

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Scrutiny Board

Date **25 June 2015**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FAREHAM
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

SUMMARY

The Council's Scrutiny Board has been designated as the Council's Committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken by the Fareham Community Safety Partnership. This report provides members of the Scrutiny Board with an overview of the work undertaken by Fareham's Community Safety Partnership and the partnership's performance to date.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is requested to note the performance and progress made by Fareham's Community Safety Partnership and the risks and challenges it faces in the future.

INTRODUCTION

1. The powers to scrutinise are given to the scrutiny function of all local authorities by sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, as amended by section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Regulations have been passed under section 20 of the 2006 Act, and these provide local authorities with a framework for the development of an on-going relationship between Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CSPs) and scrutiny bodies.
2. The Board should be undertaking reviews of the performance of the Partnership.

FAREHAM'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

3. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership is a long-established and a very successful Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. It was set up under section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough of Fareham. The Partnership is made up of "responsible authorities" together with invited members. The responsible authorities have statutory duties on the Partnership and are:-

Fareham Borough Council;
Hampshire County Council;
Hampshire Constabulary;
Hampshire Fire Authority;
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service;
The Probation Trust and (Community Rehabilitation Company); and
Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group.

Invited organisations include;-

The Youth Council
The Youth Offending Team
Neighbourhood Watch
Fareham Magistrates Court

4. The reorganisation of Probation Services saw the 35 Probation Trusts dissolved in April 2014 and replaced with a National Probation Service (NPS) and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). Purple Futures, bid and were successful in delivering services in Hampshire under contract to the National Offender Management Service. They manage the majority of offenders in the community, those sentenced to community orders or suspended sentence orders, and those subject to post-custody licence conditions or supervision requirements. Any short term custody prisoner serving a sentence beyond one day will be released on license.
5. The National Probation Service (NPS) will be a delivery arm of the National Offender Management Service comprising of local delivery units which will directly manage offenders who pose a high risk of serious harm to the public, including those whose risk level has escalated and those released from custody who have committed serious offences. The National probation Service will also play a role in the management of all offenders, including conducting risk assessments, advising the courts on sentencing, responding to escalations in risk, and taking enforcement action.

6. The Community Safety Team has built a good relationship with both the NPS and Purple Futures including a seamless transition of the Integrated Offender Management contract and setting up local support groups.

AIM AND PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

7. The aim of the Partnership is to develop and build upon partnership working between all agencies in order to create a safer Fareham by reducing crime and disorder, including the fear of crime and contribute to making Fareham a safe place to live, work and visit. A Partnership Agreement is in place, that all partners are signed up to and this clearly sets out the vision, aims and objectives of the partnership and the general governance arrangements relating to the operation of the partnership.
8. The importance of the Partnership is reflected in the Council's corporate priority, a safe and healthy place to live and work and this is delivered through the corporate improvement action 7, to work with the Community Safety Partnership to continue to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in Fareham.

PERFORMANCE

9. Fareham Community Safety Partnership is the second best performing partnership in Hampshire and the second best performing partnership nationally in our most similar family group. Crime figures in 2013/14 were reported as 4249. There is a slight increase in crime figures for year 2014/15 which are 4384.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

10. On the 15 November 2012 police authorities in England and Wales were abolished and the police and crime commissioners were introduced via the election process. Simon Hayes was elected as Hampshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
11. Simon Hayes visited Fareham Community Safety Partnership in April 2013 and 2014 and said "I've been very impressed with Fareham's Community Safety Partnership; the different agencies are working together with one purpose. The work that's done is innovative and successful to protect the residents from harm. there are social problems that need to be addressed in the community in Fareham and the CSP supports people, addresses those problems and tries to reduce reoffending".

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

12. The PCC's Police and Crime Plan focuses on four key priority areas that are designed to cut crime, protect the public and make communities safer. The PCC's four priorities are:-
 - Improving frontline policing to deter criminals and keep communities safe;
 - Place victims and witnesses at the heart of policing and wider criminal justice system;
 - Work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - Reduce re-offending.

