



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

to
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
14 MARCH 2012**

MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Members are asked to note the progress of activities undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and the impact of the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012.

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

- 2.1 This report is for Members' information only.

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 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. 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 and a shared Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Coordinator arrangement commencing on 14 July 2011. The Community Services Committee at its meeting on 6 September 2011 agreed to streamline activities further with the adoption of the Victim-Offender-Location model. A presentation was also made to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 October 2012. A consultation event was held on 21 October 2011 and the first set of meetings under this new structure was held last month. The second set of meetings will be held on the same day as the Chelmsford meetings to ensure that partners who cover both areas have further efficiencies and compliments the new Maldon and Chelmsford District Policing Area which comes into effect on 1 March 2012.
- 2.2.2 The 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, National Health Service (NHS) Mid Essex and Essex Fire and Rescue Service will mean that the coming year will be one of transition and uncertainty. Future funding of community safety partnerships will come under the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The

Community Safety Manager is part of a Safer Essex working party that is preparing a countywide event on 17 April 2012 to develop ideas and processes for the transition over to PCC.

2.2.3 The progress of the activities undertaken by the community safety partnership is monitored on a quarterly basis and updated annually as a significant partnership assessment. The process for determining the priorities each year are by analysing crime and perceptions of crime, and producing a strategic assessment and partnership plan. There has been no major change to crime types in the last twelve months although metal theft and theft from motor vehicles remains a concern. However, following consultation at the Steering Group on 24 February 2012 it is proposed that the priorities for 2012 / 13 are revised to focus on key areas and new responsibilities:

- Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour;
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse;
- Protecting vulnerable people and victims of domestic abuse;
- Reducing re-offending by Integrated Offender Management.

2.2.4 The above priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Enabling, supporting and empowering communities to be safe, active and healthy" and the desired outcome of "People living, working and visiting the District feel safe from crime and antisocial behaviour". An update report on the activities of the partnership was presented and noted by Community Services Committee on 28 February 2012.

2.3 Progress on Action Plan

2.3.1 The current crime figures confirm that the work undertaken by the partnership has been successful in keeping crime levels low. Despite a slight increase in all crime by 1% for the period 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011, Maldon still remains on the lower bound figure for its most similar groups with 36.653 crimes per 1,000 residents (the average for its family group being 40.512 crimes per 1,000 residents). In addition to this it should be noted the public's fear of or perception of crime also remains low following the evaluation of questionnaires completed at community engagement events. A major success has been the reduction in antisocial behaviour by 9.4%, a reduction of 127 incidents for the year. The multi agency approach to resolving the issues at Brickhouse Farm is a good example of how the new Victim-Offender-Location model can be effective. Another example of effective action is the combination of enforcement action at Mayland through the use of a dispersal order and the diversionary boxing project being run by Essex Boys and Girls Club Association which led to a reduction of anti-social behaviour in an identified problem area.

2.3.2 A number of educational events have been delivered by the partnership which has included Crucial Crew (a series of workshops delivered to Year Six students during 19-23 September 2011) and Senior Crew (a similar workshop for the older person held on 22 February 2012). These events are evaluated and improved where necessary each year. The team is currently looking at the possibility of these events being sponsored in the future to ensure that they remain sustainable for future years. The partnership is currently working with Plume and Ormiston Rivers Academy to deliver the Reality Roadshow to Year Nine students following the successful recruitment of the Community Safety Development Officer who will also be working

with the Plume to design leaflets to target drug and alcohol misuse for teenagers. The Plume recently received a visit from “Scary Guy” (thescaryguy.com), a keynote speaker on hate crime which was attended by the team and organised through the Essex Police Community Engagement Team. The team has also received Problem Solving Training following access to free training via the Sunderland Partnership on 29 September 2011 which has enabled team members to focus on scanning and assessment prior to developing interventions for community safety issues.

- 2.3.3 Community engagement has been a key focus for the partnership in the last year. This has been achieved by attending community events, delivering presentations at meetings and by making the partnerships more accessible electronically. This has been supported by the addition of quality advice literature for antisocial behaviour, hate crime, domestic abuse, reporting crime and older person’s safety. A new partnership gazebo has been ordered for events and Community Safety Development Officer will be working with Saint FM to promote the partnership further in the coming months. To date, presentations have been made to Neighbourhood Watch, Maldon Town Council, Burnham Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP), Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service (CVS) and the community was involved when the partnership hosted a visit by the High Sheriff of Essex. Public engagement events include Bikesafe, Blackwater Country Show, 999 Day and targeted engagement during alcohol awareness and domestic abuse awareness weeks. This engagement has seen improved relationships with the various partners and the public which will in turn lead to more productive multi agency working in the future. Maldon Town Council has elected two members to attend the Location sub group following the recent presentation to their Environment Committee. The Community Safety Development Officer will also be undergoing a review of NAPs over the next quarter to ensure that they are functioning to the requirements of the community and recommendations will be made to Community Services Committee and the June Responsible Authorities Groups (RAG) meeting following the completion of this review. Clear guidance was given by the Chief Constable of Essex Police when he visited on 31 October 2011 that if NAPs were effective the police were happy to continue to support them but likewise he was happy for ineffective NAPs to cease and use other methods of meeting such as Parish Councils briefings to improve attendance and reduce duplication.
- 2.3.4 The partnership will be doing further work around reducing re-offending following the statutory inclusion of this duty in April 2010. The Offender sub group will be leading on this and will benefit from the work being undertaken by a National Management Trainee on behalf of the Safer Chelmsford Partnership. A reducing re-offending strategy is being developed which will link with the full launch of Integrated Offender Management in March 2012. A number of officers at Essex Probation and Essex Police will now deal with a cohort of offenders which are being identified. This will see a major shift in the current way of working by supporting and managing the offender, with more of an emphasis on dealing with the criminal rather than the actual crime. This cohesive multi agency approach should see a reduction in re-offending in the coming years.
- 2.3.5 The partnership has been successful in obtaining external funding for two schemes in the last few months. The first being a joint bid with the Safer Chelmsford Partnership for Department of Health funding for data sharing at the accident and emergency units at Broomfield and Colchester. This will see the data sharing commence on 1 April

2012 which we be fed back to the Location sub group to target licensed premises where assaults are occurring. The second bid being the provision of a community day of action at the Poet's Estate in Maldon on 10 March 2012 which is being funded as part of the Essex County Council Community Pledge to target anti-social behaviour.

