



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

**to
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE
24 OCTOBER 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 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. 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. Members agreed at the Community Services Committee meeting on 6 September 2011 to streamline activities further with the adoption of the Victim-Offender-Location model. A presentation was also made to this Committee on 12 October 2011 (Minute No. 369 refers). A consultation event was held on 21 October 2011 with CSP partners and a further event to focus on the performance of the partnership “a year on” is being held on 22 October 2012.
- 2.1.2 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, NHS Mid Essex and Essex Fire and Rescue Service has meant that the year has been one of transition and uncertainty. Future funding of Community Safety Partnership 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 delivered countywide events on 17 April 2012 and more recently on 5 October 2012 to develop ideas and processes for the transition over to PCC.

2.1.3 The progress of the activities undertaken by the CSP 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 (catalytic converter) and theft from motor vehicles remains a concern. Last year showed a reduction in ASB by 9.4% (1,222 incidents compared to 1,349) and the current profiled figures for this current year show further improvement. The priorities for 2012 / 13 were 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.

2.1.4 These 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 (Minute No. 706 refers) and this Committee on 14 March 2012 (Minute No. 781 refers).

2.2 Progress on Action Plan

2.2.1 The Community Safety Development Officer continues to add data to the strategic assessment and the Partnership Plan has been made available on the Maldon District Council website. The website has recently been upgraded and can be visited at www.maldondistrictcsp.co.uk

2.2.2 To improve communications further the Community Safety Team is currently working on a business case for having a Community Safety Partnership Facebook page which will improve public engagement and capture a wider, more diverse audience.

2.2.3 Short verbal reports on the ongoing work of the Victim, Offender and Location sub-groups were given at the recent Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) meeting. One action for the Location sub-group involved attending a pilot for the Bar 'n' Bus scheme at Maldon Promenade on 15 August 2012. This project was considered by Maldon Town Council who agreed a sum of £500 towards the scheme and has requested financial support from Maldon Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Work has continued on developing a reducing re-offending strategy and a draft copy will be taken to the next Offender sub-group together with a proposed action plan for Integrated Offender Management (IOM) which is now operational. Officers have worked closely with Essex Probation and Essex Police IOM Officers to develop ideas and links to aid the facilitation of this new project. A data sharing protocol for IOM has been developed by Essex Probation for all partners. Officers met on 5 September 2012 to discuss an event to encourage businesses and education establishments to participate in the IOM project and an operational fund to support this initiative has been approved.

- 2.2.4 The Community Safety Team continues to attend public engagement events to promote awareness of the partnership (Sparks Will Fly, Blackwater Country Show, and Maldon Christmas Fayre). Crucial Crew was held at the Minerva Centre on 10-14 September 2012 and 590 Year Six children attended from every primary school in the district. This event received excellent press coverage with a double page centrespread in the Maldon and Burnham Times. Educational events which are in the planning stage include Reality Roadshow for Year Nine students (6 December 2012 – Ormiston Rivers Academy, 11 February 2013 – The Plume School), Senior Crew, Hate Crime Seminar (focussing on Mental Health and Learning Disabilities), Project Argus (counter terrorism training) and Operation Boadicea (Prevent / community engagement).
- 2.2.5 The team continues to work closely with Neighbourhood Watch and has been attending a number of briefings to remain aware of emerging trends (i.e. fortnightly Tactical Implementation Meetings at Essex Police). All team members have now undergone domestic abuse awareness training (basic) with some members opting to undergo the enhanced awareness training. All team members will be undertaking specific training on alcohol brief intervention on 22 November 2012 (funded by the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (EDAAT)). The Community Safety Development Officer delivered eleven sets on Drugs and Alcohol Awareness at the Plume School “Stay Safe This Summer” event on 13 July 2012. This was delivered to over 300 pupils using resources from the Essex Young Peoples’ Drug and Alcohol Service (EYPDAS) and St. Peter’s Hospital. The boxing project at Mayland continues to be successful and sustainable with their first competitive box occurring in October 2012. More importantly, crime statistics for Mayland show an 8% reduction in comparison with the same period for the previous year. A Halloween event has been arranged at the Plume School on 31 October 2012. This is an intergenerational project where elderly persons will be invited for a fish & chip supper served by young people. At the same time diversionary projects such as parkour, dodgeball and boxing will be delivered with the Council’s Sports Development Team. The focus of this event is to make elderly persons feel safe at a time of the year when they feel most vulnerable and to provide activities for young people thus deterring them from causing nuisance and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2.6 The partnership has been successful in obtaining funds from Safer Essex for ASB Mediation and a bid is currently being assessed for a proposed day of action in Burnham-on-Crouch which will involve a follow up eight week programme of boxing and parkour to engage youths and deter them from causing anti-social behaviour and underage drinking.

