



**REPORT of
HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 OCTOBER 2011**

**UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP AND ADOPTION OF THE VICTIM-OFFENDER - LOCATION
MODEL, IMPACT OF THE POLICING REVIEW, NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION
PANEL REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONERS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee are asked to note the progress of activities undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and the planned change of working practice under the Victim-Offender-Location model and the likely impact of the recent policing review; the review of Neighbourhood Action Panels and the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners.

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was the subject of a joint independent peer review with Chelmsford CSP in October 2010 by Local Government Improvement and Development (previously known as Improvement and Development Agency). The review identified a number of efficiency changes which could be made by both partnerships in terms of staffing and streamlining the current structure to become more focussed and outcome driven.
- 2.1.2 The recent decrease in funding from the Home Office in terms of the Area Based Grant and from community safety partners together with significant structure changes to key partners such as Essex Police, Essex County Council and Essex Fire and Rescue Service, has meant that a leaner streamlined partnership model has become a necessity. The addition of responsibilities such as reducing re-offending and the expectation by the Home Office for CSP's to take a lead role for domestic homicide reviews, also supports the need for more focus and strategic leadership of sub-groups to tackle new responsibilities and emerging trends.
- 2.1.3 The initial recommendations of the peer review have been implemented with regards to staffing by the creation of a shared Community Safety Manager role which commenced on 1 April 2011. More recently a shared Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Coordinator arrangement commenced from 14 July 2011. Further joint working

between the partnerships is ongoing with a Community Safety Officer from Chelmsford working one day a week based in Maldon.

- 2.1.4 The recent policing review of Essex will see Maldon and Chelmsford merge as one policing district with a single District Commander from 1 April 2012. In addition to this, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will provide that, in 2012, a majority of the Police Authorities in England and Wales will be abolished and replaced with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC). The PCC will become responsible for allocating funding to police forces, community safety partnerships and other organisations. The election of this role will take place on 15 November 2012.

2.2 Progress of Activities

- 2.2.1 The Responsible Authorities Group approved the strategic assessment, partnership plan and funding to support the four key priorities on 13 May 2011 which were identified as follows:

- Maintain / reduce existing low levels of crime and ASB
- Reduce harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse
- Maintain / reduce the fear of crime and ASB
- Reduce road traffic collisions

- 2.2.2 The Community Safety Partnership has taken on a number of new responsibilities in recent years such as reducing re-offending, counter terrorism measures (Crowded Places) and Prevent (Preventing Violent Extremism). Another new responsibility which has been passed down from the Home Office in April 2011 is the expectation for Community Safety Partnerships to take a lead role for domestic homicide reviews. This is an area of work which will require further training and expertise together with financial support. The partnership will also be looking at how data capture can be improved by promoting A&E data sharing which in turn will assist the partnership in the deployment of resources and if necessary, implement interventions to counteract identified issues.

- 2.2.3 The Community Safety Partnership is now more accessible for electronic users because it has a group pick up email address (communitysafety@maldon.gov.uk) and incidents of ASB and hate crime can now be reported on-line with customers completing online forms. In addition to this a wide variety of publicity material has been produced with these new contact details which include advice leaflets and crime reporting.

- 2.2.4 The team continues to interact with the wider public by attending and organising events such as 999 Day, Bikesafe, Blackwater Country Show and Heybridge Fête. It has also improved on consultation by using “charity pots” as a quick and effective method to identify the main crime concerns for residents and this is backed up by the use of questionnaires to obtain a more detailed analysis of concerns and specific locations. A number of educational events supported throughout the year with Crucial Crew for Year 6 pupils held in September at the Minerva Centre where pupils learnt about a wide range of issues such as drugs, alcohol, smoking cessation, road safety, ASB and emergency planning. The partnership is currently working with the Plume School to design information leaflets for young people to combat drug and

alcohol misuse and Maldon Youth Council has recently contributed their views on a similar leaflet for ASB.

