

Meeting:	General overview and scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	17 January 2017
Title of report:	Herefordshire community safety partnership strategy and related performance
Report by:	Councillor PM Morgan Chair of the Herefordshire community safety partnership and cabinet member lead for community safety.

Classification:

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To review the work and activity of the Herefordshire community safety partnership (CSP).

Recommendation(s)

THAT: the committee review performance of the partnership against its strategic priorities and identify any further actions it may wish to recommend to the partnership for consideration.

Alternative options

1. The report provides a factual overview of priorities and performance. The chair of general overview and scrutiny committee provided a prior briefing on content that the committee would like to examine in the briefing and analyse on the 17 January 2017.
2. It is open to the committee to identify alternative or additional actions to improve performance; such recommendations will need to be referred to the partnership for

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Adrian Turton, Learning & Development Officer (HSCB/ HSAB/ HCSP) on Tel (01432) 383522

consideration having regard to the availability of resources and in light of available evidence of need.

Reasons for recommendations

3. To scrutinise the work and activity of the Herefordshire community safety partnership (CSP) in accordance with the statutory requirement for the CSP to ensure effective mechanisms for scrutiny of crime & disorder are in place. (Statutory requirements of the CSP are listed in appendix 2.)

Key considerations

4. Councillor Patricia Morgan, the chair of the CSP (along with council officers and Partnership colleagues) will give a presentation to the committee on the activity of the CSP.

CSP Background and Introduction:

5. The CSP has agreed that it should focus on 5 strategic priorities:

- Reduce re-offending/bring offenders to account (adults and youths)
- Address the harm caused by alcohol and drugs
- Address domestic violence and abuse
- Promote community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour
- *Address the harm from sexual exploitation

*The 5th priority is delegated to the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) as to address child sexual exploitation is also a priority of the HSCB.

6. The current CSP strategy (that agreed the 5 priorities above) is due to expire April 2017. The CSP is due to consider the CSP Strategic Assessment in March 2017 to agree the 3 year community safety strategy for 2017 – 2020. The CSP has directed the strategic assessment to particularly focus research on domestic violence in the county. The CSP is to focus on the added value the partnership can bring to address crime and disorder in Herefordshire.

Funding for the CSP

7. The funding into the CSP includes a grant of £80,000 from the office of the police and crime commissioner (OPCC) that is allocated against CSP priorities and projects. For 2016/17 £30,000 was allocated to address domestic violence, £15,000 to address antisocial behaviour and community cohesion, £20,000 to reducing reoffending and £15,000 to purchase analytical support.
8. Other OPCC grants can be accessed directly from the OPCC to fund initiatives in line with reducing business and rural crime. These are allocated directly to projects and not via the CSP.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Adrian Turton, Learning & Development Officer (HSCB/ HSAB/ HCSP) on Tel (01432) 383522

aturton@herefordshire.gov.uk

- 9 The CSP is supported by the business unit that is based in Herefordshire Council. The business unit supports the safeguarding children and the safeguarding adults boards along with the Herefordshire community safety partnership. This unit is funded by statutory agency contributions.

What difference is the CSP and the CSP strategy having?

- 10 The importance of lead managers from key agencies coming together to strategically discuss community safety matters is not to be underestimated. On a strategic level, key organisational restructures and transformations have been shared and discussed with partners. This includes organisational changes affecting West Mercia Police, probation services and the youth offending service.
- 11 Projects that have helped make a difference this year include; a project to provide accommodation for prison leavers, a night time noise nuisance project carried out over the summer months, an initiative to protect residents from cold calling, rogue traders and scams, targeted training for professionals on the Prevent (anti-terrorism) programme, specific interventions around the night time economy, funding for a domestic violence survivor network, the women's refuge and a continued initiative to train staff to identify domestic violence and provide support for victims.
- 12 Challenges facing the CSP include increasing demands placed on individuals as part of their 'day job' with less time available to be dedicated to partnership work. The csp has discussed with the PCC the benefit long term funding would bring to project delivery as opposed to time constrained one year pots of single funding. Similarly, it is difficult to measure outcomes from csp interventions as they will become apparent over time and not immediate. For example, any interventions to support an offender will only be clear if that offender stops reoffending over a period of time.
- 13 Officers will present at the GOSC meeting addressing specific questions on particular topics as put to the csp by the chair of GOSC. Topics to cover, domestic violence and abuse, offender management – recidivism rates, probation and youth offending models, and restorative justice.