2.3 Essex Police Reform

- 2.3.1 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. Since the development of the initial “Blueprint” Chief Officers from Essex Police have recently agreed a series of further steps to enhance operational resilience and performance which will come into effect this autumn. The main change will see a team of officers who currently investigate lower level, primarily local, crime, to work alongside Neighbourhood Policing in new Neighbourhood Crime Teams.

- 2.3.2 These changes were phased in during March / April 2012 with the main impact on the Maldon District being the introduction of borderless policing which meant that emergency responses were no longer being 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 City Council with one District Commander responsible for both areas. The District Commander for neighbourhood policing for this area is Chief Inspector Steve Ditchburn who is already very familiar with the District having worked in the area previously. The Community Safety Partnership Unit is headed up by Inspector Cheryl Hayes 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 is Inspector Chris Kilgallen who will be presenting the annual policing update to the Committee at this meeting.

2.4 Police and Crime Commissioners

- 2.4.1 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.
- 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 As previously reported, the main duty for Maldon District Council was to nominate a Member for the Police and Crime Panel at the Annual Statutory Council on 10 May 2012. Councillor Mrs P A Channer, CC was nominated as the representative for the Maldon District and attended the first meeting of the panel. The Community Safety Manager has been working closely with Safer Essex and the Essex Community Safety Network to ensure that the necessary engagement and preparation is taking place in advance of the election on 15 November 2012. A conference was held on 17 April 2012 as an awareness session for strategic partners and break out sessions enabled partners from all over Essex to discuss options for change and shared working / commissioning opportunities. A further event was held on 5 October 2012 to assess how actions have moved forward over the six month period.

2.4.4 The majority of candidates are now actively campaigning prior to the election in November 2012. Safer Essex has requested that if partnerships are inviting candidates to visit each locality they must make the offer to all candidates in a fair and transparent manner, and register the offer with the Returning Officer, Steve Packham of Chelmsford City Council.

2.4.5 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. The partnership will seek further opportunities of collaboration by working closely as a Local Policing Area to identify areas of common commissioning interest. A copy of a presentation made recently to Essex County Council Members is included for information at **APPENDIX 1**.

2.5 The Future of ASB – Community Protection Orders

2.5.1 The Government recently published an Anti-Social Behaviour White Paper and the Local Government Association (LGA) has produced a briefing for member councils (available at www.local.gov.uk). Within the paper the Home Office is proposing to move away from a one size fits all model of dealing with anti-social behaviour and to recognise that anti-social behaviour is a local problem that is different in every area and for every victim. The Government strongly advocates that responses to anti-social behaviour be driven locally and be overseen by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC), with the role of government being to support local agencies in tackling ASB. The Community Services Manager attended an LGA Community Safety conference on 6 July 2012 to ensure that the partnership remains responsive to these proposed new changes in legislation. It is likely that these changes will come into effect following the appointment of the PCC in November 2012. An information report on this subject was provided to the Community Services Committee on 4 September 2012.

2.5.2 A full update on ASB for Maldon RAG was provided at the last meeting on 14 September 2012. As mentioned earlier in this report, the current analysis of police

statistics shows a continued trend in the reduction of ASB. Members should note that LPA – North has recently been successful in obtaining Safer Essex funds for mediation for the area. The funding equates to approximately three mediation sessions per district. Mediation has proved very effective in recent years and is particularly useful for dealing with long standing problems and neighbour nuisance in private residences.

