

Joint Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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South and Vale Community Safety Partnership – performance report

Recommendations

(a) To note the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has made so far in 2015/16 in delivering its priorities and statutory functions

(b) To support the CSP's view that the 2016/17 plan should continue to focus on the protection of vulnerable people.

Purpose of Report

The main purpose of this report is to update the scrutiny committee on the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is making to reduce crime and the fear of crime, focusing on the benefits it generates for residents, businesses and partner agencies in the two districts. The summary of the work the CSP has been delivering since April 2015 to achieve its priorities is supplemented by the CSP quarter three (Q3) performance report, attached as Appendix A.

Background

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE CSP

1. The CSP was formed in April 2011, bringing together the two existing district CSPs that were created in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This was done so that the partnership was co-terminus with the newly formed local police area and mirrored the shared working across the district councils.
2. Under the umbrella of the CSP, a wide variety of local agencies work together to maintain low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in both districts and ensure that residents feel safe and stay safe.
3. The CSP involves the community safety portfolio holders from both district councils and officers representing:
 - South Oxfordshire District Council
 - Vale of White Horse District Council
 - NHS Oxfordshire
 - Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
 - Thames Valley Police (TVP)
 - Community Rehabilitation Company
 - National Probation Service Thames Valley
 - Sovereign Vale Housing Association
 - Soha Housing
 - Oxfordshire Public Health
 - Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service
4. The CSP has a statutory duty to develop and publish a plan which sets out its priorities, actions and measures. The 2015/16 plan is attached as Appendix B. When drafting the current plan and to meet our statutory duties, we reviewed information from the Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment along with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) plan and consulted with multi-agencies and councillors.
5. The CSP has a statutory duty to monitor the effectiveness of its plan which it does through its quarterly performance reports that are reviewed at its quarterly meetings.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF CSP PRIORITIES

6. To help the CSP deliver its priorities and statutory duties, it receives funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This income stream is not secure and is agreed on an annual basis. The CSP's 2015/16 funding from the PCC is £117,111.
7. The CSP uses some of its grant to directly fund three officers employed by Thames Valley Police:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Assistant (part time)
 - Community Relations Officer (30 hrs)
 - Crime Reduction Adviser, a full time post remains vacant, due to unsuccessful recruitment. This post is currently being reviewed.
8. Due to the ongoing vacancy above, the domestic abuse referrals previously made to the Crime Reduction Adviser to help secure the homes of victims of domestic abuse have been co-ordinated by the districts community safety team.

9. The CSP also uses its funding to support local capital and revenue projects that it believes will help it to deliver its priorities. Managed by the district community safety team, this involves overseeing the CSP grant application process, drafting Service Level Agreements (SLAs), monitoring contract compliance and running the CSP budget group to ensure accountability and proper governance. In 2015/16, the community safety team is managing SLAs on behalf of the CSP for a range of projects, including a dedicated outreach service for victims of domestic abuse in South and Vale and diversionary projects for young people who are vulnerable and displaying 'risky behaviour' and the small repairs scheme run by Mears.
10. The CSP financial summary for 2014/15 and 2015/16 (quarter three) can be found in Appendix C.

DELIVERING THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES AND STATUTORY DUTIES – SUMMARY OF KEY AREAS OF WORK IN 2015/16

To cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and reduce reoffending

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

11. There are a number of statutory functions relating to anti-social behaviour that the CSP funded staff are responsible for delivering:

| Statutory responsibility | Relevant legislation |
|---|--|
| Consulting on and introducing Designated Public Place Orders (currently in Thame, Abingdon and Henley) to stop anti social behaviour related to the consumption of alcohol. | Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (to be replaced by Public Space Protection Orders as part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014). |
| On behalf of the CSP, managing the Community Trigger process | Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 |
| Managing the process for the issuing Community Protection Notices (non noise related) | |
| Supporting police applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders | |

12. The CSP funded ASB Assistant who works for Thames Valley Police supports the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer (a police officer role) in monitoring action taken by neighbourhood officers to tackle cases of ASB reported to the police. This involves helping to draw up Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) and other police led ASB interventions as well as running regular neighbourhood ASB case meetings. The police have issued two CBOs, one in Wallingford, the other in Abingdon.
13. If residents don't feel able to report ASB directly to the police, they can contact the district council's community safety team by phone, email, website report form or in person to report the incident. The issues reported to the team are varied and range from neighbour disputes to racist abuse and harassment. We investigate and risk

assess cases, working in partnership with relevant agencies and providing updates to the complainant until the issue has been resolved. This service provides residents who are unable or unwilling to report ASB to the police with an effective alternative reporting option. Victims/witnesses have a single point of contact for their case and feel actively supported by the councils. Acting as a 'critical friend', the community safety team ensures that appropriate and joined up action is taken by agencies to resolve cases.

