

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of the Service Director for Adult Services and Communities – Adrian Chapman		
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UPDATE ON THE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the committee on the current progress in the development of the multi-agency Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note and endorse the contents of the report, the progress to date in establishing the PES and the future plans for the service.

3. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO

- 3.1 This work most closely links to the Council's priority to keep all our communities safe, cohesive and healthy. However the work of the Prevention and Enforcement Service also supports the priority to safeguard vulnerable children and adults.
- 3.2 Cabinet Portfolio: Cllr Irene Walsh – Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Committee previously considered a report at its meeting of 20th January 2016 on developing a Joint Community Enforcement Team (now known as the Prevention and Enforcement Service). That report provides the background to the rationale in developing a joint service between the council, police, fire and rescue service and HMP Peterborough to tackle crime and quality of life issues (such as flytipping, parking enforcement, anti-social behaviour etc.)
- 4.2 Cabinet approved the creation of the PES at its meeting on 29th February 2016.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Throughout the spring and summer of 2016, considerable work has been undertaken between the four organisations that make up the PES to develop the service. For the council staff, this has resulted in a staff restructure with new job descriptions and duties as previous community safety and enforcement teams have been amalgamated into the single service.
- 5.2 The PES builds upon the successful work of the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) in delivering a multi-agency response that prioritises:

- Tackling victim based crime, particularly reoffending
- Reducing anti-social behaviour

- Building stronger and more supportive communities
- Supporting high risk and vulnerable victims

Whilst working in partnership between agencies is nothing new, the model that has been developed goes significantly beyond this. The PES is hosted by the Council and comprises over 130 staff from partner organisations and aligned into a single service and operating from a single location. This alignment of services and staff has led to a genuine culture shift both for individuals and organisations. By working in a single service, trust and rapport increases further breaking down organisational silo thinking and leading to a one service approach.

5.3 The PES combines a range of community safety services from within the council (such as parking enforcement, housing enforcement, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood environment enforcement) with front line police officers, supported by staff from Fire and Rescue Service and HMP Peterborough. This has led to the creation of multi-disciplined teams with a blend of skills and experience from across the organisations. Teams are led by a mixture of supervisors from across the partnership and accountable to the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

5.4 The council applied to the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary for the PES officers to become accredited under the Schedule 56 of the Police Reform Act 2002. The Chief Constable approved the application in September 2016 which provides subject to appropriate training for non Police staff within the PES to enforce a much broad range of powers that were previously restricted to police officers. These include:

- Issuing penalty notices for disorder
- Issuing penalty notices for cycling on a footpath
- Issuing penalty notices for dog fouling
- Powers to require persons drinking alcohol in designated places to surrender alcohol
- Powers to require aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- Powers to deal with begging

5.5 The PES formally launched on 17 October 2016, although joint working between agencies has been happening over a longer period in the build up to the launch. Staff from the four organisations which make up the PES are co-located in Bayard Place which provides for closer day-day working relationships, sharing of intelligence and deployment of staff to respond to emerging and escalating crime and quality of life issues.

5.6 As highlighted above, the PES works on numerous issues to tackle crime and quality of life issues throughout the city. An example of the type of work the service has delivered during October is set out below:

- Private Sector Housing Enforcement – 81 calls for service of which 13 were due to overcrowding/HMOs, 56 related to poor private sector housing conditions and 6 related to illegal evictions
- Anti-social Behaviour – 43 new cases received
- Neighbourhood Enforcement – 274 flytipping investigations carried out, 73 abandoned vehicles and 48 rubbish accumulations investigated during the month
- Unauthorised encampments – the PES moved on 4 encampments on council land during the month. Staff have carried out additional patrols in the locations to provide public reassurance

5.7 Other sector based activity during October includes:

Southern

- Drugs warrant executed in Woodston, 19 plants were found with a street value of approx. £1,000, this resulted in 2 arrests made
- Hampton skate park action plan and problem solving meeting undertaken to develop activities to reduce ASB in the area
- An arsonist arrested and as a result of the evidence package developed by partners

- individual was remanded in custody until 11 November 2016
- Staff involved in Op Sceptre (knife crime week of action) undertaking patrols and sweeps in target areas
- Designated Neighbourhood Watch Scheme successfully established in Salix Road, Hampton. This is the first of its kind in the UK
- Continue to tackle drug use/dealing close to a Primary School in Woodston with calls for service reducing as a result

Northern

- A number of arrests have taken place across Northern sector including the individual who has been involved in numerous offences in the Paston area including breach of Criminal Behaviour Order, criminal damage, robbery, assaults and arson. The arrest also took place of individual in connection with drugs and subsequent breach of court order, the individual was responsible for ongoing ASB issues in Deaconscroft
- Two car cruises took place, both events were policed by PES officers with minimal ASB
- Speed enforcement in the areas of Wansford, Eye and Barnack responding to concerns raised by local residents
- Patrols conducted in Cuckoo's Hollow following ASB incidents, low level fly tipping and minor damage

City Centre / Eastern

- Work ongoing to improve the rough sleeping situation in St Peters Arcade. Working closely with Housing Needs to undertake early morning operations
- Drug operations have been ongoing at various locations in the area
- Joint working to improve issues in Fengate (former Mitchells Sports Club site) and Brassey Close where the run down mobile unit has been successfully handed over to a local Boxing Club
- Participated in HMO & Brothel visits as part of tackling modern slavery week. A large cannabis factory (value £161k - £480k) located at an address, one male charged and remanded

5.8 Whilst the PES has now formally launched, there is still further work to be done to fully embed new ways of working across organisations. One example of this is the development of a Tasking and Co-ordinating Hub (TACOH) which will make far greater use of both council and police intelligence and data to understand where the highest priorities for tackling crime and quality of life issues in the city are. This will allow the PES to deploy its resources in a more effective manner and have a greater impact.

5.9 The TACOH will analyse data and intelligence on a daily basis from across the service. This will feed into the Daily Risk Management Meeting which provides the command and control facility for the service and ensures that calls for service will receive a prioritised response.

5.10 The PES is an innovative and replicable model which has received local and national interest from other local authorities. As part of the local devolution discussions, Community Safety Partnerships from across Cambridgeshire are considering whether the PES model may be something which they can replicate in their local area.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal - It is the intention of the Council to authorise non council staff assigned to the PES to enforce certain legislation which is presently only enforceable by council officers. PCC Legal Services have advised upon the formalities necessary for such delegation. Discussions have commenced with other PES partners as to the form of delegation that would be acceptable to them.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The PES will continue to develop its service and embed partnership working at both operational and strategic level. In November, a service-wide performance framework will be agreed to measure the effectiveness and impact of the PES.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None