

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
15 JANUARY 2014	Public Report

Report of the Strategic Manager: Safer and Stronger Peterborough

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SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-14

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is to seek the views and input of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee into the development of the new Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the direction of travel of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan and to make suggestions as to items for inclusion therein.
- 2.2 Members are also asked to note that the draft Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan will, when produced, return to this Committee for discussion and debate in order that an agreed version can be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy aims to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, through improving the quality of life for all. This Partnership Plan covers those aspects that fall within the Strong and Supportive Communities priority.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that a Community Safety Partnership is formed, bringing together agencies who are responsible for crime and disorder across the local area.
- 4.2 The Crime and Disorder Act specifies ‘responsible authorities’, and in the case of the Peterborough Unitary Authority area these are specified as: Peterborough City Council; Cambridgeshire Constabulary; The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group; Cambridgeshire Fire Authority; and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust.
- 4.3 Responsible authorities also invite other agencies who are able to contribute to the work to *co-operate* and Cross Keys Homes (representing Registered Social Landlords in the city) is one of these organisations. Other agencies, particularly from the voluntary and community sector, are also *invited to participate* in the work of the Partnership. At present these organisations are Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service, Peterborough Racial Equality Council, HM Prison Peterborough, the Director of Public Health and The One Service.
- 4.4 In addition, legislation places a *mutual duty of co-operation* upon the Partnership and the elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
- 4.5 The Safer Peterborough Partnership is one of the partnerships that form the Greater Peterborough Partnership.

4.6 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places on designated authorities a legal responsibility to consider the community safety implications of their actions.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires that the Community Safety Partnership publishes an annual Partnership Plan.

5.2 The current Safer Peterborough Partnership strategic three-year plan concludes at the end of March 2014. Since the Partnership embarked upon it a number of amendments have been made to the Crime and Disorder Act. The purpose of the amendments is to revoke regulations which place unnecessary prescription on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and to give CSPs greater flexibility to carry out their duties in a way that is locally determined.

5.3 One specific amendment relevant to this report is as follows:

- The removal of the requirement for the partnership plan to set out a strategy covering a set *three-year* period (*any* period is acceptable)

5.4 There has also been some minor re-wording of the responsibilities of the partnership; for clarity the wording is now that the partnership is responsible for:

- Reducing crime and disorder, combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and reducing reoffending.

5.5 Scrutiny of the plan under the Crime and Disorder Act still exists and the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee remain the responsible Crime and Disorder Act Scrutiny Committee.

5.6 There are a number of considerations for the next iteration of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Strategic Plan. Some of these are set out below and the committee are invited to comment upon each:

- Duration of the strategic plan
- Direction of the plan
- Inclusion or otherwise of specific categories of crime
- Performance management and targets
- Delivery of the plan

5.7 Duration of the Plan.

5.7.1 Some of the success of recent years has been the consistency of approach during the current three-year plan and thus it is suggested that we consider a further over-arching strategic plan to cover a set period; the alternative would be to produce stand-alone annual plans.

5.7.2 Without this approach, annual plans could lose the consistent overview and approach, replaced with whatever is 'fashionable' at the time. An overarching strategy, based upon the principles of the partnership, could and should be a short document but one which is easily understood by all. It is therefore suggested that another three-year period would be appropriate, especially important given the continuing austerity that most statutory partners are facing with the resultant and inevitable staff changes that will occur.

5.7.3 If the strategic plan is based upon an overarching strategy the partnership's strategic assessment would be used to set our specific themes and tactical delivery for the year ahead from April 2014.

5.7.4 It would also be based on the some of the principles of the Sustainable Community Strategy and associated Single Delivery Plan:

- Outcomes not organisations
- Root causes rather symptoms
- Being innovative
- Local solutions to local issues

5.7.5 The priorities set out in the 2011-24 Plan attached are:

- Reducing Crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and hate crime
- Building stronger and more supportive communities

5.8 **Direction of the Plan**

5.8.1 The current three year plan is explicit in its intention as follows:

“This plan will demonstrate the direction of travel for making the City and its people safer.

