

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 12 May 2014

Portfolio:	Public Protection
Subject:	Community Safety Strategy
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objective:	A safe and healthy place to live and work

Purpose:

This report details the Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan that each Community Safety Partnership is required by the Home Office to produce and sets out how Fareham's Partnership will tackle the identified priority crimes.

Executive summary:

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Fareham Borough Council to work together with the statutory and invited partners to develop and implement a Strategy to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough of Fareham.

A Strategic Assessment was undertaken in 2013 and this identified the priority areas of work and enabled the development of a strategy and Action Plan to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Borough over the next three years. This will be refreshed each year to ensure the plan is up to date, relevant, fit for purpose and focuses on the current issues. This analytical document informs the new Community Safety Strategy. The priorities that were identified and which are reflected in the current strategy are;-

- Providing Public Re-assurance
- Reducing Anti-social Behaviour
- Reducing Crimes Associated with Drugs and Alcohol
- Reducing Violent Crime including Domestic Violence
- Reducing Re-Offending

The Strategy has been developed by all the partners of Fareham's Community Safety Partnership and offers a fully joined up, multi-agency and targeted approach to community safety work in Fareham.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017 and the actions contained therein be endorsed by the Executive and be recommended to the Council for approval.

Reason:

Fareham Borough Council is a statutory member of Fareham's Community Safety Partnership. The development and implementation of the Strategy to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough of Fareham is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Cost of proposals:

All costs associated with the Community Safety Strategy will be dependent on financial support from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Appendices: A: Community Safety Strategy 2014-17

Background papers:

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 12 May 2014

Subject: Community Safety Strategy

Briefing by: Director of Community

Portfolio: Public Protection

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership was established in 1998 in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Partnership is made up of a number of agencies and organisations that work in partnership to tackle crime across the Borough of Fareham by undertaking a strategic assessment in relation to crime and disorder, identifying key local priorities and developing strategies to effectively reduce crimes, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage that have been highlighted.
2. Underpinning the Partnership's ability to reduce the occurrence of each of these crime types is the need to tackle persistent offenders and deter the development of criminal behaviour by juveniles. Therefore, the Partnership also has a statutory duty to deliver a Reducing Re-offending Strategy.

FAREHAM'S COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2011-13

3. Fareham Community Safety Strategy 2011- 2013 has reached its conclusion and the annual Action Plan set out within this document has been completed successfully. Progress against these actions has been overseen by the Fareham Community Safety Partnership and effective monitoring, tasking and co-ordination has taken place through the Performance Group, the Anti-Social Behaviour Panel and the fortnightly Community Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (CTCG) meetings.
4. During the three year plan period in Fareham there has been an 11.3% (567 incidents) reduction when comparing the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 to the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011., The results are reflected in the fact that the Fareham Community Safety Partnership is currently the third best performing Community Safety Partnership in Hampshire in terms of crimes per 1000 households and the third best performing partnership in our Most Similar Family Group (MSG) group of local authorities. The challenge is that this performance is maintained and delivered through the new strategy and action plan year on year reduction of the incidents of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. The challenge is that this performance is maintained and delivered through the new strategy and action plan.

FAREHAM'S COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2014-2017

5. The Community Safety Strategy is informed by the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2013 which identified five main priority areas which are:-
 1. Providing Public Re-assurance
 2. Reducing Anti-social Behaviour
 3. Reducing Crimes Associated with Drugs and Alcohol
 4. Reducing Violent Crime including Domestic Violence
 5. Reducing Re-Offending
6. Fareham's Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan can be found at Appendix A. The Strategy cross references the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities and is transparent in identifying the budget allocation and the monitoring of each action by a nominated member of the community safety team who has responsibility for the delivery of that particular action. Innovative initiatives such as mediation and caution clinics show we are working at early intervention to prevent behaviour escalating. Delivering the Supporting Troubled Families Programme is a main feature of the new Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. In previous years, Fareham's Community Safety Partnership received funding allocation from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and the Area Based Grant held by Hampshire County Council. These funding streams have ceased and bids are now made to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
8. The Police and Crime Commissioner has set in place a strategy which stipulates that any successful bid will have an effective project plan in place, along with an evaluation and a link to at least one of the PCC's priorities identified within the Police and Crime Plan.
9. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership were successful in obtaining funding to the sum of £13,100 to deliver Access All Areas in 2013 and initiatives to reduce anti-social behaviour and to reduce violence associated with the night time economy.
10. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership applied for funding in relation to Access All Areas (in collaboration with Winchester Community Safety Partnership) and Taxi Marshals for 2014 and has received an offer to carry out both of these activities to the sum of £43,000. An additional £1,750 has also been awarded for the trial of a mediation service to tackle low level anti-social behaviour, particularly neighbour disputes and finally an allocation of funding in the region of £9,000 will be passported to Fareham Community Safety Partnership to deliver initiatives around victims of anti-social behaviour.
11. It is important to sustain funding and ensuring that it is being used effectively by monitoring the annual action plan's progress and being able to evaluate the successes of the initiatives being implemented.
12. Fareham Borough Council has already mainstreamed the community safety team's posts which reflects the Council's commitment in delivering the corporate priority of Fareham being a safe and healthy place to live and work. The core team consists of one manager, two part time community safety officers, a part time

analyst (who is currently seconded to the Fareham Park Project Officer role) and an anti-social behaviour officer who all work with our community safety partners in delivering the actions contained within the Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

13. Fareham Community Safety Partnership also hold £10,000 to discharge our statutory function imposed by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) to establish a Domestic Homicide Review should one need to be undertaken in Fareham.

CONSULTATIONS

14. On the 20 February 2014 the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017 was presented to Fareham's Community Safety Partnership for comment. It was also presented to the Fareham and Gosport Domestic Abuse Forum for comment as well as to the Council's Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel on 11 March 2014. All the comments that have been received have been incorporated into the Strategy which is now being reported to the Executive.
15. As part of the continuing process of consultation and as part of the review and monitoring of the plan, the Strategy and Action Plan was placed on the Community Safety Partnership's website.

OPPORTUNITIES

16. Community Safety within the Council is moving to the Department of Community Services and this will provide opportunities for even closer working with the Housing and Community Development teams that will enable more synergy in dealing with community safety related matters.
17. There are also further opportunities for collaborative and co-located working, especially with the police, clinical commissioning groups and probation. The police analysts have submitted a bid to the PCC to enable them to provide information and data in a more consistent and co-ordinated way to inform our community tasking and co-ordinating group as well as provide a strategic assessment and this will supplement the work that is already undertaken by the council's community safety analyst

RISK ASSESSMENT

18. The risks associated with this report are related to the financing of the plan and this has been addressed in the paragraphs on the funding implications.
19. It will also be important to closely monitor the changes in legislation including the new Ant-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. The impending privatisation of the Probation Service and restructure of Hampshire Constabulary could have an impact on the way that community safety is delivered through the workings of Community Safety Partnerships in the future.

CONCLUSION

20. Fareham's Community Safety Plan 2014-17, attached as Appendix A, has been developed, using the comprehensive Strategic Assessment 2013 as solid evidence base and provides the opportunity to fully integrate co-ordinated

partnership working into community safety work at Fareham. This targeted approach offers real opportunities to reduce incidents of the types of crime and disorder that have been identified as an issue for the Borough and, once funding is determined and coordinated working identified, will continue to make a major contribution to maintaining Fareham as a safe place to live and work.

Reference Papers: