

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
22 JULY 2015	Public Report

Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital

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PORTFOLIO PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAPITAL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Members with a progress report from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital in relation to matters relevant to this committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to scrutinise the progress made on those aspects of the Cabinet Member's portfolio relevant to this Committee by providing challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support the continued delivery of priorities within that portfolio.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 2.2 The Sustainable Community Strategy aims to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, through improving the quality of life for all. The portfolio held by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital supports the aspirations of the whole Sustainable Community Strategy, including those aspects that relate to the Strong and Supportive Communities priority.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Councils Constitution sets out the responsibilities of the Cabinet Member, describing them as including being:

Responsible for neighbourhood and community support including strategic and long-term problem solving and operational community issues and in particular the following:

- (i) Community Cohesion*
- (ii) Community Safety*
- (iii) Drugs prevention*
- (iv) Youth Offending Service*
- (v) Troubled Families*

All of these responsibilities fall under the remit of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Community Safety

- 5.1.1. Community safety in Peterborough is coordinated and governed by the Safer Peterborough Partnership, the city's statutory multi-agency community safety partnership as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Safer Peterborough Partnership Board consists of members from all responsible authorities i.e. Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue, Health through the local Clinical Commissioning Group, and Probation. Cross Keys Homes (representing registered local landlords) also sit on the Board as a cooperating authority. There are a number of other agencies and bodies who have a part to play in helping to deliver against the objectives of the partnership.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital is a full voting member of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board and regularly attends these meetings. He also receives regular briefings and updates from relevant senior officers, including the Service Director for Adults and Communities and the Head of Community and Safety Services.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires that community safety partnerships publish a partnership plan. In Peterborough, the Safer Peterborough Partnership works to an overarching three year plan, refreshed annually. Within this reporting period, a new three year plan has been agreed and published for the period April 2014 – March 2017.

The priorities set for the forthcoming three years are 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

No specific targets have been set. Rather a number of desired outcomes have been agreed for each of the themes within each priority, together with a number of performance indicators to inform an assessment of progress. A bi-monthly performance report is produced which is discussed at SPP Boards with actions agreed as necessary. Additionally, performance reports and more detailed "Deep Dive" presentations are brought to this scrutiny committee by the Head of Community and Safety Services to facilitate appropriate scrutiny, challenge and recommendations.

- 5.1.2. The Community and Safety Delivery Model now exists in Bayard Place with its core principles being:

- (i) A single co-located, multi-agency, collective body that reduces duplicity whilst working on common priorities through a Daily Risk Management tasking mechanism
- (ii) Cross organisational leadership achieved by an entwined management structure
- (iii) A clear focus on achieving better outcomes and improvements in quality of life for residents
- (iv) Investing time and resources in communities to help them do more things themselves
- (v) Seeking opportunities to further diversify
- (vi) Breaking down organisational barriers by being creative and flexible in the use of resources and technology

As the work continues, benefits should include improved access for service users with simpler, clearer pathways and increased transparency, the breaking down of legislative and

organisational barriers to problem-solving and the avoidance of duplication of activity, effort and resources.

- 5.1.3. Work has continued to make the City's roads as safe as they can be by continuing to deliver road safety services in partnership including education across the age ranges and via a themed road safety plan. Peterborough is currently on track to meet the local expectations for reductions in respect of KSI (killed or seriously injured) as set in the Local Transport Plan.
- 5.1.4. The Partnership delivered a very successful Safety Challenge in June 2015 which provided a range of safety messages to approximately 1,200 year 6 pupils from across the city.
- 5.1.5. A multi-agency web based system called E-cins allows the partnership to achieve an integrated city-wide approach to managing anti-social behaviour. This links into the local Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting structure which promotes a multi-agency problem solving focus through the use of Neighbourhood Delivery Teams, problem-solving groups and ASB case review meetings.

From October 2014 local authorities, Police and Registered social landlords received new powers under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This legislation has repealed previous powers such as Anti-social Behaviour Orders, Criminal Anti-social Behaviour Orders as well as improved legislation to deal with low level ASB and closure powers. There has also been changes to the Police dispersal powers and landlords – private and social – have new powers for possession in relation to tenants causing ASB. Within PCC the new powers can be utilised by the ASB team, Housing Enforcement, Environmental Enforcement, Pollution Control and Licensing.

To date the partnership has had one successful closure order and three Criminal Behaviour Orders: one was issued to one of the city's most prolific sex workers and perpetrators of ASB; another was issued to a young person responsible for the youth related ASB in Werrington Centre; and finally one was recently served on a female who repeatedly causes problems in the city from drinking and threatening to jump from car parks.

An action group was founded and chaired by the SPP Tasking manager for the Werrington Centre in response to complaints about ASB – youths, graffiti, litter – and the general decline of the area. The meetings were very well attended by the Police, council ASB and youth in localities representatives as well as local councillors and local businesses including Tesco's. The group proved successful and has been identified by the Board of Tesco's as best practice for community engagement and as such Tesco's now want to get more involved in community projects within the area. A similar action group has been set up in response to ASB and community concerns at Manor Farm Park in Eye.

With sex working and anti-social behaviour being synonymous with each other, as of November 2014 the responsibility of the case management and strategy of on-street sex working transferred to Inspector Andy Tolley and is managed and co-ordinated by an ASB Co-ordinator and Community Safety Officer. A project is being developed to provide an evening outreach/drop-in service aimed at improving safeguarding and engagement with support services to assist women to exit the industry and be safe.

- 5.1.6. The 'My Peterborough' app has continued to be developed enabling members of the public to simply report environmental and quality of life issues via their mobile device and receive feedback on actions undertaken. We are finding a correlation between the increased number of services being added to it and its popularity.
- 5.1.7. Peterborough continues to experience a high level of unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments in the city. With 55 reported encampments in the last 12 months (01/07/2014 – 30/06/2015). The majority of the encampments have been small generally consisting of 1-4 caravans and associated vehicles and have moved on after receiving direction to leave. We have had to obtain court orders to evict on 8 occasions in the last 12 months.

Where we have had unauthorised encampments we have reviewed their locations post eviction and installed/upgraded defence measures in an effort to prevent the sites being used again in the future. In addition we will shortly be reviewing the most commonly used locations and ensuring that the current defence measures are adequate and installing additional measures where appropriate.

5.2 Community Cohesion.

5.2.1 Community Cohesion issues are governed by the Cohesion and Diversity Board. However sitting within the Safer Peterborough Partnership is the council Community Cohesion manager and the SPP inspector who holds the position of chair of the Peterborough Tension Monitoring Group (TMG). The TMG is made up of a number of professional agencies and local community leads whose purpose is to allow and enable tracking and monitoring of local trends and hot spots (alongside any national or international events which may threaten cohesion) and agree / implement actions to manage tensions on the basis that early intervention can make a real difference in preventing incidents of public disorder.

The Key functions of the group include:

- (i) Sharing and collating details of incidents and situations likely to impact upon community tensions as well as details of public order incidents which have a community cohesion angle
- (ii) Consideration for future events which have the potential to raise tensions, including planned local demonstrations by extremist groups, cultural events or sporting fixtures or national and international events
- (iii) Identifying the overall levels of tensions and likelihood of disturbance occurring
- (iv) Agree priorities and actions to address tensions and monitor trends over time

A consultation has recently been completed regarding the amalgamation of the Hate Crime Task and Finishing Group and TMG. This is due to the agendas and remits being of a similar nature around risk and safeguarding local communities, individuals or groups from suffering hate crime or being affected directly or indirectly by community tensions.

Locally Peterborough City Council has funded a Hate crime coordinator post to be employed through Cross Keys Homes, the post holder will work across the Police, Cross Keys and the Safer Peterborough Partnership and will be based in Bayard place. In addition to this, four community connector posts have been created. This is in recognition that there is the need to facilitate better community engagement with the Lithuanian, Latvian, Slovakian and Czech community. The aim is to improve awareness around local support by signposting to services and to provide preventative messages. It is believed that these community groups are likely to respond more positively to persons of the same heritage or with a proven credible background of working within these communities.

5.3 Drugs Prevention

5.3.1 The Safer Peterborough Partnership has a statutory responsibility under its remit of the local Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to combat substance misuse. Latest data shows the number of adults engaging in drug recovery journeys nationally is consistent at 95%, this is reflective at a local level which is around 94.7%.

Adult drug treatment performance continues to be in the top quartile for comparator Local Authorities for successful completions of all clients in treatment. Re-presentation rates for Non-Opiates and Alcohol only are on par with the national average. Opiates are above national average by 3 clients. This continues to be challenged within contract monitoring by commissioners.

5.4 Youth Offending Service

5.4.1. The three key measures (national and local) around service performance for the Youth Offending Service are:

- (i) The re-offending rate, both binary and frequency,
- (ii) The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time,
- (iii) The number of custodial sentences made on Peterborough young people.

A further local measure reviews the access to and engagement in education, training or employment by Youth Offending Service clients.

Of the three measures the re-offending rate is key, given the purpose of the youth justice system is to prevent offending. Peterborough continues to perform well. At present 31.3% of young people commit a further offence within 12 months of coming into the system which is significantly better performance than both the national position (36.5%) and our statistical neighbours (34.2%).

The frequency rate outcome is also performing well at 0.83 compared to 1.08 (national rate) and 1.03 (statistical neighbour rate). The rate of first time entrants coming into the youth justice system has fallen from the same period 12 months ago, dropping from 498 per one hundred thousand to 391. The use of custody has fallen from the same period twelve months ago from 0.55 to 0.39 per thousand.

The percentage of young people in education, training or employment when their work with the Youth Offending Service ended was 100% at the end of April 2015. However this figure fluctuates from month to month and the average figure for the whole year from April 2014 to March 2015 was 82.4%. This is a creditable outcome given the range of challenges many of these young people face.

5.4.2. Over the last 12 months the Youth Offending Service has made a number of significant changes to its service.

The number of young people going before the courts continues to fall and as a result there has been a significant increase in the support provided by the service as part of the city's early help offer. This has ensured that many young people have avoided the stigma of getting a criminal record, which could have significant implications for them later in life. The number of young people who commit offences following a Youth Offending Service early help intervention is low.

The service has further increased the involvement of volunteers in its service delivery and there are now around 70 active volunteers who support our work, covering a wide range of tasks. This includes six volunteers trained to deliver Restorative Justice with victims and offenders and several others drawn from Central and Eastern European communities, who offer mentoring support to young people from those communities.

The service has established a shoplifting Restorative Justice scheme called Restore, where first time shoplifters under 18 can meet their victims to apologise and make amends for their behaviour, rather than being dealt with by the police. This has to date proved very popular with local shops in Queensgate and work is being done to extend the scheme to include the Serpentine Green shopping centre.

The service has assumed responsibility for the Youth in Localities staff and what and how services are delivered is being reviewed to ensure outputs and outcomes are maximised.

Over the coming 12 months there will be a continued focus on developing all of the above areas, with the service looking to extend Restorative Justice delivery in conjunction with the victim's hub, increasing both the number of volunteers recruited and the projects they support and extending

the early help offer made to young people. The provision of statutory youth justice services will also be developed to maintain the current good performance.

5.5 Early Help Team (Connecting Families Programme)

- 5.5.1. The Connecting Families Programme is the name given in Peterborough to the national Troubled Families agenda. The first Troubled Families Programme led the way for systematic identification of families with multiple problems. By the end of May 2015, the Peterborough Early Help Team were able to claim payment by results for the full 100% of 450 families targeted.
- 5.5.2. Phase 2 of the Connecting Families Programme will retain focus on families with multiple high cost problems and will continue to include families affected by poor school attendance, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment. However, the eligibility criteria has been broadened and inclusion into the programme will be based upon a cluster of six headline criteria.

Below each criteria sits a range of indicators with considerably more flexibility in terms of information sources and success criteria. Families must meet at least two of the following criteria:

- (i) Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- (ii) Children who have not been attending school regularly
- (iii) Children who need help: children of all ages, who need help, are identified as in need or are subject to a Child Protection Plan
- (iv) Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion or young people at risk of worklessness
- (v) Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- (vi) Parents or children with a range of health problems.

Some issues that the families face may initially be hidden from view until work begins with the family and the full extent of their needs is uncovered, resulting in many families then meeting more than two criteria.

Local Authorities have been asked to identify families from all six areas and ensure the programme's resources are being used to best effect. Families will be prioritised for inclusion in the programme on the basis of the following:

- (i) They are families with multiple problems who are most likely to benefit from an integrated, whole family approach
- (ii) They are families who are the highest cost to the public purse

We were committed to start to work with 82 families by April 2015, and with an additional 275 families by April 2016. The new programme will see Peterborough identify and work with 1640 families over the five years of the programme. In January 2015, 404 families had been identified as being eligible for the programme. This number will grow as more datasets become available

- 5.5.3. The breadth of the criteria for the new programme lends itself to the philosophy of early intervention with families and the obvious link between the programme and the Early Help agenda. We are therefore aiming to align the Connecting Families programme with Early Help. This will ensure consistency and quality of response and support to 'troubled families', and help ensure that the most appropriate multi-agency response is agreed.

The Early Help process recognises that some children, young people and their families face complex difficulties which may require the support of more than one agency to resolve. Most of these families are successfully supported through the 'Team around the Child' approach, following an assessment of their needs using the Early Help Assessment framework.

