

MEETING:	COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	26 FEBRUARY 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP (SAFER HEREFORDSHIRE)
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ENVIRONMENT & STRATEGIC HOUSING

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To provide the Committee with an introduction to the Safer Herefordshire strategic assessment process and performance for 2009 and present the priorities for 2010-11 as agreed by the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the Committee consider the strategic direction and performance of Safer Herefordshire; and**
- (b) those areas of activity contained in the Corporate Plan are used as the basis of reporting to this Committee.**

Key Points Summary

- **Safer Herefordshire** is required as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to undertake an annual strategic assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership and how it is performing against the targets set out in the 2008 – 2011 strategy.
- The strategic assessment relates to crime, disorder and substance misuse in Herefordshire. It took place between June and November 2009.
- The list of priorities that emerged from the 2009 strategic assessment as presented to the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group were:
 - Alcohol misuse; Anti-social behaviour; Drug misuse; Road safety; Domestic abuse; Offender management
- Safer Communities is one of the Priority Themes to the Corporate Plan that contains a number of national and local indicators

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Jane Rose, Partnership Support Team Manager on (01432) 261831

Alternative Options

1. In addition to the indicators within the Corporate Plan, there are a number of ways that the Committee could scrutinise the Partnership. Safer Herefordshire utilises a wide number of performance indicators to monitor performance. These indicators reflect the partnerships whole agenda, and are also used to track progress where annual/biannually reported (National Indicators) NI's are used.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. To invite comments and views from the Committee on Safer Herefordshire's performance.
3. To ensure Safer Herefordshire is contributing to the outcomes in the Safer Communities element of the Corporate Plan

Introduction and Background

4. Safer Herefordshire (formerly Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership) was formed as a result of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, which was later amended by the 2002 Police Reform Act. The partnership has both operational and strategic responsibilities and benefits from positive partner engagements across the County.
5. Safer Herefordshire undertake regular reviews to identify concerns and local priorities and monitor performance against both local and government targets. The partnership also facilitates multi-agency working groups to ensure a joined up approach for tackling crime and disorder issues across Herefordshire. The Strategy is attached for information at Appendix 1, with priorities detailed in Appendix 2.
6. Operationally, the partnership translates its strategic priorities into action plans that are implemented through the partnership and its groups. Some of this work is delivered directly by the partnership whilst some is commissioned out to other organisations. Appendix 3 details some of the key activities and developments Safer Herefordshire has delivered this year.
7. The Safer Herefordshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) priorities for 2008-11 are:
 - NI19: To reduce the rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
 - NI21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police
 - NI30: To reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and other priority offenders
 - NI39: To reduce alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates (*additional local target*)
 - NI40: To increase the numbers of people in effective drug treatment
 - NI47: To reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

In addition to the above priority linked National Indicators (NIs), there are a number of other indicators in the Corporate Plan that are reported to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee. Some of these additional targets are yet to be finalised as Safer Herefordshire is waiting for data from national information systems and some partner organisations. Appendix 4 attached details the Safer Herefordshire performance results relating to the NIs linked to key priorities.

