

**SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Special meeting of the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:- Councillors J.E. Bennett, T. Cannon, H.J. Gilmour, C.R. Moesby, S. Peake, K.F. Walker and D.S. Watson.

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

Officers:-

D. Whallett (Housing Enforcement Manager), J. Selby (Community Safety Officer), C. Millington (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Brownsword (Senior Governance Officer)

0858. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors D. Bullock, T. Munro and P. Smith.

0859. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

0860. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Police and Justice Act 2006 brought in powers for Scrutiny to investigate the work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). This was a power to look at the work of the partnership as a whole rather than a power to scrutinise individual partners.

The Act requires Local Authorities to designate a committee as a crime and disorder committee with responsibility for the “responsible authorities” (CSP Partners). The Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee is the designated Committee to carry out this review annually.

SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Listed below are 14 questions which have been put together by Scrutiny Members to assist in carrying out their review of the work of the CSP, along with the answers from the Community Safety Officer.

Funding

1. How do 2017/18 funding levels compare to 2016/17? How will this impact on the CSP?

The PCC's Community Safety Grant has been offered to the CSP for a three year period (2017-2020) – the value of the grant will not exceed £25,000. The funding for 2017/18 is £25,000 which is the same amount as it was for 2016/17. The CSO will complete a template prior to each year of funding setting out how the money will be spent which needs to be in line with the PCCs priorities, the Police and Crime Plan and the CSP Plan.

Members asked whether there was more work to be carried out with less funding and the Community Safety Officer noted that the work was changing. There were still priorities within crime, but there were more safeguarding issues and focus on cyber crime. Officers needed to keep up to date, but the workload had not really increased.

A question was also asked regarding whether new partners were being looked for to fill gaps and achieve targets. The Community Safety Officer explained that a variety of meetings with other agencies were attended.

Efficiency

2. What are the latest statistics and trends in local crime?

Due to the introduction of the NICHE Police system SDRI stats have been unavailable. The CSP has been using the **stats from the Police.UK** website as a general guide but we are **unable to confirm their accuracy** and they may be subject to change when SDRI stats become available. The CSO, Partnership Sgt and ASB Case Worker attend Police weekly tasking. Current local problem is **vehicle crime**.

Members noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult to get Police Officers to attend Parish Council meetings. The Community Safety Officer explained that due to reduced numbers of Police Officers, if there were no problems in an area resources would not allow attendance at Parish Council meetings.

Members asked if there was anything they could do to help tackle the problem of vehicle crime. The Community Safety Officer thanked Members and noted that there were leaflets that could be distributed.

3. How do these compare to average regional and national measures and experiences?

Year ending September 2016 – Performance data from Police.UK:

**SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

All Crime: The crime rate in Bolsover (crimes per 1,000 population) was lower than the average crime rate across our most similar areas. Of the 15 areas in the Group Bolsover had the 2nd lowest crime rate. Bolsover is lower than the Force average (includes Derby) but 3rd highest for the county. All crime was down in Bolsover and down in the Force area compared to same period previous year.

ASB: CfS reduced by 612 incidents at August 2016 Bolsover saw the highest increase in the county (twice as much as the 2nd highest area of reduction).

Bicycle theft: Lower than MSG (5th lowest). Lower than Force average (4th highest). Down in Bolsover – down in Force area from previous year.

Burglary: Lower than MSG (4th lowest). Lower than Force average (3rd lowest). Down in Bolsover up in Force area from previous year

Criminal damage and arson: Lower than MSG (2nd lowest). Lower than Force average (5th lowest). Down in Bolsover – down in Force area from previous year.

Drugs: Same as MSG (7th lowest). Lower than Force average (3rd highest). Down in Bolsover – down in Force area from previous year.

Other crime: Lower than MSG (3rd lowest). Higher than Force average (3rd highest). Up in Bolsover – up in Force area from previous year.

