

REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE UPDATE

7 FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Paula Ferguson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community and Housing

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WARD(S): WINCHESTER DISTRICT

PURPOSE

As the Crime and Disorder committee, the Scrutiny Committee is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the decisions and work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and this report provides an update on the progress made by the Partnership against the priorities and actions emerging from the Strategic Assessment 2022. It covers the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022¹.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Committee acknowledge the Community Safety Partnership progress report and agree any matters of significance to draw to the attention of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community and Housing or Cabinet generally.

¹ Data collection – has been produced for the first two quarters of this year due the timing of the Scrutiny Committee. Data for the last two quarters of this financial year will be added to the 2024 annual scrutiny report as comparable data.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

1.1 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District

The Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Team currently have 3 electric vehicles in the fleet with a further 5 on order.

The 2022 business plan for Estate Services/Improvements has continued to progress, with the installation of flora and fauna in locations across the district to help with carbon neutralisation. Services across the council are working collaboratively to identify opportunities for further biodiversity improvements. A further 99 trees were planted within the first part of the year.

The Estate Improvement Officer has identified a programme of improvements that support the council's carbon neutrality action plan, for example the introduction of EVCP charging points and cycle stores, as well as measures to improve biodiversity such as the creation of wildlife havens and bat box installation.

1.2 Homes for all

Neighbourhood Service Officers work alongside WCC Housing Options, Tenancy Support, and external housing providers to identify and signpost for support, those who come to their attention because of vulnerability, behaviour, substance dependency or homelessness.

1.3 Vibrant Local Economy

The CSP works in partnership with the BID, WCC Licensing and Hampshire Constabulary to reduce crime & disorder in relation to the night-time economy.

The Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety service provide high visible patrols and responds to ASB concerns linked to the Business Improvement District (BID) and the night-time economy. The team works with other services across the council to help improve the area for those visiting the district i.e., responding to regeneration consultation, so that any risks identified as potential crime & disorder issues can be designed out at the earliest stages of development.

1.4 Living Well

The Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Team work alongside Housing Tenancy and Hampshire Constabulary to improve the quality of life for those who may be reporting issues related to ASB, transient drug dealing and feelings of safety.

Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety also work collaboratively across housing services in support of homelessness, tenant involvement/support/concerns for welfare i.e., health & safety checks, tackling waste in communal areas, improving estates, and managing external contracts.

1.5 Your Services, Your Voice

The Housing Operations and Community Safety service is working towards enhancing the opportunity for continuous feedback for our residents. Working alongside TACT, community representatives and groups, the service regularly consults residents around service delivery, estate improvements and crime & disorder concerns in order to put in place the relevant response.

The Housing Operations and Community Safety service is in the process of developing further opportunities for residents to 'feedback' their views in terms of service satisfaction, contract monitoring and community safety concerns. Options include using social media, other digital means i.e., QR Codes, using Text, Email, mobile Apps alongside the current practice of holding Street and Block Briefs etc.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 All work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership is either provided using existing resources or is supported via Government grant funding as commissioned projects, managed by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- 2.2 The budget allocated for the delivery of the city council's Neighbourhood Service & Community Safety Team for the financial period April to September 2022 was £146,461, the actuals were £103,689.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Sections 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires the city council to have a 'crime and disorder committee', which has the power to:
 - a) review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the 'responsible authorities' of their crime and disorder functions.
 - b) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.
- 3.2 The term "responsible authorities" refers to the bodies and persons covered by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which includes; the City and County Councils, National Probation Service, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and Integrated Care Systems (ICS - formerly CCG's).

- 3.3 As the city council operates executive arrangements (with a Cabinet), the 'crime and disorder committee' must be a Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 The role of the crime and disorder committee is to act as a 'critical friend' of the CSP, providing it with constructive challenge at a strategic level rather than adversarial operational level.
- 3.5 There are no procurement implications as a result of this report.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Delivery of community safety statutory duty is a partnership activity, managed by the Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Manager. Amongst their core activity, the team actively delivers against various duties related to crime & disorder, housing legislation and the related corporate priorities of Pride in Place, Greener Faster, Cost of Living and Listening Better.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Protecting the assets of the council is a role for the Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety officers, specifically in relation to hot spot areas of crime and disorder i.e., utilising the tools and powers related to ASB legislation, contributing to consultation processes around district regeneration and utilising grant funding opportunities to enhance the security of council property where there is evidenced ASB/Criminal Damage.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The development of the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the subsequent delivery plan is completed in consultation with statutory, non-statutory partners and community representatives.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Housing is the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership and is fully informed of partnership activity via monthly 1-1 meetings with the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Manager and Housing Operations and Community Safety Service lead.

The Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Team are in the process of providing greater opportunity for residents to give us continuous feedback about services being offered by the council.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Teams fleet makes effective use of its current vehicles to ensure that electric vehicles are used when visiting sites around the district in order to have as little impact as possible on air quality/climate change. It is anticipated that all Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety vehicles will be electric by 2023.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 This report provides an update on the progress made by the Partnership against the priorities and actions emerging from the Strategic Assessment 2022 and is not requesting any decisions. The report is for noting and raising issues only and therefore an equalities impact assessment is not necessary at this point.
- 8.2 The council has a statutory duty under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 that requires public bodies to consider the needs of all individuals in their day-to-day work and in the course of their work supporting the Partnership, officers must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).
- 8.3 More specifically, officers have an understanding of the protected characteristic groups as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as advanced equality and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.4 Officers will consider the council's Public Sector Equality Duty and if required complete an EqIA on any specific recommendations or future decisions to be made, for example the extension of the current PSPO in 2020 saw the completion of a EqIA (report LR533 refers).

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The Community Safety Partnership is governed by legislative powers in relation to the sharing of information for the purpose of managing risk around crime and disorder, i.e., Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The security and storage of personal data within the confines of the service is managed in line with statutory, council policies and service retention schedules.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Financial Exposure		
Exposure to challenge – Legal: statutory duty for the city council to provide scrutiny functions set out in s19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.	Ensure that an annual report is placed before Scrutiny Committee which enables feedback on the partnership work programme.	
Innovation		
Reputation - Reputational risk around non resolution of ASB issues.	Ensure that all ward members are fully appraised of issues in identified ASB hot spot locations in order manage expectation.	Improving confidence in the service/reporting.
Partnership working arrangements	Ensure the professional integrity of all staff/partner contact is maintained.	Improving collaborative working arrangements and confidence in reporting.
Achievement of outcome		
Property - none		
Community Support – reputational risk around not being in a position to provide staffing resource to events/walkabouts	Approval has been given for two additional Community Engagement Officer posts who are currently being actively recruited.	Those living and working in Winchester will be provided with greater access to services and an opportunity to ‘have a say’ on Estate Improvements, feelings of safety and general community concerns.
Timescales		
Project capacity – Team cannot respond to all requests for operational support.	Broaden the partnership collaboration and provide greater resilience to the team via additional resources as described above.	Greater visible presence as a service and strengthening partnership activity.
Other		

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 For the purpose of Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, this committee acts as the council's 'crime and disorder committee and, as such, it is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the decisions and the work of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 11.2 The Committee is asked to consider this report and associated appendices as part of its role as the council's crime and disorder committee.
- 11.3 The Community Safety Delivery Plan for 2022/23 focuses on 3 priority themes, they are:
- a) Domestic Violence and Abuse
 - b) Quality of Life
 - c) High Harm Crime

The information listed in **Appendix 1** to this report is the Community Safety Delivery plan update, providing a progress report against the actions and objectives the Partnership has delivered against for the period 1 April – 30 September 2022.

- 11.4 The data in **Appendix 2** is a crime summary provided by the police district commander Ch. Insp. Jon Turton.
- 11.5 The data in **Appendix 3** shows the results of collaboration between the Community Safety Partnership and the council's Communications Team.
- 11.6 Community Safety/Pride in Place – Headlines
- 11.7 During the last year the Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety team has worked with other services across the city council and externally with statutory and voluntary partners to deliver against the priorities within the corporate strategy and associated delivery plans. Examples of that activity are listed below and cover the first two quarters of the 2022 financial year (**current data** is listed against 2021 figures in brackets):
- a) **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Housing Tenancy** – the council's tenancy team worked with an average of **170** (167) live cases, **24** (27) new cases per month. Reports of ASB linked to mental health and wellbeing is shown in the referrals for the Assessment & Mediation support **6** (10) and Victim Support **8** (9). In addition, data shows there were **6** (6) notice seeking possession orders, **0** (1) suspended possession orders and **5** (3) management moves.

