

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	11 th January 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Community Safety: Update	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Responsible Authorities Group action plan 2016 – 2019		
PowerPoint presentation		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides background summary information on community safety in Bath and North East Somerset. It invites the Panel to receive a presentation on key community safety issues in our area as well as an update from the Police on progress in delivering their new operating model.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the current arrangements for community safety in our area
- 2.2 That the Panel receive a presentation highlighting current and emerging community safety issues and priorities
- 2.3 That the Panel receive an update from the Police on the implementation of its new operating model and related matters

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 Individual partner organisations determine the level of resources they commit to the work of the Community Safety Partnership. In some cases, the level of

support can be quantified - for example, investment by the Council in CCTV control room operations and in taxi marshalling. In many cases, however, partners provide significant “in kind” support and partner resources, for example in sharing data.

- 3.2 External funding for community safety projects has declined significantly in recent years. From 2013, central government funding for community safety was transferred from Community Safety Partnerships to the newly-created PCCs (see below). In 2015/16 Bath & North East Somerset received £54,000 from the PCC, primarily to continue and extending the work of our local Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service, with support also for tackling hate crime and helping victims of sexual abuse.
- 3.3 The Community Safety Partnership is supported by officers from the Council's Strategy and Performance Team.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a “crime and disorder committee” with the power to review or scrutinise the “responsible authorities” in relation to crime and disorder functions. This Panel's remit specifically includes this responsibility.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Community Safety Partnerships were created under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that “responsible authorities” – including the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation and CCG - work together to reduce crime and disorder.
- 5.2 The “responsible authorities” in Bath and North East Somerset – along with other local key agencies such as Curo- have been working together since 1999. The scope of work of our local Community Safety Partnership has varied considerably in his period, depending on central government performance frameworks, the availability of central funding, local needs and priorities and statutory provisions. The Partnership is chaired by the Cabinet member for Communities. In recent years, key changes have included:
 - Obligations on Community Safety Partnerships to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews
 - New tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour
 - The introduction of Health and Wellbeing Boards. Our Health and Wellbeing Board have adopted “reducing the health consequences of domestic abuse” as a key priority and this has led to the adoption of the “IRIS” project to tackle domestic abuse.

- New statutory requirements on local areas to tackle violent extremism through the “Prevent” programme
- New measures to tackle modern slavery, with the creation of an Avon and Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership.

5.3 However, perhaps the most significant change in this period has been the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012. PCCs operate at force-level area (in our case Avon and Somerset) and are responsible for setting the force budget and local precept, producing a local Police and Crime Plan. PCCs also have a wider remit to help victims of crime and promote community safety more generally. The PCC and the responsible authorities must act in co-operation and, in carrying out their functions, ‘have regard to’ each other’s priorities. The PCC is regularly represented at meetings of the Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety Partnership and the PCC’s office produces a Police and Crime Needs Assessment highlighting key issues locally as well as an annual plan. An update on local issues and priorities arising from these processes will be presented to the meeting.

5.4 The next PCC election will be held in May 2016. There is also a Police and Crime Panel containing representatives from all local authorities in the force area. The Panel must review the commissioner’s draft police and crime plan and draft annual report before publication.

5.5 Taken together the changes above increasingly require partners to work more closely together to tackle local issues, focusing particularly on prevention. For example:

- Our Connecting Families initiative employs a “key worker” approach to the multiple needs faced by families. Bath & North East Somerset was an “early adopter” of Round 2 of this national programme and the Police have now adopted a new “Think Family” approach.
- The “Lighthouse” victim and witness care programme, which meets the needs of victims. We are co-locating our domestic abuse, Police and Curo resources together as part of the Lighthouse integrated victim care hub in Keynsham.
- Partnership with the Business Improvement District has helped to extend city centre marshalling, under the “Nightwatch” banner. This has led to “Purple Flag” status and a 25% reduction in night-time economy crimes in the last 5 years. The current BID document includes a proposal to consolidate all city centre marshalling funding within the BID itself.
- The introduction of the IRIS programme, which creates a clear referral pathway for domestic violence for GP surgeries. IRIS has been jointly funded by the PCC and CCG for a period of 3 years. The IRIS approach is endorsed by the Royal College of Practitioners and by the NICE Guidelines on domestic abuse 2014.

- Pooling of RUH Accident and Emergency data to assist in developing our approach to tackling violence in the night time economy.
 - Close working with the Safeguarding Boards on domestic abuse, Prevent, Anti-Slavery and other work.
- 5.2 We are also increasingly working with town and parish councils and local voluntary groups. For example:
- Our Community Alcohol Partnership in Midsomer Norton has included the use of Street Marshalls and designated public place orders which allow for the seizure of alcohol being consumed on the streets. The area has seen a 21% reduction in reported violence and 81% reduction in criminal damage since 2012.
 - 35 “Safe Zones” have been introduced across Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Bath City to provide support for vulnerable people
 - The Bath and District Business Crime Reduction Partnership reduces fear and the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on businesses
 - We have streamlined local community input as part of the “Have Your Say” process into the Connecting Communities programme which allows for community safety/policing issues to be raised at a single forum meeting

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The Panel’s remit includes the role of statutory Crime and Disorder Panel.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The representative of the Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer have been consulted on this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<p>Samantha Jones, Inclusive Communities Manager Samantha_Jones@Bathnes.gov.uk 01225 396364</p> <p>Andy Thomas, Strategic Manager, Communities Andy_Thomas@bathnes.gov.uk 01225 394322</p>
Background papers	<p>Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Needs Assessment http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Consultations/AS-PCNA-draft.pdf</p> <p>Bath & North East Somerset Council Research & Intelligence Team “Recorded Crime and ASB over time Jan ‘13 to Jan ‘15” https://public.tableau.com/profile/bathnesresearch#!/vizhome/CRIME2015V2/CrimeSummaryTables</p>
<p>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</p>	