

Meeting:	General overview and scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	19 January 2016
Title of report:	Herefordshire community safety partnership strategy and related performance.
Report by:	Learning and development officer

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:

- (a) 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. 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 consideration having regard to the availability of resources and in light of available evidence of need.

Reasons for recommendations

2. 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

3. Councillor Graham Powell, the chair of the CSP (along with council officers and Partnership colleagues) will give a presentation (appendix 1) to this report to the committee on the activity of the CSP including key findings from the annual CSP strategic assessment refresh 2015 (appendix 3) The refresh document has focussed on the four strategic priority issues identified by the CSP which are to:
 - 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
4. In summary, overall reported crime in Herefordshire has increased during 2015 compared to 2014. The four strategic priorities identified by the CSP remain key issues to be addressed by the partnership. (See appendix 4).
5. The CSP is committed to reduce re-offending for both adults and young offenders. Adult reoffending rates remain around 22%, the rate of first time youth offenders continues to drop in Herefordshire, but remains higher than the West Midlands and national rates.
6. Harm from alcohol and drugs misuse remains an issue for Herefordshire. However, the procurement of a new contractor, Addaction, to provide specialist drug and alcohol abuse interventions in Herefordshire will enable one provider to be responsible for the full client journey, including transition from young peoples to adults, hospital settings to community and criminal justice to community. There will be a much greater emphasis on recovery from substance misuse, targeting diversionary activity in the community and offering positive challenge with the service user. A stronger prevention and early intervention service should reduce, through informed decision making, exposure to risky behaviours and the complete range of substances.
7. Domestic violence & abuse in Herefordshire continues to stretch multi agency resources. Domestic violence crimes continue to increase through proactive policing and demand on specialist domestic abuse support services, provided by West Mercia Womens Aid, continues to grow with a 20% increase in referrals during 2015.
8. To promote community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour is the fourth priority for the CSP. In the year to October 2015, West Mercia Police in Herefordshire recorded 6,612 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) (an 8% reduction on last year). In same period 1,745 ASB calls were made to the Herefordshire Council environmental health team.
9. Herefordshire has seen an increase in reported hate crime during 2015 and whilst numbers are low, they are closely monitored. In addition, the CSP and partner organisations are embracing the responsibility to prevent, identify and tackle radicalisation, and educate people in Herefordshire of the dangers of radicalisation.
10. The CSP is a statutory partnership to oversee crime and disorder in Herefordshire and promote multi agency working. Representatives from the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, the Herefordshire Children and Young People Partnership, the

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board, the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Herefordshire Council all sit on the Community Safety Partnership to ensure strategic coordination and collaboration. All the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership strategic priorities are cross cutting issues to be tackled on a cross partnership basis. For example the priorities to reduce the harm from domestic violence, substance misuse, reoffending, anti-social behaviour and to address community cohesion are all cross partnership issues.

Community impact

11. 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.
12. 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 safe place to live with low levels of crime although there are still some challenges to reducing crime in urban areas and in domestic abuse settings.
13. 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

14. 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.
15. 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 policies and in the delivery of services.
16. 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

17. 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.
18. 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. The election of a new PCC for West Mercia takes place in May 2016.
19. Other CSP activity is funded as part of individual agency responsibilities, whilst working together in partnership to achieve agreed outcomes.

Legal implications

20. 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

21. 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

22. None.

Appendices

Appendix 1. - Presentation

Appendix 2 - HCSP Roles & Responsibilities

Appendix 3. – Executive Summary Strategic Assessment

Appendix 4. – HCSP Strategy on a Page 14/17

Background papers

None identified.