

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 FEBRUARY 2013

OXFORDSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS PLAN: PROGRESS AND ANNUAL REFRESH 2013/14

Report by John Jackson, Director for Social and Community Services

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Provide an overview of the new structures in place for partnership working aimed at tackling crime and improving community safety in Oxfordshire;
- Outline the key achievements from the first year of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan 2012-17; and
- Look ahead at the draft annual refresh of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan for 2013/14

Exempt Information

There is no exempt information.

Background

1. Over the past year there has been considerable change in the community safety landscape. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced new structural arrangements for police accountability, both nationally and locally. One of the principal changes has been the election of a police and crime commissioner – the Commissioner - which took place in November 2012. In addition to the ballot box, the Commissioner will be held to account by a police and crime panel – the Panel - which is composed of locally elected councillors from each Thames Valley local authority area plus two lay members. The Commissioner is responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account.
2. The new Commissioner for Thames Valley is Anthony Stansfeld who will be in office until the next election in May 2017. One of his first tasks is to produce a five year Police and Crime Plan setting out the strategic objectives for reducing crime across Thames Valley. A draft plan was published for consultation in January 2013 and will be scrutinised by the Panel.
3. The Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership is a statutory county-wide partnership that provides strategic direction for community safety partners to work together to reduce crime across Oxfordshire. It performs this role through delivery of the five year Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan (the current plan covers the period of 2012-17) which sets out

the strategic context and priorities for community safety activity. This plan is refreshed annually.

4. The Board is elected member-led consisting of members and officers from all six Oxfordshire local authorities. This member-led approach encourages councils to ensure that the elected member with responsibility for community safety represents that authority on the Board. Each elected member on the Board is also the member on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. Chairmanship of the Board is rotated around the local authorities every two years and is currently Councillor Bill Service, the South Oxfordshire District Council member for community safety and member of the Panel. Councillor Kieron Mallon is both the Oxfordshire County Council member on the Board and the County Council representative on the Police and Crime Panel.
5. The Board is supported by a Business Group whose role is to provide guidance and advice to the Board and ensure development and delivery of the OSCP Business Plan.
6. Looking ahead, the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership is currently reviewing its existing county-wide priorities for the annual refresh of the Business Plan.

An overview of the linkages between the new structures in place for tackling crime in Oxfordshire

7. A diagram illustrating the relationships between the different bodies and plans concerning crime and community safety in Oxfordshire is in Annex A. In his draft Police and Crime Plan the Commissioner has set out his six strategic objectives for Thames Valley which are:
 - 5.1 **To cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities:** violent crime, anti-social behaviour, acquisitive crime, troubled (thriving) families, domestic and other inter-personal abuse including child sexual exploitation, safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people
 - 5.2 **To increase the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime, and reassure communities:** patrol staff, anti-social behaviour teams, neighbourhood wardens
 - 5.3 **To protect the public from harm arising from serious organised crime and terrorism:** serious organised crime, preventing terrorism,
 - 5.4 **To communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime, and build trust and confidence with our communities:** two way communication with communities, promote crime reduction and prevention activity, hear the views of hard to 'seldom heard' groups, publish information about accessing, delivery and outcomes of policing and crime services

5.5 Work with Criminal justice Partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses: integrated offender management, youth crime services, support for victims and witnesses, tackling drugs and alcohol

5.6 To ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services are delivered efficiently and effectively: collaboration, commissioning, evidence-based practice, reducing bureaucracy, productivity strategy

8. The draft plan itself has a strong focus on tackling the causes of crime. This is of particular concern where crime occurs as a consequence of excess alcohol (for example, anti-social behaviour and the late night economy, domestic abuse) or through drug addiction (for example, acquisitive crime). The Commissioner is also keen to see an appropriate balance between tackling urban and rural crime. The draft plan also emphasises the importance of partnership working to tackle crime. Importantly, the Commissioner has confirmed his budget for 2013/14 which includes the new Community Safety Fund remaining at 2011/12 levels. However, access to this funding from 2014/15 will require evidence of how the funds will be used to reduce crime.
9. The draft plan is out for consultation until 8 February 2013. Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership has submitted a response on behalf of Oxfordshire's community safety partners. The Panel scrutinise the plan at their meeting with the Commissioner in March 2013.