Other theft: Lower than MSG (2nd lowest). Lower than Force average (3rd highest). Up in Bolsover - down in Force area from previous year.

Possession of weapons: Lower than MSG (3rd lowest). Lower than Force average (3rd lowest). Up in Bolsover– same in Force area from previous year.

Public order: Lower than MSG (very lowest). Lower than Force average (4th highest). Up in Bolsover– up in Force area from previous year.

Robbery: Lower than MSG (5th lowest). Lower than Force average (3rd lowest). Same in Bolsover (no change) – down in Force area from previous year.

Shoplifting: Lower than MSG (very lowest). Lower than Force average (5th lowest). Down in Bolsover– up in Force area from previous year.

Theft from person: Lower than MSG (very lowest). Lower than Force average (2nd lowest). Down in Bolsover– up in Force area from previous year.

Vehicle Crime: Same as MSG (6th highest). Higher than Force average (2nd highest). Up in Bolsover– down in Force area from previous year.

Violence and sexual offences: Lower than MSG (very lowest). Lower than Force average (5th highest or lowest as sit directly in middle). Down in Bolsover - down in Force area from previous year.

SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4. Do these figures demonstrate that the annual priorities for 2016 have been met and the CSP has successfully reduced Crime and Disorder in these areas?

The aim of the CSP is to work together to address our identified priorities in line with the Action Plan set out in the Partnership Plan. We tackle emerging trends as they develop e.g. currently vehicle crime and have action plans for our crime theme groups. The CSP does not have targets. We encourage increased reporting of crime which will show as an increase in the crime stats.

5. Are there improvements that can be made in the CSP's delivery of services?

The CSP itself doesn't deliver a service. The Responsible Authorities who make up the CSP are the service providers. The work of the CSP develops ways to best use those services to address the CSP priorities and local issues with a holistic partnership approach. The CSP Performance Management Group meets quarterly to evaluate the work of the CSP and make recommendations to ensure its effectiveness.

Effectiveness

6. How does the CSP compare with other CSPs in the region in terms of working practices and in relation to tackling crime and disorder?

Each CSP works slightly differently with different staffing levels and resources. However, there is a clear county wide structure that all agencies are signed up to in relation to governance, decision making and tasking together with county wide strategies, plans and working groups that all CSPs are engaged with e.g. VALS, OCG, NDDSAAG, IOM Panels, CYPLPCP, ASB Forum and CSOs meetings. Bolsover CSP also has a clear local structure through its Strategic Group, PMG and crime theme groups.

The Community Safety Officer felt that the Bolsover Group was well structured and the Housing Enforcement Manager noted that having a retained housing stock had helped.

7. Does the CSP have the best possible partnership working arrangements in place?

In addition to 6 above, the work of the CSP takes place through information sharing at ASB and Police tasking meetings and joint initiatives. The CSP team includes a Partnership Sgt who is shared with Chesterfield and NED CSPs.

8. Does the CSP represent value for money? What evidence is there to support this claim?

The work of the CSP is currently funded by the PCC and partner agency resources. Projects are also jointly commissioned by CSPs and match funded by

SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

the Police SMART Group and other agencies where appropriate. The work of the CSP is coordinated by the CSP Team located within BDC and includes the CSO funded by BDC, Police and DCC, the Partnership Sgt funded by Police and the Assistant CSO funded by BDC. It is a statutory requirement for each local authority area to have a CSP.

Members asked whether the funding commitment was for a period of time or if it was ongoing and the Housing Enforcement Manager notes that there was no indication that the funding would end.

Understanding local communities

9. What evidence does the CSP provide to show that its work is based on local priorities? Is this evidence robust?

The CSP works to address its identified priorities. The priorities are identified through the Joint Strategic Risk and Threat Assessment process. Statistics produced by SDRI inform the CSP as to where it needs to target its resources in order to address those priorities and which of the priorities are the most problematic. Information and local intelligence sharing at tasking meetings and CSP crime theme groups ensures that emerging trends are identified and action taken to address the issues taken promptly.

