



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE)**
9 MARCH 2016

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 and note the proposed priorities for 2016 / 17.

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

2.1 Statutory Duties

2.1.1 The statutory duties for the community safety partnership are listed in **APPENDIX 1** of this report. Following the completion of the strategic assessment of crime, health data and perceptions for the last year officers recommend that the priorities are adopted as below. Members should note that these priorities will remain *draft* until they have been formally accepted and endorsed by the Responsible Authorities Group on 11 March 2016. An action plan for each priority theme is attached as **APPENDICES 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**. These plans will be subject to change throughout the financial year but will provide a more effective means of monitoring progress and outcomes:

- Reducing Crime, the Fear of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable People and Victims of Crime;
- Reduction in the Harm Caused by Alcohol and Drug Misuse;
- Promoting Road Safety and Challenging Irresponsible Driving;
- Reducing Reoffending.

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 2016 / 17. 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 2015 to 31 December 2015 (compared to the same period last year) show a decrease in all crime by 0.1% (one less offence) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour by 4.2% (38 less incidents). Members should note that at the time of writing all crime performance for Essex has shown an increase by 11.3%. The areas of good performance for Maldon are highlighted as theft and vehicle crime, and areas for improvement being highlighted

as violence without injury and sexual offences. A copy of the most recent Essex Police strategic management performance data is attached as **APPENDIX 7**.

- 2.1.3 Members should note that the partnership was notified by Essex Police that a domestic homicide had occurred in the District during July 2015. Following a meeting on 4 September 2015 between Officers, Essex Police and Essex County Council a decision was made to notify the Home Office that the incident met the criteria of a Domestic Homicide Review which under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 the Community Safety Partnership has a statutory duty to undertake. The Home Office has acknowledged this letter and the review will be completed during 2016 following the court case.
- 2.1.4 The Community Safety Manager now attends strategic meetings which also support the Essex Police high level strategic priorities which include child sexual exploitation, gangs and vulnerabilities, modern day slavery and radicalisation. Each one of these themes now has an action plan for delivery for the community safety partnership, District Council and partners. Maldon District Council has accessed a one-off grant of £10,000 from the Home Office to facilitate local training within the District. An officer from the team, Ali Burlington, has already undertaken WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training and will be cascading this training to frontline staff and community safety partners. A Prevent conference will be held on 4 May 2016 at Anglia Ruskin University for partners as part of this funding initiative and engagement is ongoing with local schools. The partnership has also recently accessed funds from the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Behaviour Attendance Partnership to deliver awareness sessions on gangs, drugs and knives.
- 2.1.5 The next scheduled Overview and Scrutiny meeting to discuss the performance of the partnership will be this current meeting on Wednesday 9 March 2016. The annual face the public event was held in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Essex Police on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at Lower Plume School where thirty members of the public attended to discuss a variety of community concerns. Officers continue to attend events and use social media to monitor crime perceptions throughout the district.

2.2 **Police and Crime Commissioner Update**

- 2.2.1 Members should note that the current PCC, Nick Alston, has indicated that he will not be standing for re-election so the process for appointing a new commissioner will commence soon with the election taking place on 5 May 2016.
- 2.2.2 Maldon District Council continues to work closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on a number of strategic issues such as the Hidden Harm Conference and Domestic Abuse Thematic Group, and was chosen as a pilot location for Police Volunteer Cadets (VPC) for Essex. The VPC troop currently has thirty-six members and now meets on Thursday evenings operating from Essex Boys and Girls Club. Essex Police will continue to recruit the cadets of which 25% are expected to be from a crime vulnerable background. The cadets will be expected to deliver against the key priorities for each respective community safety partnership.
- 2.2.3 Core funding for 2016 / 17 has been confirmed as £14,235 (which was the same figure for 2015 / 16). The partnership has also been successful in obtaining joint

funds from the OPCC for underpass projects and education awareness sessions on gangs, drugs and knife crime as mentioned earlier in this report.

