



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE
31 MARCH 2015**

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 Maldon Community Safety Partnership.

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

2.1 Statutory Duties

2.1.1 The current key priorities are listed below and following the completion of the strategic assessment for the period 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014 Officers recommended that these broad priorities remain in place for this coming year with an emphasis on emerging trends and new responsibilities. This was accepted and endorsed by the Responsible Authorities Group on 20 March 2015. It should be noted that reducing re-offending is a statutory duty for all community safety partnerships. A full copy of the strategic assessment is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report with the focus on priorities highlighted on **page 2** of the document:

- Maintain and Reduce Existing Low Levels of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
- Protecting Vulnerable People;
- Tackling Alcohol and Drug Misuse;
- Serious Acquisitive Crime.

2.1.2 These priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" and are highlighted as activities in the new business plan for the directorate for 2015 / 16. Each activity has a clear timescale and milestone to enable performance monitoring of each project associated to the activity. The most recent crime figures for the period 1 April 2014 to 28 February 2015 (compared to the same period last year) show an increase in all crime by 12.2% (230 more incidents) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour by 7% (79 less incidents). In addition to this the all crime solved rate is 22.77%. The areas of good performance are highlighted as dwelling burglary and serious violent crime, and areas for improvement being highlighted as other burglary, serious sexual crime and other violence against the person. A copy of the most recent Essex Police strategic

management performance data is attached as **APPENDIX 2**. It should be noted that Maldon remains one of the safest districts in the county.

- 2.1.3 The partnership continues to carry out public consultation at a number of community events and attendance at action groups (i.e. Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Meetings, Crimestoppers and events) to measure the fear of crime and crime concerns. A new website survey is being conducted to measure crime concerns. The current response show the highest crime concern for those responding as *speeding* and *anti-social behaviour* with a majority of responders feeling very safe in the community which they live. The launch of the Essex Community Messaging on 1 October 2014, a joint venture between Essex Police, the OPCC and Neighbourhood Watch will ensure improved community engagement and awareness and at the time of writing has over 4,000 members across Essex. The team has delivered a series of awareness events focussing on vehicle and other community safety issues. It has recently distributed a number of information leaflets to combat shed burglaries entitled “Left on the Latch”. Team members ensure that they have knowledge which is current and have also attended training on ASB, Professional Curiosity, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Child Internet Safety, New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs), Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Safeguarding.
- 2.1.4 A copy of the Police and Crime Plan is currently available and can be viewed on the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) website at: www.essex.pcc.police.uk. Once the Board has endorsed the priorities for 2015 / 16 they will be sent to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) so that the PCC plan can be refreshed in line with local activities across Essex. The next programmed PCC public meeting in Maldon will be on **4 June 2015** (location to be confirmed). Maldon District Council continues to work closely with the OPCC on a number of strategic issues such as the Integrated Offender Management Review, Domestic Abuse and Youth Strategy. Core funding for 2015 / 16 has been confirmed and is based on a new formula which combines elements on an area’s population (30%), level of deprivation (30%) and crime rate (40%). The level of contribution for 2015/16 will decrease by £1,765 to £14,235. Bidding criteria for the Community Safety Development Fund has also been circulated. There will also be a sum of £100,000 available across the county to tackle hidden harms.

2.2 Victim-Offender-Location

- 2.2.1 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. There is a natural cross cutting of projects across the respective groups which allow partners to feed into actions where appropriate. Team members regularly attend police tasking on a fortnightly basis and are provided with Tactical Assessment prior to attendance to ensure that the partnership remains responsive to emerging crime trends such as monitoring of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort and prolific offenders.

2.2.2 Victim

- 2.2.2.1 The Victim sub group which is shared between Chelmsford and Maldon meets on a quarterly basis and monitors repeat and vulnerable victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and is chaired by the District Commander. This group has been reviewing

complex anti-social behaviour cases to ensure that a joined up multi-agency response is used to support victims and target perpetrators. At the recent meeting held on 12 March 2015 sub group members agreed to look at the increase in “other violence against the person” in more detail to see what interventions could be put in place to tackle the rise in offences. They also received advice on Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking. The Keep Safe project is a good example of supporting people with learning disabilities. The project continues to be successful and is now running in Maldon, Chelmsford, Braintree, Witham, Halstead, Colchester, Brentwood, Rochford and Clacton, and aims to encourage businesses to support and help “keep safe” people with learning disabilities. There are currently 50 users signed up to the scheme in Maldon with 11 venues participating. Essex Keep Safe Day will be celebrated again this year on 19 June 2015 with a joint day of awareness around the County. Users can now sign up on-line on the Maldon District Council website. The Keep Safe project continues to attract members with the Maldon Pioneers playing a key role in recruiting from the community. Team members will be attending the Dementia Café on a regular basis to attract more members to register on the scheme.

2.2.3 Offender

2.2.3.1 An Officer now attends the bi-monthly Local Area Group (LAG) meetings to ensure that the partnership can address any issues which require attention. A pilot drop-in is currently being run every Wednesday morning at the Open Road premises. An analysis of data which reflects the total cost of crime caused by previous offenders in the 12 months prior to joining IOM, whilst they were subject to IOM and in 12 months after leaving IOM has been calculated using Home Office figures. These figures indicate a 47% reduction in the value of offences during IOM and a 14% reduction after IOM for the shared Data Protection Act (DPA). The Community Safety Manager is the Safer Essex representative on the on-going countywide review of IOM which is being undertaken by a Grey Loughton Associates and is funded by the OPCC. Officers are currently working on a project to improve pedestrian underpasses in Maldon, Chelmsford, Great Baddow and South Woodham Ferrers which will involve members of the IOM cohort and youth offending teams.