2.4 Essex Police Reform

- 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". This document was presented to members at the meeting held on 6 September 2011. To ensure Maldon was well represented during this consultative stage an invitation to visit the Council offices and a tour of the Dengie Peninsula was offered and accepted by Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Derek Benson on 13 October 2011. This enabled DCC Benson to discuss the complexities of Maldon in community safety terms with the Leader of the Council, Police Authority representative, Chief Executive and Community Safety Manager. A full briefing for elected Members was held in the Council Chamber on 31 October 2011 which was delivered by Chief Constable Jim Barker-McCardle and a team of his Officers. This was a very positive presentation which enabled members to raise concerns for their respective wards together with gaining an understanding of the full rationale and need for the reform. The Chief Constable visited the District on 5 March 2012 to discuss policing with key members, the Chief Executive and the Community Safety Manager.
- 2.4.1 The main change which will impact on Maldon District will be the introduction of borderless policing which will mean that emergency responses will no longer be constrained by geographical boundaries. 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). Maldon District will be in LPA North and joined as a DPA with Chelmsford Borough with one District Commander responsible for both areas. The District Commander neighbourhood policing for this area will be Chief Inspector Steve Ditchburn who is already very familiar with the district having worked in the area previously. Within each DPA there will be a Community Safety Partnership Unit which will be headed up by Inspector with a responsibility for licensing, crime reduction officers, Essex Watch, ASB Officers, schools officers and other partnership functions such as integrated offender management. The local Officer with responsibility for Maldon District will be Inspector Chris Kilgallen who will be presenting the annual policing update to this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting at the Crime and Disorder Committee. These changes will be effective from 1 March 2012 and the shared working between Maldon and Chelmsford will be enhanced further as a result of these changes.

2.5 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC)

- 2.5.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill received Royal Assent on 15 September 2011. The Act sets out provision for 41 Police and Crime Commissioners to be directly elected in force areas across England and Wales. This election will take place on 15 November 2012 with the successful candidate taking office on 22 November 2012. Police Authorities will cease to exist once the police and crime commissioners take office. The latest guidance in the form of a Local Government Association document entitled "Police and Crime Commissioners – A Guide for Community Safety Partnerships" was circulated electronically by the Strategic

Director to Members on 23 January 2012. A copy of this document is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. Officers attended a Home Office briefing on 22 February 2012 and will be able to provide any necessary verbal updates at the meeting. Further documentation is available on the Home Office website at:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners>

2.4.2 The main responsibilities of the PCC will be to:

- Secure an efficient and effective police force for their area.
- Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for the running of the force and if necessary dismiss them.
- Set the police and crime objectives for their area by producing a police and crime plan (in consultation with the Chief Constable).
- Set the annual force budget and police precept, and produce an annual report setting out their progress against the objectives in the police and crime plan.
- Contribute to the national and international capabilities set out by the Home Secretary in the strategic policing requirement.
- Cooperate with the criminal justice system in their area.
- Work with partners and fund community safety activity to tackle crime and disorder.

2.4.3 It is likely that the PCC will adopt a commissioning approach for future grants and Safer Essex is currently assessing the best way forward to tackle this. The Community Safety Manager is part of a small team working on this project which will involve an event on 17 April 2012 for all Community Safety Partnerships within Essex, including the two unitary authorities. It is essential that CSPs take a collaborative approach to ensure that the PCC is confident that the current services provided are of good quality and outcomes-based with well evidenced business cases to support funding requests. The shared working model for Maldon and Chelmsford, together with the recent adoption of the Victim-Offender-Location will put the respective Council's in a good position for attracting funds and influencing joint commissioning frameworks.

2.4.4 Essex Police Authority wrote to the Council on 5 January 2012 informing it of the arrangements for the transition from Police Authority to the new Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. A transition board was established in November 2011 and will meet monthly to guide, monitor and review the development of the work to ensure the appropriate policies and procedures are put in place, thereby enabling the Commissioner to fulfil his or her, legal obligations from the outset.

2.4.5 More recently, all local authority leaders received a letter with guidance notes from the Home Secretary on 23 January 2012 advising of the forthcoming changes and the need to begin preparations for establishing a Police and Crime Panel. This panel will be comprised of local Councillors and independent members across Essex to undertake an important scrutiny function and act as a critical friend to the new Police and Crime Commissioner. The timescale for Essex authorities to collectively agree a host authority to administer the panel, panel arrangements and agree membership is by July 2012. Each panel will comprise of at least one elected representative from each local authority (Unitary, County and District) within the force area and two

independent members or co-optees. The main duty for Maldon District Council will be to nominate a Member at the Annual Statutory Council on 10 May 2012.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 3.1 The progress on the delivery plan for 2011/12 has been good and the shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford continue to drive forward efficiency changes which are seen as good practice locally and nationally. The changes to working practices introduced from April 2011 aims 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.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the progress on the delivery plan for 2011/12 and the success of the new working arrangements and that members note the timescales for the nomination of an elected member to the Police and Crime Panel by July 2012.

Background Papers: None

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