2.6 Safer Essex

- 2.6.1 The Community Safety Manager attended Safer Essex on 30 August 2012 where draft business cases were discussed for two areas under consideration for Whole Essex Community Budgets: Reducing Re-Offending and Domestic Abuse. Safer Essex is keen to get views on these proposals from all community safety partnerships before completing the final business cases in October 2012. There will also be some work carried on Community Resilience which will encourage local people to play a key role in their community and improve empowerment. There is a clear link between this work and the recent White Paper on ASB which also encourages the community to play a role in the way their community is run with an emphasis on local decision making.
- 2.6.2 Essex Community Safety Network has produced a prospectus for PCC candidates which was presented to them by the Chairman of Safer Essex, Paul Warren on 31 August 2012. This prospectus gives a brief overview of the work of Safer Essex and highlights areas of good practice by community safety partnerships. A copy of the prospectus is on the Maldon District Council website and attached as **APPENDIX 2**. As previously mentioned an event was held on 5 October 2012 at the Central Baptist Church in Chelmsford which enabled strategic community safety partners to network and discuss joint working initiatives and commissioning prior to the introduction of the PCC. This event was attended by Councillor Mrs P A Channer (Police and Crime Panel Member for Maldon District), Hazel Berrett (Strategic Director and Chairperson of the Responsible Authorities Group) and the Community Safety Manager.

2.7 Victim – Offender – Location (VOL)

- 2.7.1 The sub-groups of the partnership continue to meet on a regular basis and work streams for each individual group are effectively impacting on various areas of community safety within the District. Recent discussions between key partners has led to changes around the way in which the groups work and some of the requests from partners attending the launch last year have now been implemented. The main changes have been to merge the Victim and Offender sub-groups for Maldon and Chelmsford together with appointing new chairs and Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) for each individual group using the successful shared working model. The refreshed model is as follows and an event for all CSP partners will be held in the Pavilion at Essex Police Headquarters on 22 October 2012 to highlight these changes and the success of the first year of the VOL model:

Victim (Maldon/Chelmsford)

Chair: Inspector Jo Byrne, SPOC: Ali Burlington

Offender (Maldon/Chelmsford)

Chair: Inspector Cheryl Hayes, SPOC: Karen Buttress

Location (Maldon)

Chair: Inspector Chris Kilgallen, SPOC: Megan Barton

Location (Chelmsford)

Chair: Spencer Clarke, SPOC: Rachel Kearn

2.8 Neighbourhood Meetings

- 2.8.1 A full report on Neighbourhood Meetings was presented to Community Services Committee on 29 May 2012 following the request from members for a review to be undertaken. The report was approved and recommendations have now been implemented. The Community Safety Development Officer has continued to attend and help arrange meetings at Maldon Town, Burnham-on-Crouch Town and Heybridge. The Officer has also met with Inspector Chris Kilgallen and a police constable has been tasked with arranging police attendance at Parish Council meetings as recommended in the report to Maldon District Council. The Officer will continue to review the performance of the meetings to ensure that they meet the needs of the community and address relevant community safety issues.

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** – The ongoing work undertaken by the CSP directly benefits residents in ensuring communities are safe places to live and work.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The CSP provides services to all sectors of the community.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The work of the CSP is dependent upon future decisions taken by the new PCC. The impact of any decisions will have to be dealt with when they are understood.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Funding has been identified from existing resources for 2013/14 to continue the work of the CSP. It is anticipated future funding arrangements will be understood in early 2013 following the appointment of the new PCC.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** – None identified.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The progress on the delivery plan for 2012 / 13 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. 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.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) that the progress on the delivery plan for 2012 / 13 and the success of the new working arrangements are noted;
- (ii) that the timescales for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012 and proposed changes for tackling anti-social behaviour, are noted.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Spencer Clarke, Community Safety Manager, (Tel: 01621 875814).