Charity Pot Scores following consultation exercise:-

Crime	No. of concerns	Ranking
Violent Crime	24	3
Alcohol Misuse	23	4
Vehicle Crime	15	6
No concern	4	8
Drug Misuse	26	2
Burglary	18	5
Robbery	14	7
Anti Social Behaviour	36	1

2.2.5 There are a number of key areas the Service Manager is currently addressing to raise the profile of the partnership and to ensure that projects and interventions delivered are evaluated to ensure that they are effective and evolve with the changing trends. The Community Safety Manager has acted as a lead judge for the Home Office Tilley Awards this year and assisted with the delivery of Safer Essex projects by attending working groups on alcohol and crime and shaping the future of community safety partnerships which assists in raising the profile of Maldon CSP. Locally, improved working with Neighbourhood Watch, the launch of Farm Watch and the re-launch of Business Watch has helped residents of the district become more security conscious and proactive. Team members continue to work closely with Essex Police and attend fortnightly tasking meetings. The district was visited by the High Sheriff of Essex on 15 September 2011 which included a visit to a diversionary boxing club set up by the partnership in Mayland to assist in the reduction of ASB and youth nuisance.

2.2.6 The Government's CONTEST Strategy is aligned to four elements of activity:

- Pursue
- Prevent
- Protect
- Prepare.

2.2.7 Protection against terrorist attack should be a key function for all councils but the likelihood of an incident in the district of Maldon is low when compared to major cities and large scale events. However, there is still a risk of attack to sites such as Bradwell Power Station or medium size events attracting crowds such as the Maldon Mud Race.

2.2.8 The Essex Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) has not identified any "Crowded Places" within the district with a high or medium high risk of vulnerability. This does not mean that the partnership should be complacent in terms of the risks particularly with key events associated with the Olympics and the proximity of the games to the district in 2012. The Community Safety Manager in his role at Chelmsford, in partnership with the Essex Police CTSA has delivered a number of specific training events over the last three years to promote the awareness to businesses of security threats from terrorism. The delivery of the training is in the

form of a scenario based interaction DVD named 'Project Argus'. This allows attendees to discuss ideas and options in small groups which are facilitated by experts in counter terrorism, emergency planning and business continuity. The Responsible Authorities Group has agreed to extend this training to relevant members of staff at Maldon District Council and retailers / companies who may benefit from the exercise.

- 2.2.9 There has recently been a review of the Prevent Strategy. The Community Safety Manager has met with the Essex Police Community Engagement Team to discuss the implications of this review. Whilst work around preventing violent extremism is now being targeted in areas of identified need the review does recommend further engagement with schools, colleges and universities. The Community Engagement Team would welcome an opportunity to engage with the two comprehensive schools in the Maldon District: The Plume School and Ormiston Rivers Academy (formerly St. Peter's High School).
- 2.2.10 Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) – Domestic Homicide Reviews, has now been implemented and this provision creates an expectation for local areas to undertake a multi-agency review following a domestic violence homicide. There are currently two reviews ongoing in Tendring and Braintree Districts. Whilst Essex County Council will be assisting for such reviews, each individual partnership will be playing a key role in delivering such a review in the event of a domestic violence homicide. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Strategic Director and Head of Community and Leisure Services will be undergoing training on 19 October 2011 arranged by Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB). Safer Essex has agreed a sum of £15,000 to assist local areas with funding should such assistance be required.

2.3 The Victim-Offender-Location Model (VOL Model)

- 2.3.1 The Community Safety Manager works closely with Local Government Improvement and Development as an accredited peer reviewer of community safety partners; evidence of this proposed model is shown as being very effective elsewhere. The VOL model has been adopted by a number of community safety partnerships in recent years and is highlighted as good practice by both Local Government Improvement and Development and the Home Office. The Community Safety Manager and District Commander of Essex Police attended a seminar on this new model presented by the mentioned agencies and was hosted by the London Borough of Redbridge at Ilford Town Hall.
- 2.3.2 The current structure of eight sub-groups is no longer sustainable in terms of staffing and attendance by community partners. It is proposed that this will reduce to three sub-groups in autumn 2011, namely Victim, Offender and Location which are the three key elements for a crime to occur. This change was approved by the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) on 9 September 2011 and reported to the Community Services Committee on 6 September 2011. The work of the existing sub-groups will not be diluted but meetings will become more focused and outcome driven with a strategic lead which reports directly to RAG acting as chair. For example, the Victim sub-group will focus on victims and repeat victims of ASB, domestic abuse, hate crime and dwelling burglary. These areas are currently addressed by three separate sub-groups and therefore duplication will be significantly

