

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
16 JULY 2014	Public Report

Report of the Head of Community and Safety Services

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ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE STATUTORY CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report sets out the role of the committee in its capacity as the Crime and Disorder Committee, particularly in scrutinising the Safer Peterborough Partnership plan over the next three years.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committee note the content of this report.
- 2.2 That the committee agree to the schedule and methodology of how the SPP Plan will be scrutinised as detailed in this report and in replacement of the outdated protocol for the scrutiny of crime and disorder issues as previously agreed by this committee on 25 November 2009.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy produced by the Greater Peterborough Partnership sets out the direction for the overall strategic direction of Peterborough. The Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan sets out how the Community Safety Partnership will contribute to the overall vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy and specifically how it can contribute to the outcome of “making Peterborough more cohesive and safer” so that people of all ages and abilities can live, work and play in a prosperous and successful Peterborough without undue crime or fear of crime.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 HM Government set out certain requirements for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. One such requirement is for CSPs to produce a strategy detailing how its responsibilities for reducing crime and disorder, combatting substance misuse and reducing re-offending will be met. In Peterborough, this requirement is met through the creation and publishing of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan. The current plan has been set for the three year period 2014-2017.
- 4.2 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 extended the remit of local authorities to scrutinise the functioning of CSPs, requiring every local authority to ensure that it has a committee, the “crime and disorder committee”, with power to 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 to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

- 4.3 In Peterborough, the statutory function imposed by section 19 is covered in part 3, section 4.2 of the Council Constitution, which directs that the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee undertake all of the local authority's statutory functions in accordance with sections 19 and 20 and associated regulations of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relating to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, including acting as the Council's crime and disorder committee.
- 4.4 Within the Safer Peterborough Partnership, the responsible authorities are as follows:
- Peterborough City Council
 - Cambridgeshire Constabulary
 - Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
 - Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Probation
- 4.5 Cooperating authorities are local groups or agencies which contribute significantly to community safety which the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 make key partners in the setting and delivering of objectives. In the Safer Peterborough Partnership, Cross Keys Homes, representing Registered Social Landlords in the city, is a cooperating authority.
- 4.6 Safer Peterborough Partnership also invites others to join the Partnership on the basis that they can assist in the delivery of the objectives of the partnership. Current invitees to participate include:
- HMP Peterborough
 - Peterborough Racial Equality Council
 - Peterborough Centre for Voluntary Services (representing the voluntary sector)
 - The One Service
 - The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Job Centre Plus
 - The lead Cabinet Member
- 4.7 The role of the crime and disorder committee is focussed on the work of the Safer Peterborough Partnership as a whole, and also the partners who comprise it insofar as their activities relate to the Partnership itself.

5. KEY ISSUES – SCRUTINY OF PLAN

- 5.1 The Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2014-17 is structured around three partnership priorities, those being as follows:
- Priority 1 – Addressing victim-based crime by reducing re-offending and protecting our residents and visitors from harm
 - Priority 2 – Tackling anti-social behaviour
 - Priority 3 – Building stronger and more supportive communities
- 5.2 Within those priorities, a number of themes are outlined, each having desired outcomes and performance indicators to be used as a means of assessing progress towards achieving those outcomes. Each theme has a named Safer Peterborough Partnership Board lead, and also an officer lead. The themes are as follows:
- Priority 1 – Offender Management, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence, Hate Crime, Substance Misuse, Victims & Witnesses, Communications & Perceptions (Fear of Crime)
 - Priority 2 – Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety
 - Priority 3 – Changing Communities, Community Cohesion and Vulnerable Groups

- 5.3 The Safer Peterborough Partnership Board meets on a monthly basis. Every other month, the Board receives a performance report which includes statistical data (being the most recent available) and other information linked to the agreed performance indicators used to monitor progress, together with narratives giving context to the statistics as well as an overview of activity undertaken. This report is used to flag areas of concern for discussion, direction and action as appropriate. At Board meetings where no performance report is brought, theme leads are invited to provide more detailed “deep dive” reports into their areas on a planned, rotational basis.
- 5.4 Underneath the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board sits an SPP Delivery Group, which comprises the officer leads for each of the themes within the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan and also convenes on a monthly basis. It is chaired by the Assistant Director for Communities and Targeted Services and its role is to scrutinise the performance reports submitted by each of the thematic working groups which make up the overall governance structure for the Partnership ahead of presentation to the Partnership Board itself. It is this group which considers what areas of performance may be of sufficient concern to raise at the Partnership Board, but it also directs activity to tackle such in the first instance.
- 5.5 In the year 2013/14, scrutiny of the Safer Partnership Plan was facilitated by tabling a report to each Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee relating to one of the three priorities included in the plan. Committee members were then afforded the opportunity to question representatives from the Partnership or responsible/cooperating authorities within it as they deemed fit in relation to the report and activity undertaken.
- 5.6 It is recommended that this approach continues, with a report based around the latest available Safer Peterborough Partnership Board performance report produced by the Head of Community and Safety Services (in his role as Head of the Safer Peterborough Partnership team) according to the following schedule:
- Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 3 September: Priority 1 – Addressing Crime
 - Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 15 October: Priority 2 – Tackling ASB
 - Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 18 November: Priority 3 – Changing Communities, Community Cohesion and Vulnerable Groups

This will then leave two further meetings to cover the following:

- Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 14 January: Draft annual refresh of Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan
 - Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 19 March: Approval of annual refresh of Plan
- 5.7 In terms of enabling appropriate scrutiny, the committee may request the attendance of a representative of the Partnership or responsible or cooperating authority in order to answer questions or provide information.
- 5.8 When the committee makes a report or recommendations which have an impact on crime and disorder matters officers will send a copy of the report and recommendations to the relevant responsible or cooperating authorities.
- 5.9 The committee will consider any Councillor Call for Action requests which relate to crime and disorder matters.

6. IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

7. CONSULTATION

Not applicable

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

That the committee accept the recommendations as detailed in section 2 of this report.

9. NEXT STEPS

That the decision of the committee, or any further recommendation, is duly recorded.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Police and Justice Act 2006

Council Constitution, version 9 (May 2013)

Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2014-2017

11. APPENDICES

None