2.3 **Victim-Offender-Location**

2.3.1 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 Operation Insight / Element data to ensure that the partnership remains responsive to emerging crime trends such as monitoring of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort and prolific offenders. Members should note that the tasking documents now feature the police high level priorities and, therefore, there is less focus on local policing matters which in turn requires a good working relationship with the neighbourhood policing team and the use of Essex Community Messaging to support local functions.

2.4 **Victim**

2.4.1 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. It is chaired by the District Commander, Alan Cook. 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 which are often referred via the Maldon and Burnham Action Groups (MAG and BAG). The group links well with the Independent Advisory Group which is now receiving good attendance from a number of different community groups and young people. The IAG now has a draft action plan for delivery for 2016 / 17. The Keep Safe project is a good example of supporting people with learning disabilities. There are currently 50 users signed up to the scheme in Maldon with 11 venues participating. Essex Keep Safe Day was celebrated again this year on 19 June 2015 with a joint day of awareness around the County with the Maldon event being held on the promenade. 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.

2.5 **Offender**

2.5.1 Officers continue to attend offender meetings (Integrated Offender Management and Drug Testing on Arrest) as appropriate to ensure that the partnership can address any issues which require attention, and as mentioned earlier in the report the Community Safety Manager is linked into the work around Gangs & Vulnerability. Following a period of transition, the National Probation Service and Essex Community Rehabilitation Company have notified the partnership of the new officer structures and reporting mechanisms.

2.6 **Location**

2.6.1 The Location Sub-Group is now chaired by the Inspector Andy Sawyer and 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 for young people, elderly people and adults with learning disabilities, awareness sessions on gangs, drugs and knives, Reality Roadshow, crime prevention workshops, Stay Safe This Summer and Dementia Friendly Communities. Existing initiatives such as Mayland Boxing Club, Seven Freerun and the Just Play football are monitored on a regular basis. Whilst there are no major Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) hot spots within the District Officers continue to monitor reports of youth nuisance, alcohol and substance misuse. The issue to vehicle cruising and dangerous driving has been discussed at the recent meetings and Essex Police Casualty Reduction Team is using some very positive enforcement techniques to combat these issues. Members should note that Promoting Road Safety and Challenging Irresponsible Driving is a new priority for the partnership in 2016 / 17. 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). Further funding from Maldon District Council's health and wellbeing grant has enabled Open Road to deliver more targeted outreach with elderly persons at risk from harmful drinking.

2.7 **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

- 2.7.1 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. Reducing 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 and is engaging with the OPCC Restorative Justice Hub as 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 and BAG meeting 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 (RAG) on a quarterly basis. The report highlights ongoing cases in terms of numbers and types, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), mediation, nuisance letters plus any complex cases of note. The role requires a good working relationship with housing, environmental enforcement, registered social landlords, neighbourhood policing teams and the Council's ranger service. The team is currently giving consideration to the use of a Public Space Protection Order to prohibit certain issues within the District.
- 2.7.2 Members were made aware of the new Essex Police response to anti-social behaviour at the last meeting in October 2015. This involves each case being assessed on the new THRIVE call assessment model. This ensures that each report is risk assessed for threat, risk and harm before allocation for a response or to a partner agency (i.e. a noise complaint would be referred to Maldon District Council). The partnership continues to work with Essex Police to ensure that there is a smooth transition whilst these changes are introduced. There has been a slight increase in low level

complaints to date and the Community Safety Projects Officer will now be trained in ASB case management to provide added resilience in this area.

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 draft business plan for the directorate for 2016 / 17.

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)** – Members should note that sustainable funding of posts to cover statutory duties will remain a challenge and appropriate resources for 2017 / 18 will be required to support this.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the proposed priorities and draft action plans for 2016 / 17 and that shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford continue to support local priorities and high level policing priorities. 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 proposed priorities and action plan for 2016 / 17 and the success of the initiatives undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership to date.

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – CSP Statutory Duties.

Appendices 2 – 6 CSP Action Plans.

Appendix 7 – Essex Police Performance Summary (January 2016).

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