13. Fareham's Community Safety Strategy incorporates the above priorities and ensures that the Partnership delivers outcomes based on them.

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

14. Alongside the relationship that councils have with PCCs through the Community Safety Partnership, they have a direct role in holding commissioners to account. A Police and Crime Panel (PCP) has been established in Hampshire to scrutinise the PCC and support him in the effective exercise of his functions.
15. Councillor Trevor Cartwright is the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel and Councillor Mrs Marion Ellerton was appointed the deputy. This arrangement provides the Community Safety Partnership and the Council with a direct link.

The Police and Crime Panel's main responsibilities are to:-

- Require the commissioner or a member of their staff to attend the panel to answer questions;
- Appoint an acting commissioner if the commissioner were to resign or be dismissed;
- If considered appropriate and necessary veto the PCC's proposed precept;
- If considered appropriate and necessary veto the PCC's proposed appointment of a Chief Constable

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY SAFETY ALLIANCE

16. The Police and Crime Commissioner has set up a Community Safety Alliance at the beginning of 2015 so that he can engage with Community Safety Partnership Chairmen and Community Safety Managers to raise emerging issues and risks faced by the Partnerships and work together to resolve them. The group meets quarterly and is represented by the Community Safety Manager and Councillor Trevor Cartwright.

PARTNERSHIP ACTION GROUP

17. The Community Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (CTCG) and the Anti-social Behaviour Panel were both multi-agency groups which discussed individuals and locations separately. After consultation with Partners both groups were merged so that victims, offenders and problematic locations were discussed together on a monthly basis. This group also keeps track of our nominal and risk trackers so officers always know the most vulnerable residents and can ensure adequate support is in place. Membership of the group is not exclusive and agencies are brought in if they are required and actions set accordingly. The Group is jointly chaired by the District Commander and the Community Safety Manager.

CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY 2014-2017

18. Fareham Community Safety Partnership's latest Strategic Assessment identified 5 main areas of concern. Priorities that were identified and subsequently included in the current Strategy are:-

- reducing and preventing anti-social behaviour
 - violent crime (including domestic abuse)
 - reducing crimes related to alcohol and drugs
 - preventing and reducing reoffending
 - public reassurance and community engagement.
19. A work programme and an action plan are produced annually to ensure that actions identified under each priority area, that help reduce and prevent crime, are delivered within a timely period and allocated appropriate funding.

REVIEW

20. A review of the Partnership's effectiveness, priorities, membership and purpose will be discussed with Partners throughout the coming year.

FAREHAM & GOSPORT DOMESTIC ABUSE FORUM

21. Fareham & Gosport Domestic Abuse Forum is delivered jointly with Gosport Community Safety Partnership and delivers the actions that are identified under the violent crime priority. A clear action plan has been set and monitored through the performance group. Working with the Clinical Commissioning Groups and reforming the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) process are some of the actions included within this work plan.
22. MARACs are multi agency meetings that bring together practitioners that deal with Domestic Violence. The Community Safety Team attends these meetings to discuss high level domestic abuse perpetrators and victims. Southern Domestic Abuse Service has been successful in winning the commissioned service for Fareham, Gosport and the Isle of Wight.

FAREHAM SUPPORTING FAMILIES

23. Hampshire Supporting Troubled Families Programme is a 5 year programme that commenced on 1 April 2012. The challenge is to target 1,600 families in Hampshire with multiple, complex issues, delivering new solutions to persistent problems and delivering positive change for families and communities. This programme offers a new, joined up way of improving and transforming the lives of communities across Hampshire.
24. The Senior Responsible Officer for Fareham's Supporting Families is the Council's Community Safety Manager, who sits on the Fareham Local Children's Partnership (LCP) Strategic Board, to which the Senior Responsible Officer, reports. This also provides a key link into the Community Safety Partnership to ensure a joined up and co-ordinated approach. Fareham has joined the Supporting Families Co-ordination Group and the newly formed Early Help Hub which meets each week.

