

## **HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**10 JUNE 2018**

### **RESHAPING THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AND SETTING NEW PRIORITIES**

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

1.1 To set out the purpose, legislation and duties around Community Safety, the existing structure of the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership and proposes changes that aim to improve the functioning of the CSP.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The purpose of the CSP has not really changed dramatically over the years. They were originally set up as Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships to deliver on the statutory duty as detailed in Section 5 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 ("the Act"), as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police & Justice Act 2006. The 'responsible authorities' as set out in the legislation are:

- i. The District Council(s)
- ii. The County Council
- iii. Every provider of Probation Services operating in the area
- iv. The Chief Officer of Police
- v. The Fire and Rescue Authority
- vi. The Clinical Commissioning Group

2.2 Section 6 of the Act states that the 'responsible authorities' must develop the following:

- i. a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- ii. a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- iii. a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area

2.3 In the practical process of operating, the CSP needs to create a functioning local partnership that develops and promotes multi-agency working and in addition to the responsibilities set out at paragraph 2.2 above, it needs to actually implement those strategies.

2.4 Section 17 of the Act also states that; "it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- (c) re-offending in its area"

- 2.5 Section 19(1) of the Police and Justice Act 2006 states that; “Every local authority shall ensure that it has a committee (the “crime and disorder committee”) with power:
- (a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions;
  - (b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

- 2.6 Within the Newark & Sherwood District Council’s Constitution this function currently falls to the Homes & Communities Committee with the following extract being relevant:

*“To meet at least annually with the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee of Bassetlaw District Council to undertake joint scrutiny of the Bassetlaw/Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership. For this purpose the membership of the Homes & Communities Committee will constitute the designated Crime & Disorder Committee for the purposes of the Police and Justice Act 2006”.*

The frequency of scrutiny is not set out in the constitution.

### **3.0 Existing Structures and Priorities**

- 3.1 The BNSCSP has three layers to its existing structure with a single strategic group (Joint Strategic Group; “the JSG”), a single delivery group (Partnership Delivery Group; “the PDG”) and a number of operational groups (“the OGs”). A flowchart showing the existing structure can be found at **Appendix One**.
- 3.2 This structure is mirrored by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DASA) function of the CSP which also has three distinct layers with the Executive Group feeding directly into the Safer Notts. Board. Having said that, it is still worthy of note that the DASA work is also reported through the main CSP structure.
- 3.3 The chair of the JSG represents the CSP at the Nottinghamshire Safer Neighbourhoods Board and this role alternates between the two district councils on a biennial basis. The BNSCSP is administered by the Community Safety Partnership Support Officer which is a full time post based at Castle House in Newark. Other posts that service and support the CSP are the Domestic Violence Co-Ordinator, and the Partnership Analyst.
- 3.4 The SNB is a countywide strategic group that is required to ensure the delivery of shared priorities and a community safety agreement. It supports local CSPs and aims to bring together agencies and communities to tackle crime and ASB in local areas. The SNB was established in 2008 to fulfil the requirement for a county strategy group in Nottinghamshire.
- 3.5 It is unclear whether the SNB has been able to produce a Community Safety Agreement that is current and relevant, and equally unclear if any effective communication has been conducted around such a document if produced. There is some duplication of roles and plans between the SNB and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

3.6 For some time there has been a discussion within the CSP around the effectiveness of the current structure and how it might need to change to support new and emerging priorities, the current work demands and resources available within the partner organisations.

3.7 Current information received from the OPCC around Severity Index work suggests that the following crime types in the following areas are a priority for the CSP although very little detail is currently available to support this headline information

- a) Newark - Violence with Injury, Sexual Offences, Burglary, Robbery – Personal, Other Theft
- b) Bilsthorpe, Lowdham, and Villages - Violence with Injury, Sexual Offences, Burglary\*
- c) Worksop South - Violence with Injury, Sexual Offences, Burglary, Robbery – Personal, Other Theft
- d) Worksop North - Violence with Injury, Sexual Offences, Burglary, Vehicle Crime

\*it should be noted that HMP Lowdham is responsible for the inclusion of these areas in the severity Index. Work is taking place to try and remove these so as to get a clearer picture.

