

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11 FEBRUARY 2011</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE SAFER HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Partnership Manager for Safer Herefordshire</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Purpose**

To receive a report on the future developments of the Safer Herefordshire Partnership.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT the Committee note the contents of the report.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- Safer Herefordshire is operating within an ever changing complex landscape, responding to government changes in policies and strategies and local partner agency developments.
- The partnership acknowledges it needs to focus on outcomes and fewer priorities.
- The Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group has agreed to focus on the following priorities:
  - Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
  - Alcohol and
  - Community Resilience.
- Safer Herefordshire is currently financially vulnerable, as it relies heavily on Area Based Grant and partners contributions.

### **Introduction and Background**

- 3 There are many challenges and opportunities ahead for Safer Herefordshire. The last year or so has been very uncertain, with changes in the Chair and key partners, but also the overarching funding situation; the next few years will be even more so. This report will give the context of the landscape Safer Herefordshire is trying to commission and deliver community safety and substance misuse work.
- 4 To explore the way forward, the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group held a facilitated workshop. This event explored the key findings of the strategic assessment, and partners discussed how they should move forward and set priorities. There was a debate concerning the future purpose of the partnership and whether the group was needed, and how there was a need for Safer Herefordshire to be mindful of the developments within the wider Local Strategic Partnership landscape.

## Key Considerations

- 5 The Government's Comprehensive Spend Review will impact on the financial viability of Safer Herefordshire. The partnership has relied heavily on Area Based Grant (ABG) funding and smaller partner contributions. As revenue grants will no longer be ring fenced, Safer Herefordshire budgets are vulnerable. Partners are also unsure what future resources they can apply to the partnership. The reduction in Supporting People funding is also likely to negatively affect Safer Herefordshire; reductions in housing support to vulnerable individuals could lead to greater levels of crime, substance misuse and domestic abuse, therefore impacting on Safer Herefordshire performance.
- 6 Safer Herefordshire needs to consider how it will incorporate the Government's Big Society Agenda and Localism agendas into its working practises; People and Places need to be central to everything the partnership does. The partnership needs to be both transparent in its operation, and accountable to local people whilst involving and engaging communities in all stages of delivery and decision-making.
- 7 The Home Office has produced a White Paper 'Policing in 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. The paper details how national targets, multiple funding streams and restrictive guidance have pulled community safety and criminal justice partners in different directions. It has created elaborate and bureaucratic formal relationships, rather than a practical focus on the outcomes that matter to communities. There is a need for more effective working with local authorities, wider criminal justice system and partners.
- 8 The paper details how the Government will seek to empower the public with the abolition of Police Authorities, which will be replaced with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners. It will also empower the police by reducing bureaucracy, ensuring they are 'crime fighters, not form writers'. To assist partnerships to play their part in the Big Society, the government will reform the wider approach to cutting crime, making sure everyone plays their full part. They will do this by stripping away unnecessary prescription and bureaucracy in the partnership landscape.
- 9 Safer Herefordshire carries out the function of Drug Action Team (DAT) for the County, so has responsibility for all substance misuse work. Work is currently funded through a pooled budget, consisting mainly of National Treatment Agency (NTA) and PCT funding, with performance management falling to the NTA. With the abolition of PCT's and SHA's by 2013, the funding will move to the new Public Health Service. The NTA will be incorporated into the Department of Health (DoH). The development of GP Commissioning will also impact on how future commissioning is delivered.
- 10 Policies on drug and alcohol treatment need to be joined up and this has been recognised in the new combined Government strategy. The strategy details the need to focus on solving the problem of drug dependency rather than merely focusing on drug treatment; the approach will build on outcomes and integrated support responding to the full range of individual needs. Locally, a recovery / abstinence model is being developed, which will utilise wrap around support services. The focus will be on planned discharges from the service. Substance misuse commissioning will be moving towards a payment by results / outcome based approach.
- 11 Safer Herefordshire will need to develop a relationship with the new mental health provider, as the main substance misuse provider will be incorporated in the new Trust.
- 12 Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and re-offending remain high on the Government's agenda. ASB services should be victim oriented, following a case management approach, focusing on those victims with the highest levels of harm. Reducing re-offending will continue to be a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to tackle.

- 13 As part of the organisational design process, the staffing structure and resources applied to this programme area have been reviewed and consulted upon with partners. The outcome of that process has combined staff from the Community Regeneration Team and Safer Herefordshire Teams under a single service manager within a new Sustainable Communities Team.

## Conclusions

- 14 Numerous government papers/strategies are being produced around this agenda, all of which need to be considered when examining how Safer Herefordshire will deliver in the future.
- 15 It was agreed that Safer Herefordshire needs to grasp the opportunities it has been presented with and 'Be Brave' about moving forward, focusing clearly on outcomes. It was agreed that as resources are reducing, it is important that the partnership needs to 'Be Smart' with its priority setting and so the 'less is more approach' was agreed.
- 16 Partners recognised the strength of the Partnership and felt strongly that commissioning and decommissioning needs should be undertaken together. The Partnership must be clear, rigorous and intelligence driven toward its outcomes.
- 17 The Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group has therefore agreed the following priorities:
- Integrated Offender Management (IOM) - to reduce re-offending, focusing on the 'top 20%' of offenders – to be led by Probation
  - Alcohol – To reduce alcohol related crime and ASB – focusing on reducing the impact of alcohol misuse and increasing the economic offer of Herefordshire's night-time economy – to be jointly led by police and Public Health.
  - Community Resilience – to trial a set of interventions to enhance resilience in neighbourhoods – to be led by the Partnership Support Team.

Tackling drug use will be cross-cutting and domestic abuse will be tackled within the IOM priority.

- 18 Safer Herefordshire is currently defining these priorities further and assessing the resources it will receive to deliver with. Greater clarification is expected at the forthcoming Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group meeting on 10th March 2011. Once this clarity has been achieved, Safer Herefordshire will ensure it communicates with its sub-groups, the LSP, Elected Members and the Third Sector. From this meeting, leads will develop a Partnership Plan clearly outlining how progress will be made against each priority.

## Community Impact

- 19 Focused activity around community safety can only improve the quality of life for communities.
- 20 A more victim centred approach will support our more vulnerable members of the community.

## Financial Implications

- 21 Financial implications should be clearer after the next Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group meeting, to be held once partner agencies are more certain about their budget allocations. This does however leave the work of Safer Herefordshire financially vulnerable, particularly with the loss of Area Based Grant (ABG).

## **Legal Implications**

- 22 Community Safety Partnerships are statutory partnerships, with statutory responsibilities to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan to tackle community safety, substance misuse and re-offending.

## **Risk Management**

- 23 The Safer Herefordshire Partnership will need to review programme budgets in the light of any funding challenges emerging in relation to partnership funding reductions.

## **Consultees**

- 24 Key partners agencies.

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.