

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2012

ANNUAL SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Report from/Author

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Summary

A presentation will be given by the Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership updating the committee with details of the outcomes of last year's priorities and issues for the forthcoming year.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The crime and disorder scrutiny provisions of the Police and Justice Act 2006 took effect from 30 April 2009. A report to the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 August 2009 outlined the effects including the need to scrutinise the activities of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2 On 1 June 2011 the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 came into force, which simplify the work of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in England. The Regulations amend the previous Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, which regulate the governance of CSP strategy groups.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is co-ordinated through the Partnership Office based at Medway Police Station, with specific responsibility for performance delivery of the Community Safety Plan.
- 2.2 The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Customer Contact is the current Chair of the Community Safety comprising representatives from Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Probation, Kent Fire & Rescue Service and NHS Medway.

- 2.3 In previous years, the Partnership was required to produce a three-year Community Safety Plan. However, the regulations have recently been amended and the duty to prepare a three-year plan, which is refreshed annually, after carrying out a strategic assessment to identify new and changing priorities, has been revoked. The requirement upon a CSP to prepare a partnership plan remains, but CSPs now have flexibility to determine the appropriate local timeframes to be covered by their plan.

The current Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012-2013 was adopted by Council on 26 April 2012 and identifies seven priorities for the year. These priorities will each contribute to the safety of people of living, working or visiting Medway and are as follows:

- Tackling substance and alcohol abuse
- Improving the local street scene
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims of crime
- Tackling domestic abuse
- Reducing theft and shoplifting
- Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions.

3. Risk management

- 3.1. The recommendations in this report minimise the principal risks associated with the crime and disorder scrutiny powers by recognising the importance of constructive dialogue with the organisations making up the CSP and also the importance of co-ordinated and collaborative working.
- 3.2. There are reputational, environmental, economical and legal risks to the Council for not pro-actively pursuing an improvement in crime and disorder levels.

4. Legal and Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposed Community Safety Plan can be contained within the current allocated budget.
- 4.2 The newly elected (from November 2012) Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) will receive the policing grant from the Home Office, various grants from Department for Communities and Local Government and the local precept (as well as other funding streams yet to be determined) and may decide to use them on projects that support their community safety objectives. PCCs will be free to pool funding with local partners and will have flexibility to decide how to use their resources to deliver against the priorities set out in the national Police and Crime Plan.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. The Committee is asked to consider the performance of the Community Safety Partnership and delivery of the 2010/2011 Community Safety Plan and to make recommendations that may be considered for incorporation into future activities of the Community Safety Partnership.

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Background papers

Community Safety Plan 2012–2013

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Police and Justice Act 2006

Crime and Disorder, Formulation and Implementation of Strategy, Regulations 2007

Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment)

Regulations 2011.