

<b>ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
<b>16 January 2018</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
Cabinet Member responsible:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Rob Hill, Assistant Director Community Safety	Tel. 864112

**PORTFOLIO PROGRESS REPORT : CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider and scrutinise this report and endorse the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is presented at the request of the Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is being presented to the Committee to allow them to scrutinise the work being undertaken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Irene Walsh.

Councillor Walsh's portfolio covers the following areas:

- Rural communities
- Neighbourhood and community support including strategic problem solving, enforcement and operational community issues and in particular the following:
  - Community cohesion
  - Community safety
  - Drugs prevention
  - Targeted youth services including Youth Offending Service, Youth in Localities, NEET and adolescent services.
  - Environmental protection and trading standards including functions of the Weights and Measures authority
  - Food safety

For the purposes of this report, only those responsibilities which fall under the remit of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee will be discussed.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.1., Functions determined by Council 4. Neighbourhood and Community Support.

2.3 This report links into the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy, *and*
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

4.1 The Communities and Safety Directorate helps manage and reduce the demand pressures that other services are experiencing in, for example, social care and public protection.

Over the last six months, this portfolio has developed opportunities for greater collaboration with our partners and for communities and individuals to play a bigger part in their local community. This has had the impact of reducing demand pressures placed on the Council and other services and empowers communities to serve their own needs more effectively. Examples of this activity include:

- Volunteering schemes to ensure the most vulnerable residents are not isolated or lonely
- Support to develop voluntary sector delivery to fill gaps that the statutory sector often cannot fill
- Dedicated support to Parish Councils
- Development of local groups and networks that bring people together
- Development of support and shelter schemes for rough sleepers

We also work to protect the public; the principles of this work include:

- Enforcement activity by the Prevention and Enforcement Service to punish those who commit environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. This enforcement activity goes hand in hand with preventative work, such as reducing arson
- Community-focussed volunteering programmes to tackle low-harm neighbourhood issues
- Volunteering schemes to support victims, for example, victims of domestic abuse
- Community Speedwatch projects to address concerns about speeding, particularly in rural areas

4.2 There are a number of areas that have received a particular focus over the last six months, which are detailed below. These examples demonstrate how we are focussing on those areas which support people to live independently, reduce isolation, make communities feel safe, improve quality of life and provide support to those in the greatest need.

#### 4.2.1 **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping**

Over the last six months, extensive work with voluntary and faith organisations to support homeless households and rough sleepers has been undertaken. This includes work to support the winter night shelter, emergency cold weather provision and befriending.

Officers within the Prevention & Enforcement Service (PES) regularly patrol the rough sleeping hot spot locations within the City engaging with individuals to obtain their details and signposting them to Housing Needs as well as local and national support services. The PES also chair regular multi-agency meetings to discuss individuals who are street homeless and to identify additional support or interventions as required. Officers within the PES have also assisted in the rough sleeper count and are working closely with the rough sleeper outreach worker to ensure that those in need of support are identified and referred quickly to the appropriate services.

We also continue to run the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) which supports people facing financial hardship and requiring urgent assistance. This includes providing emergency food, white goods or debt management advice. The scheme means that people can avoid relying on social care and avoids them having to take more drastic measures such as turning to payday lenders or loan sharks. It also helps people to stay in their homes and live

independently. The PCAS scheme supports hundreds of people each year; in October alone we have supported nearly 200 people to access the foodbank and helped people to access benefits and support they are entitled to amounting to £219,000.

#### 4.2.2 **Community Hubs**

We have worked with local people and partner organisations to develop Community Hubs in a number of areas of the city, including Gladstone, Orton Malborne and Westwood. These hubs provide information, adult learning, debt and other advice. A number of agencies are using these hubs including Age UK and the Carers Trust. Their presence in communities helps to reduce isolation and has led to increased volunteering action and employment.

#### 4.2.3 **Inclusive Cities**

Peterborough has been invited, along with four other UK cities, to participate in “Inclusive Cities” an externally-funded project, the principle aim of which is to develop significant projects to tackle social inclusion and share the learning from these projects more widely. The Community Serve initiative and Community Hubs are expected to be an important aspect of Peterborough’s focus.