3.8 Even in the presence of strategic direction from the SNB or OPCC, the CSP would need to reserve the right to include its own priorities as a matter of local determination for the benefit of the communities it serves. To a certain degree it will always be the case that elected members and communities themselves will feedback intelligence to the individual organisations that make up the CSP about what is concerning them at any point in time. The CSP needs to be capable of responding to those needs.

### 3.9 Governance and Priorities

The CSP has a well-established schedule of meetings that are administered by the CSP Support Officer. Meeting attendance will vary with attendees fluctuating based primarily on the value that they derive from attendance. The meeting structure and frequency should of course be representative of the CSP's workload at any point in time.

3.10 Although responsibility for Community Safety lies with the Homes and Communities it is the Leader of the Council that represents Members on the Joint Strategic Group. The Leader has indicated that he will continue in this role.

### 3.11 Funding

Funding for the CSP has traditionally come from a wide range of sources which would be reasonably expected in such a well-established partnership setting.

3.12 A funding issue is currently emerging around the sustainability of the complex needs outreach worker in Newark & Sherwood with the assurance of funding for only the first quarter of 19/20 from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The potential impact of diverting funds into the severity harm index profiles is that important pieces of work could come to an end.

3.13 It is considered important that the role provided by the Complex Needs Outreach worker is continued and proposals on this are set out below.

## 4.0 Proposals

- 4.1 The current CSP structure and way of working has remained unchanged for many years. The Director - Communities & Environment (Matthew Finch) is now chairing the JSG. It is important that the Group delivers its own priorities but that these also reflect the priorities of the two district Councils. In the case of Newark & Sherwood, the Cleaner Safer Greener agenda is seen as an important facet of the Community Safety Partnership as is the work to promote and deliver Objective two of the Councils priorities which is 'Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities'
- 4.2 Having taken all the above into account, officers have examined the way in which it operates and are proposing the following changes to both its structure and priorities.
- 4.3 The strong link between the countywide Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Joint Strategic Group (JSG) of the CSP has been lost. Therefore it is proposed that the CSP representative on the SNG (NSDC, Director - Communities & Environment) works closely with the SNG to distil the county objectives in to the priorities of the CSP and to instil into the SNG a sense of programme shaping for the CSPs.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the Joint Strategic Group becomes a much smaller **more focused group**, setting the strategy for the CSP and being responsible for developing the CSP strategic plan. This should be informed by a strategic assessment of crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending drawn from the evidence of the previous year. This will allow for the creation of priorities and actions to be communicated to CSP Partnership Delivery Group. The JSG will be made up of officers and Members from both Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood. It will also be attended by the Police (Chief Inspector for Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioners Office. It is further proposed that it meets four times each year and will receive performance and monitoring reports from the BNS Partnership Delivery Group.
- 4.5 The Partnership Delivery Group will have a wider membership and will be tasked with delivering the strategic priorities and action plan developed by the JSG. This group will meet every two months and will be responsible for the identification of other relevant partners and the development of specific themed time limited operational groups to deliver actions within the local communities.
- 4.6 In order to provide direction to the CSP for the coming year some analysis of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour has taken place. This allied to the Police & Crime Plan has led to the proposal that the following areas of work are set as the priorities for the CSP.