The Multi-Agency Support Group (MASG) panels that operate in three localities across the city will be used to assist in developing support plans and identifying additional resources to provide effective support to families. The MASG panels already co-ordinate appropriate resources to meet the needs of children, young people and families according to an evidenced based assessment captured by engaging in an Early Help Assessment.

The Early Help Team will ensure that families identified for the programme have an identified and appropriate Lead Professional to support the family and co-ordinate service delivery. Should additional resources be needed to help the family make changes that are not available through universal or targeted services within the community, these can be accessed via a MASG panel. Families as identified as eligible for the programme through Early Help will be tracked regularly to ensure progress is being made and further resources provided where needed.

- 5.5.4. Success for the programme will be measured in 3 ways – demonstrating significant progress, sustained progress or continuous employment, all of which will be assessed against a locally defined Connecting Families Outcomes Framework. This outlines the aims and ambitions we intend to achieve with each family, with regard to the six problems the programme aims to tackle and how this supports wider strategic objectives. The new programme continues to be incentivised on a payments by results basis: for every family identified as qualifying for the programme, worked with and subsequently turned around, a £1,800 claim can be made by the Local Authority to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). As far as possible, our payment by results revenue will be invested in preventative work. We will use the intelligence gathered through the programme to stimulate ongoing service transformation through transparent local accountability.

This programme also allows us to capture a much richer understanding of the profile of families being engaged with. This greater understanding and associated benefits will be obtained by our participation in the programme's National Impact Study and supplemented by Family Progress data. In addition the provision of information about local investment in our Connecting Families Programme together with comparative pre-programme 'business as usual' costs will be realised. Funding to support these two measures is provided within the programme's Service Transformation Grant. This forms an essential part of the new programme's increased focus on driving public service transformation across all relevant local services.

We have worked with Governance and Legal Services to update our privacy notice, website and FAQ's and created posters to comply with data sharing regulations and raise the profile of the Connecting Families Programme within the community.

5.6 Community Capacity

- 5.6.1 The community capacity team are working closely with community groups and Parish Councils to explore the feasibility of devolving services and budgets. The team are also working with service providers (e.g. Amey) to develop a transfer / delivery model to support this. Enterprising support for groups will be forthcoming via collaborative working with 3rd sector partners and the Future Business Centre. One to one support will be available together with regular active learning workshops and forums.
- 5.6.2 The community capacity team are working with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) and representatives of existing Parish Councils in Peterborough to support the opportunity for local interest groups to explore the creation of new community or parish councils in their area.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act allows residents in previously un-parished urban and rural areas to become parish or community councils and have a greater say over how their needs are met at a local level. The legislation allows local community councils to become more involved in local decision making and have greater control over how money raised locally is spent.

5.6.3 In 2014/2015, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) provided grant funding to allow local communities to have a debate and explore if being a community or parish council is right for their area. DCLG have now frozen their support fund until July 2015, at which time only £150k will be available for the year ahead nationally (50% reduction). Funding is ring-fenced with CAPALC for all areas who have noted interest in Peterborough, all of whom are still willing and able to form a council in April 2016.

The Current position is:

- **Stanground:** Chair of resident association has resigned who was championing this opportunity and as a consequence there is no longer the appetite to pursue this amongst the remaining group members.
- **Paston:** Hopeful that interest from Paston Farm CIC will resume now the asset transfer of Paston Farm is complete. To date the area is yet to be defined by the group and so by default CAPALC would recommend the new ward boundary from 2016.
- **Walton:** CAPALC are working with elected Members to hold public meetings to gauge interest in the area. Members are keen to align to emerging plans from Paston.
- **Dogsthorpe:** a number of public meetings have now been held and a clear, strong group has naturally formed. CAPALC are working with the group on a promotion strategy and work on the petition has now commenced.
- **Werrington:** New interest from elected members promoting opportunities of parishing. A group born from Werrington Neighbourhood Council are also separately promoting. CAPALC aim to bring all interested parties together to take forward.
- **West:** Activity on hold following the loss of the key community champion. Plans to unite existing interested parties with the Big Local Group.
- **Parnwell:** New interest noted for follow up.

6. IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that the Scrutiny Committee will comment on and make recommendations relating to the updates provided in this report in order that the delivery potential is maximised for the benefit of our communities.

7. CONSULTATION

Not applicable

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Comments and recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee members will be considered as part of the ongoing development and delivery of specific business areas

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

11. APPENDICES

None