25. The Programme targets families with problems relating to crime, education and unemployment. Since January 2015 three further criteria were added to include domestic violence, children that require help and health issues. Families have plans which set out what the key worker or lead agency will do and what the family will do. The programme looks to ensure that children attend school regularly, parents are provided with training so they can get back to work, there are lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and that families work better as a unit, able to look after and support each other.
26. To date Fareham has dealt with 142 families and had positive outcomes for 41 families. Fareham has received over £98,000 in funding and employed a family support officer to deal with the families that need lower level support.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

27. Since April 2011, community safety partnerships have been responsible for undertaking domestic homicide reviews. A clear process has been drafted and contacts made with organisation leads. The Partnership is clear about the procedure and steps to take if a domestic homicide review occurred in Fareham and the Community Safety Manager is currently working with colleagues in Hampshire to ensure that a countywide approach is taken and template and processes aligned throughout Hampshire.

PREVENT

28. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a new duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The government has produced guidance for specified authorities, which they must have regard to when complying with the duty. The duty will apply to bodies which have significant interaction with people who could be vulnerable to radicalisation. This ensures that the duty is proportionate. These include schools, local authorities, police forces, some NHS bodies, further and higher education providers, prisons and young offender institutions and providers of probation services.
29. As a District Council, we have an important role to fulfil to ensure that none of our buildings (including our community centres and or our housing stock) are used by extremist groups to promote terrorism. The Leisure and Community section have already contacted all of the Council owned community centres to raise awareness of the new legislation. The Community Safety Team has worked with Special Branch and the Council's Tenant Involvement Officer to deliver a training event for tenants, police officers and Council staff.
30. The partnership will co-ordinate prevent and assess risk factors through the Partnership Action Group and refer any high risk cases to a newly formed Channel Panel. Fareham remains a safe place to live, work and visit and the partnership will ensure residents, staff and partner agencies are made aware of how to appropriately report anything of concern

COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES

31. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership's website <http://www.saferfareham.co.uk/> has been an excellent asset to the partnership enabling public and partners to

gain and share information on initiatives and performance. The website will be reviewed this year.

32. The Taxi Marshal Scheme is delivered within Fareham's town centre to support the night-time economy in Fareham primarily on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and is tasked to work with Police and Licensing. The role is undertaken by a security firm and it provides detailed daily reports which are reported at the monthly Partnership Action Group.
33. SNAP discos are held at Ferneham Hall and attract a large number of young people on Friday nights throughout the year. The Leisure and Community section, Fire Service, Police, Youth Services, councillors and volunteers ensure that this event happens in a safe environment. Community Safety Partner Agencies provide educational awareness on subjects such as firearms and knife crime, drugs and alcohol, sexual health, skin protection, cycling safety and fire safety.
34. The Community Safety Team delivered a successful summer diversionary programme "Access All Areas" in 2014 and Fareham is working collaboratively with Winchester CSP to deliver the same programme again this year, thanks to funding by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Access All Areas 2015 will run from Monday 27 July to Wednesday 12 August 2015 at venues throughout Fareham and Winchester. First Bus and Stagecoach have agreed to provide free transport during the events, Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury's are providing the free cakes, water and refreshments. Community Clubs such as Fareham Heathens, Music Fusion, No Limits, Motiv8, Y Services, Seafarers Sailing Club, Fareham Rotary Club, Phoenix Driver Training and Crofton Bowling are also involved.
35. This year we are combining Access All Areas with Mini Play Festivals. These two activities ensure that all age groups can enjoy fun activities throughout the summer holidays.

