

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY 4 JULY 2011

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND SUMMARY PAPER TO THE REPORT:

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - NEW THREE YEAR ROLLING STRATEGIES

Summary of Oxfordshire's 2011-14 rolling Community Safety Strategies

- There are two significant changes to the first year of the new rolling Community Safety strategies: Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire have merged to form one partnership on a pilot basis, so there is one strategy covering both areas; and for the first time, the four strategies follow a single framework, based on three overarching priorities, but with locally-focused activity
- The three overarching priorities include a number of objectives which vary across the partnerships according to local circumstances, but there are also common themes across the board
- The three priorities are:
 - a. Tackling concerns that affect whole communities.
 - b. Supporting victims/preventing people becoming victims of crime or anti-social behaviour.
 - c. Implementing measures to deal with those who commit, or are at risk of committing, crime or anti-social behaviour.
- These priorities are also included in the newly- refreshed Oxfordshire 2030 and align with the Plan's broad long-term objectives of World Class Economy; Healthy & Thriving Communities; Climate Change & Environment, and Reducing Inequalities & Breaking the Cycle of deprivation
- The landscape in Community Safety has changed significantly over the last year with the impact of the review of policing, and particularly with the demise of the Oxfordshire Basic Command Unit, new legislation already in existence and expected (including the Government's Crime Strategy due in October) and the election of Police and Crime Commissioners in under a year's time
- We are aware of over twenty major new and expected strategies, guidance and tools that will impact significantly on community safety during the lifetime of the local strategies

- All Community Safety Partnerships hold multi-agency budget-planning meetings to ensure priorities are adequately funded from available resources. In 2011/12, funding for partnerships has been built into the county council's medium term financial plan. Some police budget funding is also available, although at a reduced rate, and there is no capital funding. Bids by community agencies for funding are required to support partnership strategies, and monitoring and evaluation is part of the process

1. Tackling concerns that affect whole communities

Context: Local community safety activity needs to reflect priorities that may differ across the county and that may vary with time depending on local circumstances. This overarching priority reflects the on-going work by community safety partnerships to address local concerns, including those identified by partners and residents, and to work together to address issues that are common across the county. Some common themes for deliverables include:

- Working to maximize the benefit of CCTV schemes
- Tackling anti-social behaviour affecting the environment and where vulnerable people are targeted
- Supporting and improving Nightsafe and Pub Watch schemes, and targeting premises that contribute to crime and anti-social behaviour
- Developing communications and engagement to continue to increase confidence in public authorities' ability to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing acquisitive and violent crime

2. Supporting victims/preventing people becoming victims of crime or anti-social behaviour

Context: Crime prevention and early intervention are a key part of the work of CSPs. This priority reflects the activity by the partnerships and partner organisations to support victims and help people avoid becoming a victim of crime. Here, common themes include:

- Supporting the roll-out of the Oxfordshire MANTRA hate crime reporting, recording and supporting system following the six month pilot
- Working towards a consistent approach to anti-social behaviour across all partner agencies
- Supporting Oxfordshire domestic abuse strategy and responding to the Government's Ending Violence against Women and Girls strategy
- Supporting the roll-out of the Oxfordshire Young Victims of Crime initiative
- Developing a local response to sexual abuse through the Sexual Abuse and Rape Centre
- Targeted seasonal crime reduction campaigns to raise awareness
- Reducing violence against the person

3. Implementing measures to deal with those who commit, or are at risk of committing, crime or anti-social behaviour

Context: Intervention and diversion to prevent crime and ASB occurring are an important part of improving community safety. Effective enforcement and the prevention of re-offending are equally important if crime levels are to fall or remain low. These activities depend on joined-up working, shared of information and intelligence, reparation and rehabilitation. Common themes for this third priority include:

- Contributing to Operation Falcon, the drug disruption and enforcement programme,
- Making up-to-date information widely available on drug advice, information and education
- Supporting the Children Education and Families' Early Intervention Service to sustain the reduction of new entrants into the youth justice system and reduce young people engaged in anti-social behaviour
- Closer working with the Integrated Offender Management scheme and the Youth Offending Service, including supporting young people in custody after their first arrest
- Undercover and high-visibility policing to tackle priority crime peaks
- Developing a serious violence action plan relating to gangs and knife crime
- Planning local diversion activities for young people
- More test purchasing operations to reduce under-age sales
- Targeting speeding/inconsiderately parked vehicles.

Overall measures of success, based on 2010/11 baselines where appropriate include:

- An increase in number of arrests through CCTV
- A reduction in the number of repeat offenders causing town centre disorder
- An increase in positive perceptions of agencies' ability to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduced acquisitive, violent and environmental crime.
- Reduced youth offending and reoffending
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- An increase in reporting of hate crime
- A reduction in the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse and an increase in levels of abuse reported to the police

- More victims and witnesses supported through the domestic abuse Champions scheme, and more cases referred to domestic abuse outreach workers.
- An increase in the use of interventions based on restorative approaches
- More people in effective drug treatment and more accessing needle exchange services.
- A reduction in number of adults/children seriously injured/killed in road traffic accidents
- An increase in the number of test purchasing operations.
- Less criminal damage reported to the police

More detailed action plans to support the four strategies are being developed and will be reviewed quarterly by Community Safety Partnerships.

The strategies will be reviewed annually, particularly important in view of the changes ahead. All the strategies have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

In the meantime, Thames Valley Police has agreed to continue to provide quarterly performance reports to the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership.

.....