Key achievements from the first year of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan 2012-17

10. The current Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership business plan was agreed in 2012. Objectives for the first year of this Plan focused on preparing for the new Commissioner. The key concerns of community safety partners at the time that the plan was prepared included ensuring reliable data on crime trends and patterns was available, improving performance monitoring at the county level, supporting outcomes-based approaches to tackling community safety concerns and ensuring data sharing practices and procedures were robust. The Business Plan has four county-wide thematic priorities: Domestic Abuse, Alcohol, Reducing Re-Offending and Hate Crime which are currently under discussion as part of the annual refresh of the Business Plan.
11. One of the key achievements of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership has been the development of the community safety Information Management System. This is an on-line website portal which brings together core data and information on community safety issues that is easily accessible and provides information in a user friendly way. The website has been developed alongside the Joint Strategic Needs Health Assessment and therefore has been developed at no cost to community safety partners and has facilitated closer working with Health colleagues.
12. In addition to the community safety Information Management System, it was recognised that there is a gap in crime and community safety data at the

Oxfordshire level. Therefore, partners agreed to the development of a new Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment to provide a robust evidence-base to underpin the county-wide themes. This assessment draws on a range of data including statistical trends and comparisons with similar areas, as well as looking across the Commissioner's priorities and priorities identified in local Community safety Partnership Plans to suggest six themes for county-wide action:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Violent Crime
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Reducing Re-offending

13. Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership has also developed a performance scorecard to enable the Board to monitor progress of its county-wide and local community safety priorities and provide support and challenge, as appropriate. The scorecard will ensure regular updates are provided to the Board and Business Group showing progress against agreed measures of success.

14. A new Business Case Template has been developed to help partners and local voluntary sector organisations present a compelling story about a project, service or initiative. The template will eventually form part of a wider commissioning framework, if the Board is required to distribute funds on behalf of the Commissioner in future.

15. The partnership is piloting a new approach to supporting victims of hate crime. This approach called Stop Hate UK now provides 24 hour support, 7 days a week for victims of hate crime and can be contacted by telephone, email, TEXT Relay etc. The service links to Thames Valley Police, district anti-social behaviour teams and Victim Support where local support or action is required. There was a positive coverage of the service at the Press launch last November and the service will be evaluated in October 2013.

16. The existing community safety Information Sharing Protocol has been reviewed. This protocol establishes the legal basis for the sharing data and information and a simpler process for maintaining the document is being developed.

Looking ahead: annual refresh of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan for 2013/14

17. The next stage of the process in developing the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan will be to bring together the Commissioner's priorities in his draft plan, alongside the county-wide themes that have come out of the Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment and to consider how they 'fit' with Oxfordshire's local context. For example, child sexual exploitation is obviously a key community safety concern for partners

in Oxford and force-wide, and it is an important child safeguarding issue, but it has not been identified as a priority for three out of the four Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnerships. Similarly, there are existing structures in place to support the national programme for Troubled (Thriving) Families which the Board will wish to support.

18. The Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership Business Group will be meeting in March 2013 for a workshop to discuss all of the evidence to finalise the county-wide themes and what structures need to be put in place to support them, for consideration by the Board. A draft refresh of the Business Plan will be prepared in April 2013.