RESIDENTS' SURVEY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

36. The aim of the partnership is to develop and build upon partnership working between all agencies in order to create a safer Fareham by reducing crime and disorder, including the fear of crime and contribute to making Fareham a safe place to live, work and visit. This complements Fareham Borough Council's Corporate Priority of ensuring Fareham remains a **safe and healthy place to live and work** and this is achieved through one of the corporate priority actions of working with the Community Safety Partnership to continue to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in Fareham.
37. In order to gauge the views of residents the Council undertakes regular residents' surveys. Fareham Borough Council conducted a residents' survey in 2013, where respondents ranked "Working with the Police to reduce crime" as a high priority Council service, second only to collecting household waste and recycling.
38. The Community Safety Team and Police are working with Fareham Neighbourhood Watch to improve information sharing and make best use of the partnership website to promote reporting and the use of the Police 101 system, Crime Reports, Crimestoppers and Safetynet.

BUDGET, FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

39. The Community Safety fund is now held by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Community Safety Partnerships, along with community groups and voluntary sector organisations, can bid for this money. 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 one of the PCC's priorities identified within the Police and Crime Plan.
40. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership was successful in obtaining funding to the sum of £21,000 to deliver Access All Areas in 2015 jointly with Winchester Community Safety Partnership and initiatives to reduce anti-social behaviour and to reduce violence associated with the night-time economy.
41. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership has also been granted funding in relation to Taxi Marshals (£19,000), Mediation (£1,750), victims of Anti-social behaviour for 2014 (£9,000).
42. It is important to sustain funding and ensure 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.
43. Fareham Community Safety Partnership also hold £10,000 to discharge its 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.
44. The opportunity to work collaboratively with neighbouring CSPs has been progressed and Fareham works with Gosport with the Domestic Abuse Forum, the Princes Trust and Young Fire Fighters Association. It is also delivering the Access All Areas 2015 with Winchester CSP. These collaborative areas of work confirm that efficiencies can be made in both time and resource.
45. There are considerable challenges and demands being put on CSPs which include funding and will ultimately impact upon the level of service delivered. Ensuring that evidence based bids are submitted to the PCC and other funding providers is essential to the success of the Partnership.

RISK ASSESSMENT

46. The most significant risk is the availability of resources and funding to deliver the priorities in the plan. The commitment of all the partners is clear and the fact that the work of the partners is well co-ordinated to ensure the best use of resources enables the performance of the Partnership to be maintained.
47. The re-organisation of Hampshire Constabulary and the privatisation of the Probation Service are risks that the Partnership and Scrutiny Board have to be aware of and influence. Hampshire Constabulary have re-organised their Neighbourhood Policing Teams leading to a reduction of police officers. There will be an impact on delivery of community safety within the Borough and an opportunity to question leading members of these organisations will be essential.

CONCLUSION

48. The PCC has set out his funding streams and supports local delivery of initiatives to prevent and combat crime. It is therefore important that effective evaluation of successful initiatives is undertaken so that the PCC can see the benefit of local initiatives and the necessity for these to continue as this will be key to securing future funding streams.
49. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership is working collaboratively with Gosport Borough Council and Winchester City Council to ensure that efficiencies are made by delivering initiatives jointly whilst maintaining a reduction of crime in Fareham. Co-location of services is working well in Fareham and needs to be further developed inviting more agencies into the building. Innovative ways of working, including sponsorship and monitoring risks and performance, will ensure that the Partnership continues to progress. Fareham currently has the Youth Offending Team, Integrated Offender Management and the Transform Service co-located in the Civic Offices. It is hoped that the Police will shortly relocate in the Civic offices making partnership working easier and more efficient.
50. Ensuring that the residents of Fareham feel part of the CSP and contribute to reduction in Crime is essential. Community engagement and empowering residents is a combined priority area for both Fareham CSP and the PCC. Letting residents know how to report crime, access local crime statistics and take part in community safety initiatives and consultations. Sharing of information between partner agencies, mainstreaming community safety within Fareham Borough Council will also ensure that all Officers and Councillors know what the Partnership priorities are and how together they can impact positively upon them.
51. Fareham remains a safe place to work, live and visit; however, the Partnership cannot be complacent and must ensure that all initiatives are evaluated and it can prove that its intervention does make a difference.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Narinder Bains (Ext 4496).