

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	19 MARCH 2012
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOCAL NHS PLANNING
REPORT BY:	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES MANAGER

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To update the Committee on the current priorities and issues for the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) formally known as Safer Herefordshire.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **the Committee notes the content of the report;**
- (b) **the Committee notes the refreshed Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 – 2014; and**
- (c) **the Committee considers how to include community safety into its work programme.**

Key Points Summary

- Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) was formed as a result of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.
- HCSP are required to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an annual progress report on the work of the community safety partnership (CSP).
- The HCSP is required to carry out statutory duties, including an annual strategic assessment and a Crime and Disorder Strategy, known as the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy.
- The annual strategic assessment has been completed and has informed priorities for 2012 – 2013.
- The Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy is a statutory document which forms part of the budget and policy framework; therefore this will go before Cabinet in April and to Council in July 2012.

- Home Office guidance requires that local authorities have a scrutiny function for crime and disorder focused on the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership as a whole.

Alternative Options

- 1 None identified

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The HCSP is required to report at least annually to Overview and Scrutiny Committee so it can review, scrutinise and make recommendations on the Partnership's activities.

Introduction and Background

- 3 Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership formed as a result of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the later amended 2002 Police Reform Act. These acts placed a duty for the 'responsible authorities' to work together to reduce crime and disorder. The responsible authorities include:

- Local Authority
- Police
- Police Authority
- Fire and Rescue authority
- Health
- Probation

The Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG) has become responsible for the Community Safety Partnership's statutory duties.

Statutory duties of the HCSP include to:

- Prepare a Strategic Assessment on crime and disorder
- Produce a community safety partnership plan which lays out what the priorities are and how they will be addressed (reviewed annually)
- Consult and engage with the community
- Formulate and implement a strategy to reduce re-offending by both adult and young offenders
- Prepare an information sharing protocol which must be signed by all responsible authorities
- Ensure that it has a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made; or other action taken to make reports or recommendations (section 19 – 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006)
- Establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), as appropriate, (section 9 of the Domestic Violence and Crimes Act 2004).

The attached paper outlines the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters. In the past, the Community Services Scrutiny Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the strategic assessment process, the community safety partnership plan and the Partnership's priorities which included the locally chosen national indicators for community safety.

Key Considerations

- 4 The Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy is a three year strategy; and year two of the strategy has recently been refreshed using information from the annual strategic needs

assessment of crime and disorder in the county. This entails a robust process looking at partner information relating to crime and disorder and consultation with communities on what their concerns are. This forms the basis of the strategy and informs the key priorities each year the HCSP will focus on.

The Strategy is on the Budget and Policy Framework and therefore will go to Council as a Key Decision through the following consultation process:

- Herefordshire Public Services Leadership Team (HPSLT) 28TH February 2012
 - Cabinet members briefing 22nd March 2012
 - Scrutiny Committee 19th March 2012
 - Leaders Briefing 29th March 2012
 - Cabinet 19th April 2012
 - Council July 2012 (awaiting confirmation of date)
- The Strategy has to be refreshed annually to reflect the emerging priorities for partners and communities. The annual strategic assessment for 2011 -12 has been completed and on the basis of the issues identified, three priorities have been chosen for 2012 -13. The refreshed Community Safety Strategy now reflects these priorities together with a number of cross cutting themes to support the delivery of the Strategy. The Strategy also provides the framework for how partners will work together and target resources where they are needed in the most efficient and effective way.
 - The three priorities for 2012 – 2013:
 - **Integrated Offender Management (IOM)** - Through partnership working, activity is focussed around supporting offenders away from crime. This priority also seeks to ensure that repeat and vulnerable victims of crime are adequately supported.
 - **Alcohol Harm Reduction** – Alcohol is seen as a joint priority for both the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and HPEG. Therefore a joint Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and Action Plan are currently being developed which will include training front line staff to give brief advice, an education programme, intelligence led enforcement with a focus to intervening early to prevent violent crime and address health implications relating to alcohol use.
 - **Empowered Localities** - It is recognised that in order to deliver effectively and reduce crime and ensure that our communities feel safer, we need to work with communities in both identifying and tackling issues. As the Local Authority moves towards a locality model, focus will be on embedding community safety into all locality working.
 - **Cross cutting themes include:**
 - Education
 - Substance Misuse
 - Communications
 - Equality and Diversity
 - As part of the Council's Policy Framework, the strategy is required to be adopted by full Council.