Domestic Violence

Burglary

Rural Crime

Area based work/Town Centre Issues

Gypsy and Travellers (Newark)

Community Cohesion

Knife Crime

Exclusions (Bassetlaw)

4.7 The table below sets of the rational behind each priority.

Priority	Evidence	Current Structure	Local Concerns/Response
<b>Domestic and Sexual Abuse</b> (in the Police and Crime Plan 2018 to 2021 under 'helping & supporting victims')	A high proportion (approx. 50%) of violence related crimes are linked to domestic abuse.  These score highly on the Severity Index, as they relate to high levels of threat, risk and harm.	Countywide structures are in place, with the PCC commissioning DV services and our CSP structure is well established.  Intelligence is in place and referral mechanisms well established and well known.	We have a possible issue of under reporting of Domestic Abuse and so promotional work continues.  Domestic Homicide Reviews have to be organised and signed off at a local level.
<b>Burglary</b> (not specifically mentioned in the P&C Plan but covered under All Crime)	According to the P&C Plan burglary is on the rise generally. Locally we will experience spikes and are vulnerable to travelling gangs. Relatively high on the harm index and remains a priority at a local level and a Police priority. Rural isolation may be a factor.	Response is led by the Police and partners would be guided by the Police on any 'value added' work that can be done. Well established and tested response techniques are available to the Police.	BNS has some specific vulnerabilities: High quality/high value residential burglaries (including key thefts for high value cars) Rural burglary in isolated locations ATM thefts in isolated rural sites
<b>Rural Crime</b> (not specifically mentioned in the P&C Plan)	BNS is predominantly a rural area and therefore vulnerable to specific crime types not experienced in other areas.  <i>"Rural crime is a key priority and I will be working hard to build trust among our isolated communities and show them that we are addressing their concerns. "Rural communities matter and I am doing everything possible to protect the public's right to feel safe and protected – regardless of where they live." Paddy Tipping quote taken from the OPCC website.</i>	The SNB has a rural crime group led by CI Andy Rooke which partners can attend.	BNS are likely to maintain this as a priority because of the geography of the area which is vulnerable to off road bikes, hare coursing, fuel theft and other such crimes.

Subject	Evidence	Current Structure	Local Concerns/Response
<p><b>Area Based Work</b> (not specifically mentioned in the P&amp;C Plan)</p>	<p>Existing Partnership Plus areas are:  <b>Worksop:</b> NW/S/SE Wards  <b>Newark:</b> Bridge/Castle/Magnus Wards</p> <p>For 19/20 the OPCC proposes to use a Severity Index to identify priority areas:  <b>BDC:</b> has received analysis from the OPCC showing <b>Worksop</b> South &amp; North Neighbourhood Areas</p> <p><b>N&amp;S:</b> has received <u>indicative</u> analysis from the OPCC identifying 'Newark' and 'Bilthorpe, Lowdham and Villages' as Neighbourhood Areas</p>	<p>Area based work is currently delivered in N&amp;S through a P+ group and Worksop Town Centre remains the focus of BDC.</p> <p>The Severity Index is affected by the amount of 'harm' attributed to a particular type of offence and it is questionable what the CSP can do around these types of offences that is not already in place?</p>	<p>Worksop continues to experience issues with synthetic cannabinoid use in the town centre and carries out specific project work to address this.</p> <p>N&amp;S has a focus on low level ASB, and local environmental quality in Newark with the recent appointment of wardens and upgrading of CCTV.</p> <p>It may be that the areas once identified are worked within by the CSP but to address the lower level crimes?</p>
<p><b>Gypsy Romany Traveller Community</b> not specifically mentioned in the P&amp;C Plan but Hate Crime and Community Cohesion are.</p>	<p>Newark has the largest G&amp;T community in Notts. The G&amp;T community faces a range of challenges around education, access to services, victimisation and hate crime, and perception from the settled community.</p> <p>Unauthorised encampments affect the whole of Notts, particularly in the summer months</p>	<p>N&amp;S took on the Tolney Lane Working Group from NCC when their G&amp;T Liaison Officer post was removed. This group has grown beyond the remit of Community Safety to look at many issues affecting the G&amp;T community in N&amp;S. Land use and planning issues are particularly controversial.</p> <p>Police resource for the G&amp;T community has been identified.</p>	<p>Political concern in N&amp;S around planning on Tolney Lane and other sites. Public perception that the G&amp;T community are not subject to the same level of enforcement as other sections of society.</p> <p>Concerns aired that organised crime gangs are operating out of Tolney Lane. Lack of services for Travellers causing a feeling of disconnect and lawlessness in the community.</p>
<p><b>Community Cohesion</b> (in the Police and Crime Plan 2018 to 2021 under 'tackling crime &amp; ASB')</p>	<p>In Nottinghamshire, just under half (48%) of residents consulted via the annual Resident Survey feel that their area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together.</p> <p>N&amp;S has recently completed its residents survey which</p>	<p>N&amp;S has just employed a Community Relations Officer but no real structure exists for actively promoting community cohesion in N&amp;S.</p> <p>N&amp;S has recently delivered days of action aligned to the CSG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of the Eastern European community</li> <li>• Brexit threat?</li> <li>• G&amp;T Community</li> <li>• New and Emerging Communities</li> </ul>