#### 4.2.4 **Community Cohesion**

There has been extensive work with faith groups to ensure communities remain cohesive and resilient. The recent English Defence League protest in Peterborough in October provided an excellent example of how the work that goes on all year to ensure communities are resilient, meant that the protest passed without incident. On the day of the protest a well-designed plan was implemented. This included liaison with community groups and extra community patrols throughout the city. Partnership working with the police, the Council and various community groups was extremely effective and indicative of the strength and resilience of the communities in Peterborough.

There have been numerous community projects supporting vulnerable people over the last six months, including working with women’s groups in relation to safety issues and a joint training workshop with the Council, police and the community to tackle domestic abuse. There have also been a series of community discussions and activities promoting awareness of modern day slavery held at the Cohesion and Diversity Forum meeting on 27 September and during weekends in the month of October.

A round-table meeting under the theme of tackling radicalisation was organised in partnership with the Peterborough Interfaith Council on 15 November 2017. Participants included various faith groups and related service providers (Police, Prison, Probation, PCC and Colleges). A major topic of discussion was the imminent transfer of responsibility to local authorities of the *Prevent* agenda, which currently sits with the police. The forum will meet again in the early part of 2018.

Seven Syrian refugee families, totalling 34 people including adults and children, have been resettled in Peterborough since September 2016. The process is overseen by the Syrian Refugee Task and Finish Group which includes representatives from related service providers and charities supporting the refugees. The partnership work has been recognised as one of the finalists for the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Annual Service Awards 2017. The families are steadily settling into the new environment, albeit some of the members have had a traumatic past in their earlier lives. The overall school attendance for the children has been in the region of 95%.

Under the provision of Controlling Migrant Fund (CMF), councils across England are set to receive funding support to help alleviate pressures on local services such as housing, education and health services, resulting from recent migration. Under this stream, the Department for Communities and Local Government has awarded total funding of £1,197,906 for 5 projects covering Peterborough. These projects include learning English language (£281,573); social media resources (£94,000); alcohol misuse (£283,347), Citizens Advice Bureau (£283,347) and rough sleeper support services (£250,436).

#### 4.2.5 **Prevention and Enforcement Service**

Over the last six months, two Public Space Protection Orders have gone live across the city centre and Millfield to reduce anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. The Prevention and Enforcement Service, in conjunction with our enforcement partner Kingdom, have issued 5,517 tickets for breaches of the Public Space Protection Order shown by month as follows:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Fixed Penalty Notices</b>
June	745
July	628
August	702
September	849
October	748
November	1037
December	808

The Service has received significant support from the Magistrate's Court to prosecute those people who have not paid their fines, which sends an important message to the public that those who break the law will be prosecuted and fined.

The Prevention and Enforcement Service have focussed heavily on enforcement over the last six months, and will now turn their attention to bolstering preventative activities to instill greater community confidence and reduce the fear of crime. The Service are currently looking at new working arrangements which would see dedicated officers in geographic areas of the city, focussing on issues which communities see are important. Staff are being supported to deliver this vision through the introduction of a new apprenticeship scheme. The scheme will see staff become omni-competent officers, able to deal with a range of community safety issues, with a focus on preventative work.

#### 4.2.6 **Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP)**

The SPP continues to work in partnership to reduce demand on services such as social care and health. This year the partnership has invested £18,000 from its budget to support domestic abuse outreach provision in Peterborough for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The outreach work will provide accessible and sustainable support, including:

- Accessible support for victims in the community, especially those from minority, or vulnerable groups
- Specialist support for those not wishing to disclose the police
- Capacity and resilience building amongst communities and individuals
- Prevention and earlier intervention which halts escalation and decreases demand on high-risk / safeguarding services
- An outlet for agencies to make requests for specialist services.

In addition, the Partnership recognises the impact that alcohol related crime has on Peterborough, particularly over the festive period, when violent incidents occur which place a drain on police and health resources. In a bid to combat this, the Partnership have invested in a taxi marshalling scheme which saw two taxi ranks in Peterborough City Centre patrolled over the festive period. The taxi marshals ensured that there was an orderly queue, that people were safely entering and exiting the city centre, and that any vulnerable people were assisted.

#### 4.2.7 **Reducing Offending**

The Integrated Offender Management Scheme (IOM) which is the scheme managing around 80 prolific acquisitive crime offenders continues to prove to be successful in respect of managing high risk offenders and reducing the crime they commit.

The latest set of data published in September 2017 shows that there were 73 people from Peterborough on the programme, all of whom have been tracked and their offending scrutinised. In the 12 months before IOM support the average number of offences per individual was 4.12 but this fell to 2.37 in the 12 months after, meaning potentially 130 fewer victims of crime which is a very positive outcome.