- Community Safety will be reviewed within the Safer and Stronger Herefordshire section of the Root and Branch Review programme.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

- Under current plans Police Authorities will cease to exist and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be elected in November 2012, with Herefordshire coming under West Mercia area (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire).
- The PCC's main duties will include:
 - Secure an efficient and effective police force
 - Appoint and hold the Chief Constable to account
 - Set the police objectives by producing a police and crime plan
 - Set the annual force budget and police precept
 - Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities
 - Cooperate with the criminal justice system in their area
 - Work with partners and fund community safety activity to tackle crime and disorder
 - Commission services to reduce crime and disorder
- Although they will not be a responsible authority on Community Safety Partnerships, under the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011, a mutual duty is placed on the PCC and the responsible authorities of the CSP to cooperate to reduce crime and disorder and reduce reoffending.
- The PCC will be supported by a Police and Crime Panel which will comprise of elected members from each council in the police area as well as lay members.
- From April 2013 Home Office funding that the Local Authority previously received as a responsible authority for the Community Safety Partnership will be transferred to PCCs, and they will decide what services they commission to reduce crime and disorder.
- Community Safety Partnership budgets have significantly reduced over the last few years (for instance the Community Safety Fund for 2012/13 funding is reduced by 60% compared to funding in 2010/11).
- The community safety team within the council has therefore reduced significantly and is focussed on intelligence based activity working in partnership with the 'responsible' authorities, other organisations and the local community to address community safety priorities.
- The community safety team will also provide advice to the local authority and the community safety partnership on its statutory obligations.

Community Impact

- a. Ensuring that Herefordshire has an effective Community Safety Partnership will contribute to a safer place to live, work and visit.
- b. Identifying current trends and community issues is crucial if resources are to be targeted effectively to benefit local communities.

Equality and Human Rights

- 6 This strategy pays regard to equality and human rights and will not negatively impact on any members of the community.

Financial Implications

- 7 Delivery of the Strategy priorities will be undertaken within the constraints of available partnership funded budgets and carry no additional funding implications for Herefordshire Public Services.

Legal Implications

- 8 None identified.

Risk Management

- 9 Any risks identified within the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy will be managed through HPEG.

Consultees

- 10 Consultation has taken place over a period of 6 months, collating data and information to produce the annual strategic assessment which informs the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy. Information is gathered from various sources such as survey results, data collection from partners such as police, probation, registered housing providers, local authority, courts, youth offending and third sector organisations.
The following consultation to identify the priorities has included:

- Chief Executive of Herefordshire Public Services (responsible authority)
- GP Consortium
- West Mercia Police (responsible authority)
- Third Sector Board
- Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service (responsible authority)
- West Mercia Probation Trust (responsible authority)
- Business Board
- HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils)
- DEFRA Agencies (DEFRA agencies are made up of the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England)

- Director of Public Health – February 2012.

- Consultation was completed through the Strategic assessment which informs this Strategy and the priorities. This was completed between 1st July and 30th November 2011 and included the following:
 - Surveys sent to all Parish Councils
 - Surveys sent to local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce
 - Opportunity for people to fill out the survey was highlighted in First Press
 - Herefordshire livestock market was visited 3 times to engage with rural communities during the summer months
 - West Mercia Police complete a Crime Survey and results from their quarterly surveys completed during 2010-2011 were also used to inform the strategic assessment and the Community Safety Strategy.

All comments have been taken into consideration through the strategic assessment and have assisted in identifying the priorities for this financial year. Comments from partners have assisted in developing the Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy.

Appendices

11 Appendix 1 – Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters

Appendix 2: Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 – 2014 (Year Two 2012 – 2013)

Background Papers

12 Strategic Assessment Summary Report

Police and Crime Commissioners. A guide for Community Safety Partnerships (Local Government Association publication).

Police and Crime Commissioners. What partners need to know (Home Office publication).