	may provide more data.	agenda.  What is the role of the CSP in promoting cohesion?	
<b>Knife Crime</b> (in the Police and Crime Plan 2018 to 2021 under 'tackling crime & ASB')	Knife crime has risen by 31% locally and 23% nationally during 2016/17.  Knife enabled violence in Notts. predominantly involves young males aged between 16 and 25 years committing offences in public spaces (43%), some of which can be attributable to evolving crime networks and disputes over drug dealing territories.	Nottinghamshire has a Knife Crime Strategy and is developing a Delivery Plan led by Rachael Miller from the NCC Early Help Services.	The biggest risk to the CSP area would appear to be linked to 'County Lines' and 'Organised Crime Gangs' expanding into the outlying areas to sell drugs. Violence and knife crime associated with this activity is of potential concern.
<b>School exclusions / School enrolment / Home tutoring</b>	The suggestion is that schools are perversely incentivised by their performance measures to remove some children from the school register. This is known as 'off rolling' and may also be linked to financial pressures facing some schools.  Some anecdotal suggestion in N&S that schools have no interest in schooling the G&T community.	No structure exists within the CSP to deal specifically with this subject that is linked to ASB caused by those children not in school.	BDC has local concern from politicians around this issue with a scrutiny group dedicated specifically to the topic.  N&S has concerns around groups of young people in the G&T community not accessing school which the TLWG has begun to address.

- 5.8 The themed groups will be established when necessary and will not automatically focus on a single priority. They may be cross cutting and be geographically or demographically based.
- 5.9 It is anticipated that with the exception of the Joint Strategic Group the membership of the Partnership Delivery Group and the thematic groups will be officer groups.
- 5.10 In order to maintain a continuity of service it is proposed that the outreach worker currently commissioned to work within Newark & Sherwood is funded for the final three quarters of the financial year from the Community Safety reserve pending additional information from the OPCC on the severity index and its application and whilst internal discussion within the council are developing with regard to the community engagement and cohesion and the potential restricting of the newly established Public Protection Business Unit

## **6.0 Equalities Implications**

6.1 This report does not directly have any equalities implications. However, actions taken by the thematic groups may well have implications. Any proposed action plans will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

7.1 The proposal to fund the commissioned outreach work will amount to a cost of £17,805.32. This will be funded from the budget C54014. There are sufficient funds to cover the cost of this post.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:**

- (a) Members agree that the Joint Strategic Group of the Community Safety Partnership moves to a quarterly cycle and that a Member of Homes & Communities Committee is elected to sit on the Group;**
- (b) Members endorse the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership as set out in paragraph 5.6; and**
- (c) the Newark & Sherwood Complex Needs Outreach Worker is funded for the remainder of the year from the Community Safety Partnership reserve.**

### Reason for Recommendations

To ensure that the Bassetlaw/Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership, continues fulfil its statutory responsibilities and meets the needs of the local communities through its governance priority setting.

### Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty, Business Manager - Public Protection on Ext. 5467.

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