

Division(s):

CABINET 18 OCTOBER 2011

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS – THREE YEAR ROLLING STRATEGIES 2011-2014

Report by the Director of Social and Community Services

Introduction

1. The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments) requires the county council (including Fire and Rescue Services), district councils, the police, police authority, probation and primary care trusts as “responsible authorities” to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in their local area.
2. These partnerships are the four Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) of Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire, Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
3. Working together, each CSP is required to produce three year, rolling community safety strategies to tackle crime and disorder. The county council, as one of the responsible authorities, must be represented on the CSPs and must contribute, through its wide range of services, to delivering the strategies and associated action plans. It is also required, along with the other responsible authorities, to agree and publish the strategies.
4. The 2011-14 three-year rolling Community Safety Strategies aim to address crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. Priorities reflect national, countywide and local concerns, including issues raised in consultation with local people. Priorities were also identified following the 2010 Strategic Intelligence Assessment, which replaced the three year community safety audits.
5. Because of the changes which lie ahead as a result of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill (received Royal Assent on 15 September 2011), which will see the election of Force-wide Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012, the CSPs have agreed to fully develop plans initially for 2011-12.
6. The strategies show how the CSPs will work towards tackling priorities. The implementation of the strategies will be reviewed at the end of the year, and will involve consulting communities and informing them of progress towards achieving strategy objectives.
7. The strategies have been signed off by the CSPs and, for the first time, have adopted a common framework with three key overarching aims:

1. Communities harmed by crime and anti-social behaviour
 2. Victims and those at risk of becoming a victim
 3. Offenders and those at risk of offending
8. Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee members were invited to note and comment on the strategies at their 5th September meeting.
9. Members had previously received a summary paper and the four Community Safety Partnership Strategies to scrutinise at the last SSC Committee meeting held on 4 July 2011, but asked for more time to review the plans.
10. Comments included the following (*responses at the meeting are in italics*):

- Following mention of the need for preparation before the advent of the Police and Crime Commissioners: A consistent and a joined-up approach should be practiced without taking away the local priorities. There was need for cohesion across CSPs.

The Oxfordshire Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol ensures that CSPs work in partnership across the board. The structure of the new OSCP Business Group and OSCP Board, including all seven statutory partners, ensures that cross-boundary information is shared and used effectively.

- A query about the implementation of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour and re-offending, and why prisoners who were released from prison and then went on to re-offend, were not being dealt with.

The Prison Service is represented on the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership. The Integrated Offender Management System, combining input from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Police, Probation and the prison service, deals with prolific offenders to reduce re-offending, and the new Oxfordshire Preventing Reoffending Strategy 2011 is due to be adopted shortly by the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership.

- A question on the time taken to establish the MANTRA reporting Hate Crime system.

The system is live, and staff trained in the four pilot areas of Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, and Blackbird Leys- priority areas identified through the Oxfordshire Data Observatory. Preferred communication channels with local people have been identified through the use of Experian Mosaic data, and publicity material is being developed for distribution. A full evaluation of the pilot will be carried out to inform the roll out of the programme across the county in 2012. The work has been carried out with partners of the MANTRA Steering Group.

The web-based reporting and recording system ensures a joined-up approach between those supporting victims in both the statutory and voluntary sectors, and will help to identify the prevalence of hate crime and hot spot areas. Previous to the MANTRA reporting system, the Report Racism website has been in place for the last five years, with around 200 race hate crime cases

reported to the Safer Communities Unit in the last two years. There are now five hate crime strands under Equality legislation- Race, Religion and/or Belief, Disability, Sexual Orientation and Transgender.

- A question regarding how the success of each strategy would be monitored and whether the results would be shared with SSC committee to confirm if the CSPs aims had been achieved.

CSP strategy objectives are reviewed quarterly by each partnership, and quarterly performance data is made available by Thames Valley Police. The current strategies include details of successful initiatives under each of the key aims, and the end of year review can be shared with SCS Committee members.

- A query about the role of the county council in Community Safety Partnerships.

Besides being the "Responsible Authority" for community safety funding, the county council provides 80% of local services, of which a wide range support or are directly involved in, Community Safety, including the Youth Offending Service, Road Safety, Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Adult and Child Safeguarding, and all the Early Intervention Hubs. The county council is a statutory partner on the CSPs and is represented on them all.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the views from Members and the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee in particular, and to recommend the Council to approve the Community Safety Strategies for Oxfordshire 2011-14.

John Jackson,
Director for Social and Community Services

Annexes: 4 CSP strategies

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