- b) Drug related ASB data showed there were **12** open cases – **5** of those received notice seeking possession orders.
- c) Domestic Abuse figures showed **7** live cases and of those **3** were granted management moves.
- b) **Fly Tip Enforcement** – the first two quarters of 2022 showed the council received **504** reports of fly tip (1349) and conducted **118** (217) site visits, of those **36²** (13) investigations were undertaken. During the same reporting period **205.3** (273.30) tons of waste was collected. There was **1** prosecution taken forward (was successful) and **1** warning letter issued.
- d) Fly tip on Private land – showed an increase from last year at **34** (7), of those **4** are ongoing as investigations.
- e) CCTV Pilot – **1** investigation undertaken directly as a result of the fly tip CCTV pilot.
- f) **Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety (ASB)** - There were **74** (95) Your Winchester online reports³ (**55** Urban - Town Forum area and **19** Rural).
- g) Direct contact via email/telephone to the ASB lead showed there were **293** (103) reports, **80** of those were referred to internal and external agencies for further action, **157** resulted in no further action and **56** cases became live requiring further investigation/action.
- h) Community Trigger⁴ – **4** (1) case review applications were received, **2** did not meet the threshold, **2** reviews were carried out with **1** resulting in a request to appeal (ongoing). Recommendations resulting from the Trigger included:
- Ensuring customers are confident in the process for completion of ASB log sheets
 - Improving the customer journey with regards to partner communication and managing expectation
- i) Identified ASB Hot Spot locations – **7** (14) locations were identified across the district, interventions included multi-agency collaboration as a result of a task & finish group (Pride in Place = house calls, car park banning letters, increased outreach support, targeted operations/patrols, funding application for mobile CCTV), physical

² Investigations – 4 were handed over from Neighbourhood Services.

³ Online reports – Noise, drug dealing/taking, fly tip, bins, criminal damage, street community.

⁴ Community Trigger - A Community Trigger is a **formal anti-social behaviour case review process**. At the end of the review, an action plan will be produced and shared with the Community Trigger applicant.

improvements related to CCTV, repairs/security, referral to youth crime prevention initiatives, education liaison.

j) Community Engagement – **10** engagement opportunities supported by Neighbourhood services and an additional **9** specifically related to the ASB summer campaign were identified. These include:

- Street Meets/Block Briefs – aimed at public re-assurance in response to ASB concerns i.e., Hyde Gate, Kingsworthy, Winnall Flats.
- ASB Summer Campaign - **18** targeted patrols in areas in the town and across the wider district, engaged with **109** individuals.
- Welcome to the Neighbourhood/Fresher Fayre/resident liaison meeting. **59** students spoken to, advice given to **41** students (council tax, voting, TV license) of those 86% were 1st years with 81% of those living in halls. Due to attend the housing Fayre in December 2022.
- Winnall Flats – Building contractor, residents, and city council representatives, **3** resident meetings and support to the time capsule event.
- Member walkabouts – **5** neighbourhood services and Member walkabouts were undertaken to understand issues affecting the local community and to identify opportunities for improvements etc. Wickham, Whiteley, Alresford, Colden Common and St Bartholomew.
- Team Patrols – ASB and Drug hot spot locations⁵, HMO's, Letter Drops, door to door education i.e. Badger Farm, Stanmore, Winnall, City centre surrounding area.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 The Council is a responsible authority within the Community Safety Partnership and has a statutory duty to deliver against crime & disorder. No other options can be considered.

⁵ Drug Hot Spot – where there have been two or more removals of a large amount of drug needles/detritus.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports: -

[SC057: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – PERFORMANCE REVIEW](#)

3 March 2022.

Other Background Documents:-

[Winchester Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2022](#)

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1. Winchester Community Safety Partnership – Annual Delivery Plan
2022/2023 (April to September)

Appendix 2. Police District Commander Summary

Appendix 3. Community Safety – Social Media Analysis