Strategic Assessment – the process

8. The purpose of this document is to provide Safer Herefordshire with a strategic overview of current and emerging community safety and substance misuse issues affecting Herefordshire. These local issues are considered alongside current government priorities in order to provide strategic guidance to the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group to assist them in identifying short, medium and long-term solutions to priority issues. The document:
 - Provides a strategic assessment of key community safety issues that are founded on intelligence, analysis of raw data and performance-led information.
 - Identifies clear priorities to address the crime, disorder and substance misuse for the County of Herefordshire.
 - Identifies any gaps in intelligence and information and offers recommendations to address these gaps.
9. There is a considerable amount of information and data already available to the partnership and as such the majority of the work for this process has involved desktop analysis. The analysis involved a scanning of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in the County, from Police incident recording, and from incidents and performance from partner sources. Data is analysed to determine whether identified problems are improving or deteriorating. Further analysis is undertaken to explore issues in more depth. Finally a list of emerging priorities is drawn up which is taken forward to the Strategy Group for discussion and decision.
10. The analysis includes information from:
 11. Incident/performance data from Safer Herefordshire partner organisations
 12. Public consultation / surveys
 13. West Mercia Police (Hereford Division) six monthly strategic assessments – April and October 2009
11. Results from the following surveys and consultations were included in the 2009 strategic assessment:
 - ‘Safer Herefordshire’ events
 - Quarterly WMP joint crime and safety surveys (*these changed from annual to quarterly surveys from June 2009*)
 - PACT Meetings and WMP PACT survey analysis
 - Herefordshire Quality of Life (Place) survey
 - Herefordshire Children’s Centres
 - Herefordshire Info Centres
 - Herefordshire 100 - Migrant and settled workers
 - Carer and user information
 - Local Business Crime survey
 - Every Child Matters ‘Building Bridges’ survey with young people
 - Disability survey
12. It is intended that Parish Councils be consulted during 2010, as part of our next strategic assessment, following a previous consultation in autumn 2008.
13. The level of data and information being shared with Safer Herefordshire from partners is increasing year on year. Good progress has been made during the last year with regards to

the quality and mapping of data, which has been used to direct the work of the multi-agency tasking and co-ordination group. However Safer Herefordshire is striving for continuous improvement and continues to work with partners to ensure data quality and allow mapping to enable the identification of links and patterns.

14. The prioritisation process includes a scoring (weighted) matrix used as per the Home Office document '*Developing a Strategic Assessment*' (October 2007). This includes:

The scale of the problem in Herefordshire

Comparison with other areas

Whether the problem causes significant harm

If the problem is deteriorating

Community engagement indicating there is a concern

Other considerations (*e.g. LAA priority/National priority*).

Strategic Assessment 2009 - Summary

Data analysis identified a list of indicative priorities:

Alcohol misuse, anti-social behaviour, drug misuse, road safety, domestic abuse, offender management and reassurance.

- The impact of crime, disorder and substance misuse to the local and wider community is substantial. Therefore use and analysis of current, relevant quality data is crucial to identifying and understanding current and emerging issues.
- From analysing the various surveys and consultations, Safer Herefordshire has built up a picture of what and where issues are being experienced within local communities. The Quality of Life (Place) survey in 2008, showed significant improvement in scores for all aspects of anti-social behaviour in the list since 2007, however the new definition of "the local area" may have affected the answers given. The biggest anti-social behaviour issue was speeding traffic (50% reported it being a problem).
- Public confidence in Herefordshire is measured by NI21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police. The Place survey showed that 26% of respondents agreed that local public services are successfully dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area, and 23% disagreed. The score for England as a whole was 26%. Respondents from Hereford City North of the river were the least likely to agree that local public services sought people's views about anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area. From this and other analysis, Safer Herefordshire can target activity and reassurance messages to those areas identified.

A full copy of the Safer Herefordshire Strategic Assessment is available on request.

Community Impact

15. Effective Crime and Disorder Management is essential for Safer Communities. The Scrutiny process should have a beneficial impact and contribute to effective partnership arrangements.

Financial Implications

16. Safer Herefordshire is funded direct from government funds, partner contributions and via the Area Based Grant pot. Funding is currently agreed on a year-by-year basis, with overall budgets decreasing. Specific activities will be drawn up by the strategic leads for each of the

priority areas. These will be incorporated into the annual work plans. Resources will be allocated appropriately and within the available budget.

Legal Implications

17. Safer Herefordshire is a statutory partnership, following statutory procedures.

Risk Management

18. Risks to a successful partnership include:
Partner engagement;
Finance – year on year decreasing budgets;
Lack of choice of providers
Mitigation measures for these principal risks will be included in the annual plan.

Consultees

- N/A

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Strategy 2008-11 document
- Appendix 2 – Strategic priorities 2009 – 10 leaflet
- Appendix 3 – Key developments and activities
- Appendix 4 – Performance report

Background Papers

None