2.2.4 Location

2.2.4.1 The Location sub group which is chaired by the Inspector Chris Kilgallen meets quarterly basis and has a very active multi-agency attendance. It monitors a wide range of projects delivered by the partnership together with interventions and education. Projects for the forthcoming year include Crucial Crew, a Halloween safety event, Reality Roadshow, crime prevention workshops, drug misuse awareness, door step clubs and the underpass project named above. Existing initiatives such as Mayland Boxing Club, Seven Freerun and the Just Play football are monitored on a regular basis. The key work on alcohol continues through the Alcohol Structured Interventions contract for Mid-Essex which commenced on 1 July 2014. This has been commissioned by Essex County Council Public Health and will be delivered by Choices (Open Road and Essex Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Service (EYPDAS)) over a five year period with a contract value of £231,000 per annum.

2.2.4.2 The Location sub group has overseen the installation of the King Street CCTV camera system. At the request of Members a private viewing was arranged on 20 March 2015 in order for them to be satisfied that the system installed was fit for purpose.

Councillors Cussen, Thompson, Fluker, Bass and Savage attended the viewing session and were happy with the performance of the camera and the recorded images which were being obtained. It was agreed that the camera would be subject to an annual privacy impact assessment in accordance with the recommendations of the Information Commissioners Office CCTV Code of Practice 2014.

2.3 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

- 2.3.1 Tackling anti-social behaviour is a key priority of the partnership and an area where this has been continued success in reducing incidents and supporting victims. The ASB Coordinator deals with each report on a case by case basis and facilitates multi-agency responses where appropriate. The Officer attends the Location sub group to monitor hot spots and the Victim sub group to provide a multi-agency response to complex cases. The officer also arranges a quarterly MAG (Maldon Action Group) and BAG meeting (Burnham-on-Crouch Action Groups) to ensure that a problem solving approach is adopted for dealing with issues. Effective case management is recorded on the Council's Uniform database. The performance of the function is reported to the Responsible Authorities Group on a quarterly basis. The report highlights ongoing cases in terms of numbers and types, ASBOs, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), mediation, nuisance letters plus any complex cases of note. At the time of writing there are currently eight active cases with four ongoing ABCs. The role requires a good working relationship with housing, environmental enforcement, registered social landlords, neighbourhood policing teams and the Council's ranger service.
- 2.3.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 became effective on 20 October 2014 and introduced simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. Officers have been attending regular training sessions on the new legislation and bespoke training for staff was arranged and delivered by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Academy on 5 December 2014 and 30 January 2015. Officers have worked with Essex Police to design a new format for Community Protection Notices and attended a session to develop a pan Essex approach to enforcement on 8 December 2014. A further pan Essex meeting has been arranged to ensure that a consistent approach is used throughout Essex. The final part of this legislation, the Civil Injunction, will come into force on 23 March 2015. Officers are currently looking at using these new powers for a number of on-going issues. Delegated authority to use these full powers will be requested at Community Services Committee on 14 April 2015.

2.4 Current Projects

2.4.1 Door step clubs

- Heybridge - due to dwindling numbers and concern of the age range of participants the partnership group decided to postpone the club until the spring. The partnership group decided to organise an event to re-launch the Heybridge Club with a community event at Plantation Hall, 11 April 2015. Essex Boys and Girls Clubs (EBGCs), Team Traceur and the YMCA will all be in attendance to attract young people to the event.
- Southminster has continued to run since May 2014 and numbers are between 10 - 20 attendees, ages 15 – 17 years which is our ideal target age group. However, volunteers are needed to ensure sustainability.

2.4.2 Underpass project

- Method statement to clean and re-paint the underpass at the A414 Mill Lane underpass has been submitted to Essex Highways. Community Safety Officer is currently working on feedback. Bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner will be submitted shortly. Local schools and YOTs have been informed of this project and will participate.

2.4.3 Cut it out campaign

- The partnership hosted a launch event at Feathers Hair Salon in Maldon High Street, which raised funds for Safer Places as well as providing awareness regarding domestic abuse. The next step is to contact all hair salons in the district and offer basic awareness training on domestic abuse, delivered by Safer Places.

2.4.4 Crucial Crew

- An educational event for all year six students will take place in September 2015 at the Stow Maries Aerodrome Centre. Sets will include park Safety, internet and chat room safety, alcohol awareness, fire safety, road safety, emergency planning, anti-bullying and CPR.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 3.1 These priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" and are highlighted as activities in the new business plan for the directorate for 2015 / 16.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – ASB Coordinator role now fully funded by Maldon District Council. Additional revenue cost of £15,000 per annum for 2015 / 16 and following years.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the progress on the delivery plan for 2014 / 15 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 Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, statutory partners and local/national initiatives.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the progress on the delivery plan for 2014 / 15 and the success of the initiatives undertaken by the Partnership.

Background Papers: Appendix 1 – Maldon CSP Strategic Assessment and Appendix 2 – Essex Police Performance Summary (February 2015)

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