reduced and thus ensure that partners are fully engaged and maximise their resource spent working with the partnership.

- 2.3.3 To ensure that the partnership remains responsive to addressing crime issues and concerns, the chair of each sub-group will be able to set up targeted multi-agency problem solving groups. These groups (which will be similar to an Overview and Scrutiny task and finish group) will be time orientated (ideally three months) and be able to focus on key issues which require multi-agency resources and interventions. For example, if there was a serious problem with ASB at a specific location, additional partners such as Essex County Council Trading Standards or Essex Young People's Drugs and Advisory Service (EYPDAS) may be required to implement interventions together with diversionary schemes or enforcement visits.
- 2.3.4 To summarise, the implementation of this model will reduce the current meetings per annum for the Community Safety Partnership (including the RAG and Steering Group) from 40 to 20. This will ensure that Officers can dedicate more resources to targeted intervention through problem solving groups, education and specific project work to address emerging trends. This will also ensure that partners become fully engaged and continue to support the partnership despite a reduction in resources. A consultative event with community safety partners has been arranged for 21 October 2011 so that terms of reference, key priorities and initial scoping can be developed and discussed.

2.4 Essex Police Review (Essex Police Policing Blueprint)

- 2.4.1 A fundamental review of all aspects of policing in Essex was released on 1 August 2011 in the form of a document "The Future of Operational Policing in Essex". A copy of this review is attached at **APPENDIX 1**.
- 2.4.2 The review was necessary due to cuts in grants and unavoidable financial pressures. In addition to this, similarly to the needs of the CSP, the police needs to address emerging trends and therefore five key areas to provide effective policing in Essex were identified as neighbourhood policing, investigating volume crime, gathering and developing intelligence, tackling serious crime and terrorism and responding to emergencies. In order to meet the financial challenge by 2014, there will be a reduction of 388 police officer posts (from 3,636 to 3,248) and 103 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) posts throughout Essex. However, a majority of the savings will be made in back room functions by the collaboration with Kent Police.
- 2.4.3 The main change to impact on the Maldon District will be the introduction of borderless policing. This will mean that emergency responses will no longer be constrained by geographical boundaries and will allow for better use of technology and intelligence. There will also be a reduction from the five current geographic divisions to three new Local Policing Areas (LPAs) which are then split into District Policing Areas (DPAs). The Maldon District will be in LPA North and joined as a DPA with Chelmsford Borough with one District Commander responsible for both areas. Within each DPA there will be a Community Safety Unit and will be headed up by an Inspector with a responsibility for licensing, crime reduction officers, Essex Watch, ASB officers and other partnership functions. There will also be an increase of Officers within the Neighbourhood Policing Teams by 12% from 472 to 527.

2.4.4 The full detail of this report is explained in **APPENDIX 1** but it is clear that the current shared working between Maldon and Chelmsford CSP's will ensure that the respective partnerships are in a good position in view of the shared DPA area from 1 March 2012 and the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012.

2.5 Essex Police Review of NAPS (Neighbourhood Action Panels)

2.5.1 Essex Police introduced NAPs approximately four years ago following recommendations by the Home Office and National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) in 2006. The review was carried out to look at the effectiveness of the meetings, and if appropriate, to make recommendations to improve the arrangements to ensure the best public engagement possible.

