

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Report to Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel**

**Date**                    **11 March 2014**

**Report of:**            **Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services**

**Subject:**              **COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

#### **SUMMARY**

This report provides members with an update in respect of the successes of the completed 3 year Community Safety Strategy which was approved by the Executive at its meeting in May 2011 and seeks the Panel's comments on the draft Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2014-17 that sets out how Fareham's Community Safety Partnership will tackle the identified priorities over the coming years.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Panel is requested to:

- (a) Note the work undertaken in delivering the current Community Safety Strategy; and,
- (b) The Panel's views and comments are now being sought as part of the consultation on the development of the 2014-17 Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. 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.
2. The Fareham Community Safety Partnership is a long-established and 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 “co-operating bodies and persons”. The responsible authorities that have statutory duties on the Partnership are:-  
  
Fareham Borough Council;  
Hampshire County Council;  
Hampshire Constabulary;  
Hampshire Fire Authority;  
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service;  
The Probation Trust; and  
Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group.
3. 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.
4. In addition the organisations and agencies that make up the partnership work together to tackle crime across the Borough of Fareham by undertaking a Strategic Assessment in relation to crime and disorder. This strategic assessment identifies key local priorities and is used to develop the strategy to effectively reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage that have been highlighted.

## **FAREHAM'S COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2011-2013**

5. Fareham Community Safety Strategy 2011- 2013 is nearing its conclusion and the annual Action Plan set out within this document has been completed successfully. Progress against these actions have 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.
6. In the financial year 2012-13 there has been a reduction of 14.3% (745 incidents) of all reported crime. The positive progress that has been made is reflected in Fareham's Community Safety Partnership being the 3<sup>rd</sup> best performing Partnership in Hampshire and the 3<sup>rd</sup> best performing in our most similar family group in terms of crimes per 1000 households.

7. The following priorities were contained in the 2011 - 2013 Community Safety Strategy:

- Public Reassurance and Community Engagement
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing crimes associated with drugs and alcohol
- Reduce violent crime including domestic abuse
- Reducing criminal damage including arson
- Preventing and reducing re-offending

8. In the financial year 2012-2013 there has been a reduction of 14.3% (745 incidents) but the key achievements that were delivered could be described as :

- Anti-Social Behaviour - reduction of 24.15% (931 occurrences) (previous year not comparable due to re-categorisation of ASB)
- Violence against the Person – reduction of 10.3% (106 incidents) (previous year reduction of 18.5% (230 incidents))
- Criminal Damage and Arson - reduction of 19.4% (192 incidents) (previous year increase of 1.9% (19 incidents))
- Other Theft and Handling – reduction of 14.1% (175 incidents) (previous year increase of 8.4% (106 incidents))

These reductions were achieved through a number of initiatives and actions that were contained within the Action Plan and which can be summarised under each of the priorities contained within the strategy.

#### **Public Reassurance and Community Engagement**

- Community Action Team Meetings
- White Ribbon Day
- Ferneham Hall open day (fire, Police)
- The provision of a communications source via the Safer Fareham Website
- Engagement with Neighbourhood Watch
- Fareham Today
- Council Connect

#### **Reducing anti-social behaviour** through the work of:

- The Fareham Anti-Social Behaviour panel (facilitated by the Fareham ASB Officer, focussing on reducing the ASB of the identified perpetrator and reducing victimisation)
- Robust licensing conditions implemented and developed by Police and Fareham Borough Council Licensing officers
- The Fareham Supporting Families Programme
- Community Safety initiatives and diversionary activities such as SNAP Dance Nights (5 per year) and Access All Areas (summer holiday events)
- Fareham Park Steering Group
- Taxi Marshals deployed during peaks in night time economy to minimise unrest, increase public confidence and safety.

**Reducing crimes associated with drugs and alcohol** through the work of:

- Fareham Drug and Alcohol Action Group (DAAG) – focussing on reducing the harm caused by substance and alcohol misuse - by raising awareness of the impact that substance misuse has and identifying gaps in services.
- Working with Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group and the Fareham Borough Council Health and Housing Review Panel.
- Robust licensing enforcement through joint test purchase operations to test sale of alcohol to underage customers

**Reduce Violent Crime including Domestic Abuse** through the work of:

- The Fareham and Gosport Domestic Abuse Forum
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (facilitated by Police and focussed on cases recognised as high risk or serious harm)
- The shared resource of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor ( IDVA) and Male Mentor through Southern Domestic Abuse Service
- Taxi Marshals
- Domestic Homicide Review Process

**Reducing Criminal Damage including Arson** through the work of:

- Robust response and enforcement for the removal of graffiti – joint working between Fareham Borough Council Enforcement Officers, Streetscene and Fountains Cleaners.

**Preventing and reducing re-offending** through the work of:

- Integrated Offender Management
- Drug and Alcohol Action Group
- Restorative Justice
- Youth Offending Team

9. The achievements that have been made over the last year in delivering the current Community Safety Strategy were reported to the meeting of the Council's Scrutiny Board in July 2013 and to the meeting of the Fareham Community Safety Partnership on 20 February 2014 and that report provides more detailed analysis of the successes that have been delivered.