In view of the lack of SDRI data available, the Prioritisation Information against Risk and Threat Priorities document (sent out with the PPlan) was developed to enable CSPs to identify their priorities for the 2017-2020 Plan.

10. How do you ensure that all communities receive a minimum level of Community Safety presence when officers are re-directed to those areas where there are higher levels of crime?

This question refers to the new policing model rather than the work of the CSP as a whole. Operational Policing requires dedicated resources which are limited. SNT staff, for the most part are not abstracted from their normal duties but there will always be times when an incident requires every available Officer on duty but generally these are few and far between.

SNT staff are allocated and dedicated to particular areas to develop local knowledge and profiles. However, they are flexible within an LPU area and can assist each other with community problems and sharing of that specialist SNT knowledge. So sometimes the public may see a reduced number on their area but should that area then have a problem, there is the benefit of being able to call on other SNT areas to assist. Resource management is always on-going on a daily basis and any deficits on SNT should eventually be rectified to ensure a minimum presence.

The Housing Enforcement Manager noted that there had been some teething problems with the new model and the CSP did its best to try to influence where officers were needed.

SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was noted that there were no foot patrols anymore, officers on foot provided a better liaison with the public than those in a car. The Community Safety Officer noted that the expectations of the public needed to be managed.

A question was asked whether the CAN Rangers still went out on foot and the Housing Enforcement Manager noted that the Rangers were encouraged to be out on foot.

Accountability

11. Does the CSP communicate its work and achievements clearly to local communities?

The CSP publicises its work in a variety of media formats including the new technologies available e.g. Facebook boost posts etc. Publicity is an agenda item on all the CSP meeting agendas to ensure we consider in all our areas of work.

It was suggested that an article be placed in the Council's InTouch Magazine that went to all residents.

Any other questions

12. What impacts have PSPOs had on the communities where they have been issued and what are the impacts on the policing of these areas?

The introduction of a PSPO needs the support of sustained resources taking positive actions. This resource implication lessens as education rises, but still requires continued support to enforce. Once the initial enforcement phase has passed and we move into a more educated and compliant phase we should see a decrease in CfS which means resources can be concentrated on other problem areas.

One impact is managing public expectation of what the PSPO can do e.g. at Langwith CfS increased regarding "2 or more congregating" but without understanding that it has to be 2 or more **and** causing or likely to cause ASB.

The public can directly see the effects of implementing a PSPO as their quality of life improves which results in improved public confidence in the local authorities.

The Housing Enforcement Manager noted that 107 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) had been issued in the Shirebrook PSPO area, 5 in the Langwith PSPO area, 12 had resulted in court action and 6 cases were awaiting court. Two new Rangers had been employed with the powers to issue FPN's. There was less street drinking taking place in those areas covered by the PSPO's.

SPECIAL HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was noted that although the power for PCSO's to issue FPN's had been removed, they had never had the power to issue them for littering or dog fouling as enforcement was part of the Council's remit. The Housing Enforcement Manager noted that the issue was about education as much as enforcement.

13. Is there anything else that the Scrutiny Committee should be aware of?

The committee should note that the CSP no longer has the support of the Police CRO's or YIO's – these roles now fall to SNT Officers

14. Is there anything that the Scrutiny Committee can do to assist or support the work of the CSP over the next year?

Keep us informed of any emerging issues in your local areas.

Help us get the message to parents of children and young people of the dangers that exist when using the internet e.g. grooming and child sexual exploitation, bullying, sexting etc.

Please note: CfS as used above means 'calls for service' and SNT means 'Safer Neighbourhood Teams'.

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 – 2020

Cyber crime had been identified as one of the priorities and the Community Safety Officer noted that the possibility awareness sessions for parents were being looked at, possibly in conjunction with school parents evenings.