2.5.2 The review method was completed in two phases which involved extensive internal consultation, partnership consultation, forum meetings and finally canvassing members of the public. The internal findings were that meetings were held too frequently, greatly flexibility for forums was required, engagement in some areas was more challenging than others and that independent chairs should be identified. The external consultation which involved canvassing 1,933 people in Essex indicated that 74% did not know what a NAP was and after having the process explained to them an overwhelming 76.3% of people said that they would not attend.

2.5.3 A summary of recommendations were published following the initial review:

- Consideration should be given to NAPs changing their name and becoming Neighbourhood Meetings
- A single, consistent and concise marketing standard across the force is adopted
- It is recommended that the use of panels ceases
- The local community (assisted by the chairperson) identifies the appropriate timeframe between meetings
- Communities could elect to hold NAP meetings rather than ward level meetings
- To minimise abstractions and maximize availability for other activities the force standard should be for one Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Officer or PCSO to attend
- Clear guidance and training be made available to provide clarity to various roles involved in coordinating the meetings

2.5.4 The review has highlighted some key findings from the consultation exercise and offers a number of opportunities to streamline current public engagement meetings for both the police and CSP. Essex Police are due to introduce a Neighbourhood Meeting Implementation Plan in the near future. The CSP will continue to organise Neighbourhood Meetings until the implementation plan is introduced (all meetings currently planned to end of this calendar year), and the team will work closely with Essex Police to identify ways of streamlining processes and reducing duplication (for example combining Neighbourhood Meetings and Neighbourhood Watch meetings).

2.6 Police and Crime Commissioners

- 2.6.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will provide that, in November 2012, 42 of the 43 Police Authorities in England and Wales will be abolished and, in 41 force areas (including Essex), replaced with a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 2.6.2 The PCC will have responsibility for appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force, setting out a five year Police and Crime Plan determining local policing priorities and making community safety grants to other organisations (including but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships).
- 2.6.3 The PCC will have a budget which will include the policing grant from the Home Office, various other grants (including non-ring fenced Drug Interventions Programme funding) and funds raised through local authority precepts in the force area.
- 2.6.4 The PCC will not become a responsible authority on the CSP. There will however be a reciprocal duty for PCCs and responsible authorities to cooperate with each other and have regard to each others priorities for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour), reducing re-offending and reducing substance misuse. PCCs will also be able to require a report from a CSP where they are not content that the CSP is carrying out their duties effectively and efficiently.
- 2.6.5 Police and Crime Panels outside of London will comprise of a representative from each local authority with each force area with a minimum of 10 councillors and two co-opted Members. The panel will have a range of powers to maintain a regular check and balance on the performance of the PCC.
- 2.6.6 The introduction of the PCC will have a major impact on the functions of the police and CSPs in terms of funding. It is therefore imperative that Maldon CSP is presented as a effective and efficient partnership to ensure that it can maximise funding opportunities from November 2012 because there will no longer be an Area Based Grant available directly from the Home Office for Essex from this year onwards. The coming months will be a period of rapid transition and the Community Safety Manager will continue to work with his colleagues on the Essex Community Safety Forum (formerly Crime and Disorder Network Executive) to ensure that opportunities to develop relationships and shape the future for Essex in advance of the PCC are maximised.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 3.1 This reports links to the Corporate Goal of ‘Delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services in a transparent way’ and ‘Enabling, supporting and empowering communities to be safe, active and healthy’.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Collaborative working between community safety partners will improve services provided to the public.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** - The Changes highlighted in the report will continue to foster good relations within the community though the proactive work identified.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Efficiency savings are being sought through shared working arrangement with Chelmsford Borough Council.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** – None identified.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The changes to working practices introduced from April 2011 aim to ensure that Maldon CSP remains efficient and responsive to emerging issues and more importantly positions itself strongly for future funding arrangements with the new Police and Crime Commissioners and the changes which become effective on 1 April 2012 following the Police Review.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the progress of the activities of the community safety partnership and planned change of working practice undertaken by the adoption of the Victim-Offender-Location- Model and the update upon the Essex Police Review, Review of NAPS and the Police and Crime Commissioners.

Background Papers: Essex Police Policing Blueprint.

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