our own internal officer safeguarding group will continue and are an essential part of the partnership’s work.

3.13 It can be seen that many of these issues are intertwined and will therefore involve a wide range of agencies that may have been involved with, or are interested in, the same people. This places importance on the Council being able to develop effective partnerships at all levels of the organisation in order to keep our communities safe. Although we have many examples of effective partnership working, we also have partnerships that require more attention to develop them further and this work will continue.

#### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

4.1 This report is an update on the work of the BNSCSP with a particular focus on Newark & Sherwood. No specific element of the report has identified any equalities issues other than those that are encountered in the nature of the work undertaken e.g. hate motivated crime and ASB. Also the BNSCSP deals with issues of vulnerability that may be linked to a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010 e.g. age, disability. The subject of equality is a key element that affects risk to individuals and communities and should be an intrinsic consideration of all work in the BNSCSP.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications (FIN18-19/5136)**

5.1 There are no financial implications resulting directly from this report.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the committee notes the content of the report and takes the opportunity to scrutinise the Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership performance with the officers present**

### **Reason for Recommendation**

**To allow Members of the Committee to receive an update on current performance and to also present an opportunity to further discuss the performance and receive responses to any questions, comments or queries that members may have.**

### **Background Papers**

Nil

For further information please contact Ben Adams on Ext 5232

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## **Appendix One – Case Studies**

**Anti-Social Behaviour** - The female resident of a private rented property in the District and her partner were causing disturbances and ASB to other residents with incidents of domestic abuse also being perpetrated in the presence of their children. Children's Social Care was involved heavily in the case and the children were permanently removed for safeguarding reasons.

The male left the property and the Council successfully obtained a three month Closure Order to give some respite to the community. The case became protracted with the lone female tenant returning to the property to cause more distress and disturbance to the nearby residents. The Council returned to court and secured a custodial sentence of five months and supported the private landlord to secure grounds for possession.

The female was arrested by the court bailiffs and is currently in prison. This case was led by the Council with involvement from the Police and Children's Social Care. The ASB enforcement formed a key part of the evidence for Social Care to remove the children, likewise with the landlord in the eviction process. We continue to monitor the situation.

**Domestic Abuse** - A Newark and Sherwood Homes tenant made an application to the sanctuary scheme. She was being supported by a worker from Nottinghamshire Women's Aid and was in fear of the perpetrator coming to her house. He had recently breached his restraining order by turning up at the victim's workplace. We worked with Notts. Police who carried out a property assessment and made security recommendations, Notts. Fire & Rescue who checked smoke detectors and recommended work on the rear door as it was insecure.

We installed a wireless intruder alarm system, replaced existing window handles with lockable handles, adjusted the door lock to make it easier to lock, replaced an insecure door panel and installed PIR sensor lights with a dusk till dawn setting facility. The Council's partners in the Sanctuary Scheme are, Notts. Police, Notts. Fire & Rescue, Notts. Women's Aid, Equation and Newark and Sherwood Homes both as our contractors but also the funders on their own properties. Sanctuary is available across all property tenures and is fundamentally a homelessness prevention measure. Notts. Community Housing Association also fund works to their own properties.

**Anti-Social Behaviour** - A teenage male participating in ASB, bike theft and a range of nuisance behaviour received a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) for three years. The Council had to go back to court on three more occasions to get the CBO amended and extended to take account of developments in the behaviour of the individual. Although behaviour slightly improved, the perpetrator was eventually rehomed to a children's home and some of the behavioural issues are still ongoing and being addressed by social care.

Partners involved in this case included the Family Service, Youth Offending Team, the Police and Newark and Sherwood Homes. Attending Child Protection Meetings, issuing Warning Notices to parents, warnings regarding the tenancy, taking witness statements, going to school for statements, supporting witnesses who may be threatened by the parents and dealing with associated harassment on social media platforms all forms part of dealing with these cases and makes them very protracted in nature. Some cases like these never really close as the individual needs monitoring and ongoing support to manage behaviour.

**Anti-Social Behaviour/Safeguarding** - A 44-year old female referred to LMAPS in 2016 whilst living in one town within the District and again in 2018 whilst living in another town within the District. The referral into LMAPS was received from Nottinghamshire Police Public Protection Unit due to the number of allegations of sexual and physical assaults made by the female and concerns over mental health. This female has reported over seventy incidents to the Police in a twelve month period and presented at local health services over 150 times in the same period. Neighbours in the locality have made complaints of trespass and disturbances at the property as well as raising concerns due to the female's behaviour in and around the home address.

Via LMAPS the case was logged on the Council's Safeguarding database and contact made with the GP and mental health teams, culminating in a meeting of relevant agencies including the ASB Officer, Police, GP, Community Mental Health Services, NHS Safeguarding Officer, NHS Mental Health Clinical Lead and Domestic Abuse Services; wider agencies involved are Fire & Rescue, Mental Health Crisis Team, East Midlands Ambulance Service.

This female has a Fictitious Personality Disorder but does have capacity and can control her actions; her fixation is on emergency services; appropriate referrals have been made to mental health support services, which she refused to engage with. The multi-agency meeting agreed that enforcement is required, which will be led by the Council's ASB team and the Police, however this will require careful management as partner agencies, particularly health care, may see an increase in the female presenting as enforcement action escalates.

It is worthy of note, whereas this female presents as a victim of domestic violence, through multi-agency working, the concern is the risk of harm to her ex-husband and daughter, who reside in another county and Police and Children's Social Care have linked with respective services in that county to ensure appropriate safeguarding takes place.