- It will show our resolve in protecting those who are vulnerable within our communities.
- It will be clear about our partnership's commitment to tackling the underlying causes of offending but will be equally clear that those who continue to offend or bring risk of harm to our City will be targeted with the full weight of the criminal justice system.
- It will illustrate how we intend our approach to be sustainable and improve the lives of the people living, working and visiting our City.

“This three year plan will need to be flexible, adaptable and responsive to the ever changing landscape of financial restraint, the drive for localism and greater community engagement, the introduction of the new Policing and Crime Commissioner, changes funding arrangements and partner organisations all undergoing individual and significant structural reviews.

“This new approach, freed of considerable bureaucracy, aims to bring long-term sustainable reductions in crime and disorder and to lead in the creation of stronger, supportive and cohesive communities”.

5.8.2 The 2011-14 plan placed prevention as the focus of partnership activity, whilst supporting the individual core responsibilities of each organisational partner. It was also explicit in its support for the 'broken window theory' relating to anti-social behaviour and associated crime.

5.8.3 The development of a new community safety delivery model should ensure consistency in this aspect and it is therefore suggested that there is no change to the intention of the previous three year plan.

5.9 **Inclusion or otherwise of specific categories of crime**

5.9.1 For the last three years the partnership have concentrated upon one single target – reducing victim based crime by 10%.

5.9.2 However, the partnership has continued to monitor on a monthly basis a whole raft of individual crime types and other quality of life indicators based upon a threat, risk and harm matrix.

5.9.3 This approach has allowed a focus on the system as a whole rather than focussing on one individual crime type. Impetus to reduce specific crimes has not been lost, in particular those that cause the City and its inhabitants the most harm. This has been largely achieved by a focus upon themes such as a strong focus on a good quality integrated approach to offender management and quality substance misuse services.

5.9.4 It is therefore suggested that we should continue to develop themes that maintain the victim at the centre of services and support/challenge those who offend, thereby helping us to continue the success of recent years with the strategic assessment providing the detail.

5.9.5 To this end, the following themes are considered essential in continuing to drive down crime, all of which are current but all which have challenges presented in the immediate future:

- Maintaining an integrated approach to offender management cognisant of the impending changes to the rehabilitation agenda and the restructure of probation services
- Continuing the development of good quality domestic abuse and sexual violence services
- Developing further quality substance misuse services in challenging financial times
- Developing further an integrated City-wide approach to managing anti-social behaviour

5.10 **Performance management and targets**

5.10.1 The Partnership have a developing performance monitoring framework based around its monthly meeting structure.

5.10.2 The level of scrutiny now afforded to the Partnership through this scrutiny committee ensures that all elements of the plan are publically scrutinised. It is therefore suggested that there is no change to current scrutiny arrangements.

5.10.3 The current performance of the partnership is appended to this report.

5.11 **Delivery of the plan**

5.11.1 One of the strengths of delivery of the current plan is the multi-agency, single management team arrangements that are in place for the delivery arm of the partnership. Work is currently underway to formalise and strengthen these arrangements. Monitoring the impact of such changes would be something that should be considered as a specific theme in any plan from April 2014 onwards. This should be a specific element for scrutiny in due course.

6. **IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The success of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan from 2014 onwards will be a key determinant in quality of life of people who live, work and visit the area.

7. **CONSULTATION**

7.1 The development of the Plan will be further informed by a detailed strategic assessment and information obtained through public consultation events and the neighbourhood panel process.

8. **NEXT STEPS**

8.1 The Plan will be further discussed at the Safer Peterborough Partnership board meeting in January and returned to Scrutiny at its next meeting.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-2014
Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013 revision.
Safer Peterborough Performance November 2013.

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