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

10. The Police and Crime Commissioner has had a significant impact upon the work undertaken by the partnership especially as now all funding that the partnership receive is held by the Commissioner for which the partnership has to bid in competition with other Community Safety Partnerships and agencies. The PCC visited Fareham Community Safety Partnership in April 2013 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".

11. The Police and Crime Commissioner gives due regard to the Community Safety Strategy and can request a report on any funded activity. Alongside the relationship that councils have with PCCs through the Community Safety Partnership, they also 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. Councillor Arthur Mandry is Fareham's representative on the Police and Crime Panel, with Councillor Trevor Cartwright deputising. This provides an effective link between the Police and Crime Panel and the Community Safety Partnership.

### **FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL 2013 RESIDENTS' SURVEY**

12. 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 Councils 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 our community safety partnership to continue to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in Fareham.
13. In order to gauge the views of residents the Council undertake 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.
14. The results from the residents' survey were very positive and reflected the achievements that have been made by the Fareham Community Safety Partnership to date:
  - 90% thought that the police and Fareham Borough Council were successfully dealing with crime, antisocial behaviour and neighbour nuisance, compared to 88% in 2011 and 67% in 2009.
  - 84% thought that teenagers hanging around in public places was not a problem, 10% more than in 2011
  - 92% did not think there was a problem with people using or dealing drugs, 9% more than in 2011.
  - 89% thought that people being drunk or rowdy in public places was not a problem, 9% more than in 2011.
  - 86% of people did not think that feeling unsafe on a night out was a problem in Fareham.
  - 99% of people thought there was no problem with abandoned or burnt out cars, compared to 95% in 2011.
  - 91% did not think there was a problem with vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles, 11% more than in 2011.
15. Although 90% of Fareham's residents thought that the police and Fareham Borough Council were successfully dealing with crime, antisocial behaviour and neighbour nuisance, there are still 10% of residents that have never heard of the good work the

Partnership are undertaking. Therefore there is a need to further highlight and promote the successes and positive work that is being undertaken in making Fareham a safe and healthy place to live, work and visit.

### **Collaborative Working**

16. In March 2012 it was reported that Fareham and Gosport Community Safety Partnerships regularly met to discuss areas of work that could be delivered collaboratively. Investigations looked into merging the ASB Panel, working together with the summer diversionary activities, SNAP, Taxi Marshals and Youth Council, also to look at joint analysis and replicating Community Action Teams in Gosport.
17. The outcome of these meetings was that, the ASB Panel was combined; this has proved an efficient meeting which is hosted each month by each individual Council. The Fareham and Gosport Domestic Abuse Forum is a combined forum which has an annual action plan and is chaired by Councillor Mrs Kay Mandry. The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is also a joint meeting. Other partnerships shared with Gosport that impact on community safety are the Fareham and Gosport CCTV Partnership and the Fareham and Gosport Environmental Health Partnership. The Integrated Offender Management Programme is delivered jointly and includes Havant as is the work that is being undertaken in relation to the Supporting Troubled Families Programme.

### **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

18. 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.
19. It is important that Fareham's Community Safety Strategy takes account of the above priorities and ensures that the partnership delivers outcomes that also contribute to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2014-2017**

20. 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
21. Fareham's draft Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan can be found at Appendix A and Members are asked for their comments on this document which will be taken into account as part of the consultation process. 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.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

22. In March 2012 we reported the significant change in funding streams. As highlighted earlier, 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 stipulate 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.
23. 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.
24. Fareham's Community Safety Partnership has applied for funding in relation to Access All Areas and Taxi Marshals for 2014 and has received a provisional 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.
25. 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.
26. 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 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.

27. 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.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

28. There are financial risks which relate to the success of the funding bids that are made to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the ability of the partners to provide the necessary commitment and resources in order to deliver the actions contained within the Strategy. Partner organisations, including the Council are facing financial pressures, the Police are streamlining Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Hampshire County Council has also recently announced the proposed loss of Accredited Community Safety Officers as of December 2014. Privatisation of the Probation Trust (Transforming Rehabilitation of Offenders) also needs to be closely monitored to ensure that this does not adversely impact upon the work of the partnership.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

29. 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.
30. 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.

## **CONCLUSION**

31. Fareham's Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan attached as Appendix A, has been developed using the comprehensive Strategic Assessment undertaken in 2013. This provides the evidence base that highlights the priority issues and concerns that need to be addressed through the Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan which in turn provides the opportunity to co-ordinate community safety partnership work in Fareham.



32. The Strategy and Action Plan is currently in draft form and is being consulted upon and the Panels views and comments are sought as part of this consultation process.

**Background Papers:**

2013 Strategic Assessment

**Reference Papers:**

Annual Report on the Performance of Fareham Community Safety Partnership; Report to Scrutiny Board 4 July 2013

**Enquiries:**

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

APPENDIX A – [Fareham's Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan](#)