The Youth Offending Service focuses on those young people who are entering into the criminal justice system for the first time. The Ministry of Justice has published the national figures on first time entrants into the criminal justice system cases for the period April 2016 to March 2017 and this is one of the headline statutory datasets that the Youth Offending Service are judged on. Our most recent data shows a 58% decrease in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time, which is a better performance than that of our statistical neighbour group, although the national average was lower.

#### 4.2.8 **Youth Services**

There continues to be a huge amount of work ongoing in the Youth Service team. Over the last 12 months, there have been a number of really successful outcomes, all with the aim of supporting young people to fulfil their potential. For example this year, 360 young people took part in the National Citizenship Service programme which exceeded the target set by Government. The programme helps young people to build their confidence and self-belief and develop skills to help them into further education and employment.

Similarly, the team continue to support more and more young people to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh programme. We have focussed on supporting young people with Special Educational Needs and those in alternative education to access the programme over the last 12 months.

As part of our work to increase resilience across communities, we have been working to support funding bids for nearly £750k over 3 years to support the infrastructure of Community Youth Development across the city.

Young people continue to be well engaged in Peterborough, in October it was announced that with 63.63%, Peterborough was ranked 5th in the country for turnout in the UK's largest youth consultation "Make Your Mark". Around 10,000 young people took part in the survey with the top issues being:

- A curriculum to prepare us for life
- Transport
- Work Experience hubs for 11-19 year olds
- Mental Health
- Votes at 16

Our Youth MP has also been granted the opportunity to be one of only a few young people to debate the issues at the dispatch box in the House of Commons.

To support young people who are in need of early help the Youth Services team have offered mentoring to 49 young people over the last 9 months. 43% of referrals were to support young people with emotional health issues, 16% were for challenging behaviour with the remainder for issues of risky behaviour and attendance. The majority of referrals for this service were from schools.

#### 4.2.9 **Communities Task and Finish Group**

The Scrutiny Committee agreed to the formulation of a cross party group tasked with looking into how we can work more closely with communities and empower them to lead the response to appropriate neighbourhood issues. The group convened in September, and will bring final

recommendations to the March Scrutiny meeting.

The cross party panel have so far met on three occasions and work undertaken has included:

- Interviewing expert providers to understand what mechanisms could be made available to identify the support required for community groups and to ensure this support is sustainable
- Identification of a number of 'enablers' critical to implementation, including:
  - Scoping out ICT platforms, including potential funding streams that will allow for the case management of local problems and ability to task across different groups and agencies
  - Identifying community organisations by geographical area, with a view to feeding into a 'community database' of online groups / organisations

The panel have made recommendations to the officers who are compiling the final report. The final report will be agreed in February and will be taken to the scrutiny committee in March 2018.

#### 4.3 **VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

As we look ahead into the new financial year, we will continue to work with partners and communities to develop an effective and robust voluntary, community and faith sector that can support people and empower communities to manage their own needs.

Where communities need more help, we will continue to train and develop our own officers to support communities in a more holistic way. We are in the process of training and accrediting our officers to be more omni-competent as well as giving them the autonomy to deal with a whole host of issues, from inconsiderate parking to anti-social behaviour.

We will also continue to look at the most cost effective way of delivering our services, whilst ensuring that the quality of the service delivered is high and remains consistent. Our vision for the future is that communities across the city are empowered and supported to achieve the best possible outcomes for their area, and this is our priority for the coming year and beyond.

#### 5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 There is no requirement for formal consultation in relation to this matter.

#### 6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 It is anticipated that this report will provide the committee with an overview of some of the work that is being undertaken under this portfolio. It also provides an opportunity for the committee to ask questions and scrutinise the work being undertaken.

#### 7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To ensure that the Portfolio Holder is working to deliver the council's key aims of supporting people to live independently, reduce isolation, make communities feel safe, improve quality of life and provide support to those in the greatest need.

#### 8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 No alternative options have been considered as part of this report, however the services within the directorate are constantly reviewing their service. This ensures that public confidence remains high and that people living in the city have a good quality of life, feel safe and supported.

#### 9. **IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Financial Implications**

9.1 Not applicable.

##### **Legal Implications**

9.2 Not applicable.

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 Not applicable.

### **Rural Implications**

9.4 Not applicable.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 None.

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