

Annual Scrutiny Review of Bolsover Community Safety Partnership – Key Lines of Enquiry

18th March 2019

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.

Listed below are 16 questions which have been put together by Scrutiny Members to assist in carrying out their review of the work of the CSP and the subsequent response from CSP Partners.

Funding

1. What funding is expected for 2019/20 in comparison to the last two years?

BDC Response £25,000 from the PCCs CSP Grant Fund which is the same as the last two previous years.

2. Could you please provide a spending profile comparing 2017/18 and 2018/19, broken down by geographic area?

BDC Response CSP funding is spent in line with the CSP priorities which link to the county wide Risk and Threat Priorities and the PCC's priorities. The CSP is required to submit a spend profile to the PCC prior to the new financial year for approval. Copies of the 2017/18 and 2018/19 spend profiles are attached together with respective balance of spend. It is not possible to provide a spend profile broken down by geographic area.

3. What criteria is used by the CSP for allocation of funding across the CSP Plan priorities?

BDC Response As above. In addition, the CSP is required by the PCC to demonstrate how it will collaborate with other CSP areas to show best value. Targeted spend is also determined through the CSP Action Groups and through matched funding of projects via the Police SMART Group. All spend is monitored by the CSP Performance Management Group and the CSP Strategic Group.

Current area profile

4. What are the latest statistics and trends in local crime and how do these compare to average crime levels at national/regional?

BDC Response Please see extract from the CSP Strategic Assessment December 2018 attached at Appendix 7.2.

Members are aware that there has been increased ASB in a number of areas.

5. Where ASB is linked to a BDC property, would this result in a breach of tenancy agreement?

BDC Response This is dependent upon the specific circumstances relating to each individual case. In some cases the ASB would result in a breach of tenancy and enforcement action would be taken. However, other cases may be assessed as requiring a more supportive approach to resolving the problems.

Working with partners – SNTs

6. How is the CSP currently working alongside SNTs?

BDC Response SNT Sergeants and Officers attend all the CSP Action Groups to monitor priority issues and develop initiatives to address. SNT Officers also attend Crime Cracking events where they engage with the community along with CSP Officers to give advice on priority issues. The SNT Officers maintain a very close relationship with the ASB team and are in daily contact. They also work together jointly on ASB cases.

7. How has this changed in light of the recent budget/resource cuts?

BDC Response In previous years SNT Officers attended CSP/SMART funded Extreme Wheels sessions to support and engage with young people at the event. More recently they attend when possible but are often called away to deal with real time jobs.

8. How do envisage this area of the Partnership working in the future?

BDC Response The CSP will continue to work closely with SNT Officers in the same way we do currently. North Derbyshire Local Policing Unit (LPU) have recently been allocated a number of additional SNT Officers which will assist the implementation of future joint projects and initiatives identified by the CSP Action Groups.

Working with partners – Police – Questions to both CSP Officers and Derbyshire Police

Members are aware that the Partnership Sargent post has now ceased.

9. What has been the impact on partnership activity from losing this resource?

BDC Response The Partnership Sergeant's post has not ceased but has been spread more widely across the Division. Originally Bolsover had a full time Partnership Sergeant but over recent years this has diminished so that currently the Partnership Sergeant for Bolsover also covers North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield CSP areas. Initially this weakened the link with Police and the CSP team but the CSO now attends weekly Police Tasking meetings along with the BDC ASB Caseworker which has gone some way to strengthening the link once more.

Our current Partnership Sergeant takes the lead on a number of CSP priorities for the CSP team including cyber-crime, safeguarding issues e.g. the roll out of the Ask Angela and Holly Guard initiatives together with county-lines issues and others such as Thriving Communities and Building Better Opportunities.

It is felt that there has been a reduction in strategic links with Police, in particular with the Community Safety Inspector for North Division. In previous years the Community Safety Inspector played an active part in the day to day business of the CSP, attending the Performance Management Group and Strategic Group meetings and when appropriate Action Group meetings. It is acknowledged that reduced resources and expanding job roles have inevitably changed the way partners operate. However, it is important that strong links are maintained between the Community Safety Inspector and the CSPs in order to maintain a co-ordinated approach to the work of the CSPs and this could be achieved by regular attendance by the Community Safety Inspector at the CSP Strategic Group meetings.

Derbyshire Police Response The North division had 6 CSP Sgts. As a consequence of several government comprehensive spending reviews the North division has reduced its establishment to 1.5 CSP Sgts. Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover now share 1 Sgt. This change has seen a different level of service being provided to these areas. For example, routine co-location working by the CSP Sgt has stopped, communication heavily focused on email or telephone, although visits to CSO offices still happens. CSP Sgt no longer able to accommodate as many CSP/partnership meetings. CSP Sgt work streams more closely aligned to police activity although still available to support CSO's as and when threat and risk requires.

10. What plans are in place to fill the gaps in delivery, or to reinstate a similar resource?

BDC Response As above – the Community Safety Officer will discuss regular attendance at the CSP Strategic Group meeting with the Community Safety Inspector for North Division.

Derbyshire Police Response Collectively the group felt communication between the police and CSO's has, as a result changes in resourcing [LA & police], suffered. To help address this [in the short term] a consensus was reached - CSO's to be given police building passes which would allow CSO's to co-locate [as and when necessary] or just have the ability to attend a station to discuss problem issues with either their local SNT or designated CSP Sgt. Medium to long term suggestions included, amongst other things, reviewing the current DCC and City CSP structure and their terms of reference.

PCC Support to local CSPs – Question to PCC Office

Members are aware of the proposed precept and revenue budget for 2019/20 and the additional resources that have been identified in sections 1 and 5 of the recent Police and Crime Panel report. (Agenda Item 5/5A presented at the Police and Crime Panel, 24 January 2019)

Members are aware that the resources introduced in 2018/19, as a result of the precept and budget settlement, resulted in additional resources at a central county level rather than within local units/neighbourhood teams.

Members are pleased to note the emphasis on increased staffing at a localised level and believe this is a much needed resource given current trends.

11. When will the proposed additional resources identified in the budget report, as a result of the increase in the 2019/20 precept and budget settlement from government, be put in place?
**We note there are no timescales in the report referenced, just a general comment of 'during 2019/20'.*

Derbyshire PCC Office/ Derbyshire Police Response Please refer to presentation within the meeting.

12. Out of the resources identified, what can we expect to see as additional provision specifically within our area?

Derbyshire Please refer to presentation within the meeting.

PCC

Office/

Derbyshire

Police

Response

Working with partners – Cross service working with BDC Legal Services

13. Are our current PSPOs still achieving their objectives?

BDC Response Yes. Bolsover has consistently seen a reduction in ASB calls for service since the implementation of the PSPOs – please see attached extract from the CSP Strategic Assessment December 2018 (Appendix 7.2). For example, in Shirebrook there has been a significant reduction in street drinking and associated ASB. The PSPO in Langwith has also reduced street drinking. A change in recent circumstances has seen a slight increase in enforcement activity related to this PSPO.

14. What are the future plans in relation to PSPOs/enforcement in light of the current situation in relation to ASB?

BDC Response The PSPOs in Shirebrook and Langwith have been extended as a result of their success.

15. What are the costs associated with implementing a PSPO and are the expected benefits achieved as a result of the initial investment (cost/benefit analysis of using PSPOs against other methods of enforcement)?

BDC Response Costs are low being mainly officer time and the appropriate signage.

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

BDC Response Continue to raise awareness of the CSP's priority issues, encourage victims to report incidents and share information or concerns relating to suspicious criminal activity with Police, BDC or CSP Officers.