Community impact

- 14 Community safety is essential to the quality of life of people in Herefordshire. It is an outcome rather than a service, and strongly influenced by the quality of services and efficiency of service delivery.
- 15 Community safety relates to people's sense of personal security in the places that they live, grow up in, work or where they spend their leisure time. One's view of community safety therefore affects how people value their neighbourhoods, and what factors make a neighbourhood a good or bad place to live and grow up in. Feeling unsafe in one's own neighbourhood or community can have devastating effects on individuals and neighbourhoods, impacting on health and wellbeing. It can lead to social isolation and contribute to people feeling even more vulnerable. The Community Safety Annual Assessment (2015) found that Herefordshire is generally a

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Adrian Turton, Learning & Development Officer (HSCB/ HSAB/ HCSP) on Tel (01432) 383522

aturton@herefordshire.gov.uk

safe place to live with low levels of crime although there are still some challenges to reduce crime in urban areas and in domestic abuse settings.

- 16 Crime has a high health and social cost to individuals and communities, as well as associated costs to the NHS and wider health economy. The overall rate of recorded crimes has steadily decreased since 2010, although 2015 has seen an increase. In 2013-14 there were 45 crimes recorded in Herefordshire for every 1,000 people in the county compared to 66 for every 1,000 people across England and Wales.

Equality duty

- 17 The Equality Duty 2010 has 3 aims (general duty)
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those that who do not.
- 18 The Public Sector Equality Duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying “due regard” in our decision making in the design of polices and in the delivery of services.
- 19 The community safety strategy and the work of the partnership supports these aims in much of the work that it carries out particularly around its community cohesion work, by working with communities, fostering those good relations and building an awareness and understanding. The work the partnership does around anti-social behaviour, hate crime, raising awareness and eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation is very important. The community safety work demonstrates that the council and its partners take the Equality Duty seriously.

Financial implications

- 20 The support function for the CSP is delivered by the business unit (hosted by the council) that also supports both the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board and the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The business unit is funded by the council and other partners. Currently, there are no financial risks associated with this support function.
- 21 CSP interventions are financed by grants obtained from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. The grant allocations are subject to PCC policy and budget restrictions. There is an annual risk to this funding stream, although currently the CSP has a positive relationship with the PCC.
- 22 Other CSP activity is funded as part of individual agency responsibilities, whilst working together in partnership to achieve agreed outcomes.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Adrian Turton, Learning & Development Officer (HSCB/ HSAB/ HCSP) on Tel (01432) 383522

aturton@herefordshire.gov.uk

Legal implications

- 23 The overview and scrutiny committee has the power under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (as amended) 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; and (b) to make reports or recommendations to cabinet with respect to the discharge of those functions.

Risk management

- 24 There is little risk to the CSP delivering its statutory requirement. But as highlighted in financial implications (section 12) above, the impact of the CSP will be dependent on the availability of resources to deliver and complete agreed action plans.

Consultees

- None.

Appendices

Appendix 1. - Presentation

Appendix 2 - HCSP Roles & Responsibilities

Appendix 3. – Executive Summary Strategic Assessment

Appendix 4. – Probation in herefordshire – the new model

Appendix 5 – Youth justice Service Report

Appendix 6 – Youth justice Data

Appendix 7 – Domestic Violence Briefing

Background papers

None identified