Financial and staff implications

19. There are no financial implications.

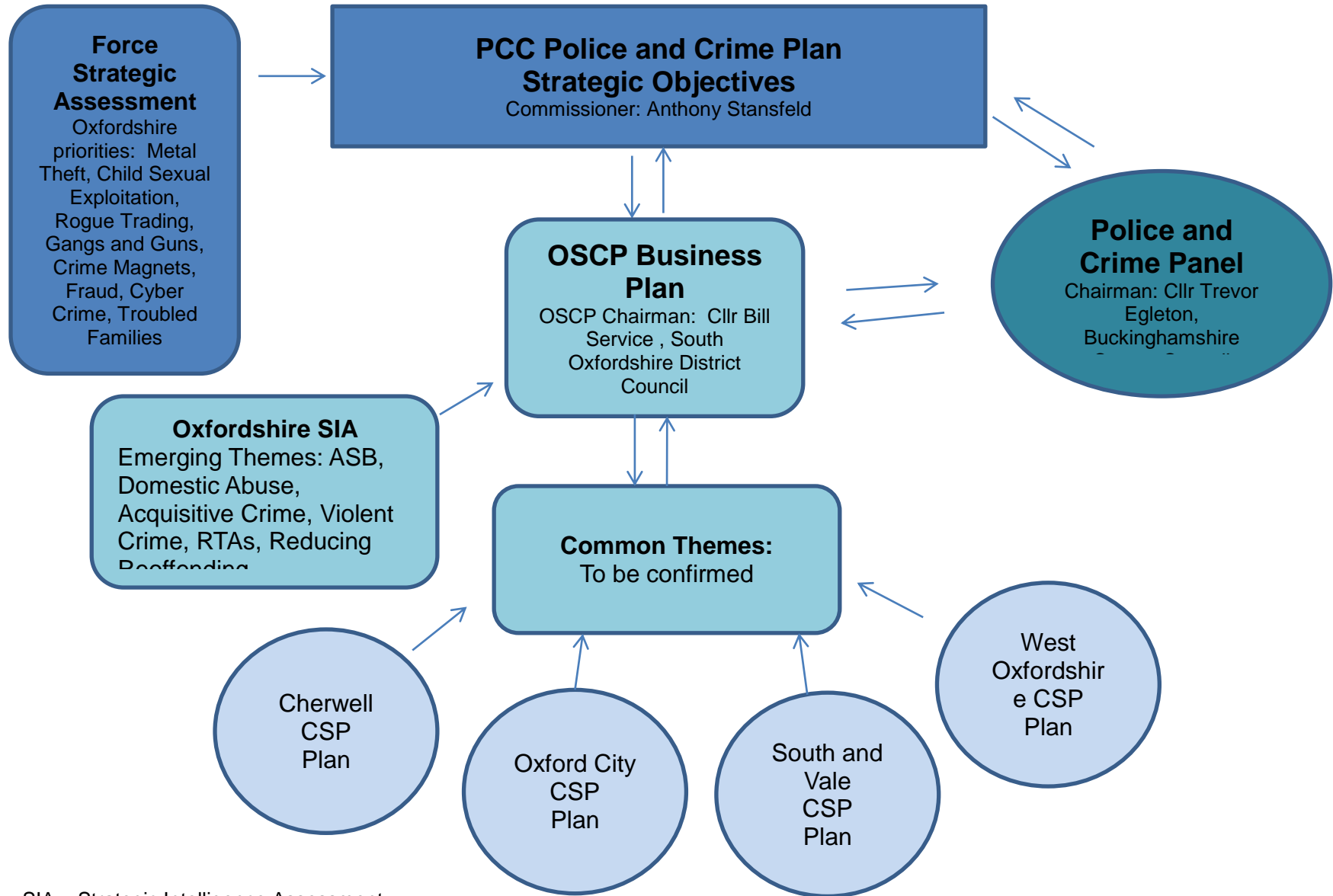
Recommendations

20. The committee is invited to consider the emerging crime and community safety themes in Oxfordshire as Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime, Road Traffic Accidents and Reducing Re-offending and make comment in advance of the final OSCP Business Plan being prepared.

Report by John Jackson, Director for Social and Community Services
7 February 2013

Contact: Carys Alty, Manager, Safer Communities Unit 01865-815406

Annex A: Oxfordshire Community Safety Plans, February 2013



SIA – Strategic Intelligence Assessment
 ASB – Anti Social Behaviour
 RTAs – Road Traffic Accidents