ASB case study

The ASB Co-ordinator at the council received reports from a resident complaining about young people climbing over a wall in Didcot and throwing slate tiles which caused considerable damage to the vehicle of the occupant of the property. Police were aware of the problems, but had difficulty catching the perpetrators as they would escape into a nearby field as soon as they saw the police arriving.

The ASB Co-ordinator arranged for the Mears' small repairs team to apply some Prikka strip to the wall to prevent young people from climbing it. A guardcam (a covert camera) was installed to help reassure the occupant and to help police identify the perpetrators. No further incidents have been reported. The guardcam remains in place to ensure that repeat offences are captured.

14. In addition, the CSP helps to fund local community based projects that aim to improve young people's resilience and divert them away from committing ASB. Progress updates on the delivery of these projects are included in the attached CSP Q3 performance report (Appendix A).

Outcomes from a CSP funded ASB diversionary project in Henley

From September 2014 to August 2015, the CSP funded Nomad to run a project in Henley to help divert vulnerable young people away from drug and substance misuse. Activities included:

- hosting seven performances of the play 'Mum Can you lend me Twenty Quid'. The play demonstrates how substance misuse destroys families. This play was delivered to approximately 800 young people and parents.
- supporting young people, known to be misusing substances, on a weekly basis to encourage positive choices and raise aspirations for their futures.
- supporting families where parents are known drug users by providing family workshop sessions.

Nomad made 7920 interventions with young people and their parents. A breakdown of these interventions shows the following:

- 220 one to one parent interventions
- 625 one to one young people interventions (aged between 10 and 21 years)

Of these one to one interventions:

- 330 were identified as having a direct involvement in substance misuse
- 243 were identified as having a family member involved in substance misuse or a family history of involvement
- 265 interventions were considered to be directly preventative.

Of the total interventions that were made we identified that in at least 2467 of those interventions there was a substance misuse issue and informal preventative measures were delivered.

Case studies from the project:

1. One young parent (19 years old) who was involved heavily in substance misuse between the ages 15 and 17 years attends weekly young parent group, has completed levels 1&2 (half a grade C, GCSE) in English and is sitting GCSE English in November 2015 with the intention of finding employment.
2. One young person (aged 19 years) known to be misusing substances, having failed college exams, receives weekly mentoring and has been supported into part time employment. This young person lives with an alcoholic parent who also receives support along with a younger sibling. Nomad referred the parent to drug services and Turning Point are supporting her with her alcohol abuse.
3. John (name has been changed) has been known to Nomad for approximately 14 years when he moved to Henley with his mother from a family refuge following domestic violence that had been fuelled by drug misuse. He was excluded from his first primary school after three weeks. He continued to struggle with school attendance, finally leaving with no qualifications. He received considerable support from Nomad during that time. John has been in trouble with police, been involved in substance misuse and had very little aspirations for his life. In July 2015, Nomad were approached by a local business offering one of their young people an apprenticeship and they considered John for this position. The company were made aware of the risks and John was interviewed and taken on for a trial period in September 2015. After six weeks he was taken on full time and is studying for his Maths and English levels 1&2 (half a grade C, GCSE) with the Nomad Learning Project. His mother reports that he has changed for the better and has reduced his drug use and has more hope for the future.

15. The community safety team is responsible for running Joint Agency Tasking (JATAC), a sub group of the CSP which tackles community safety issues that due to their scale, complexity or potential impact, need a multi-agency approach. Officers from Thames Valley Police, community safety, environmental health, housing, Soha, Sovereign Vale, Mental Health, youth services, environment agency, Fire & Rescue and other agencies share resources, knowledge and data on a monthly basis to support:

- repeat victims of ASB
- medium/high risk ASB victims
- families in need of intervention to avoid ASB
- domestic abuse victims
- prolific offenders
- vulnerable individuals (e.g. homeless individuals, repeat missing young persons, individuals at risk of radicalisation, concerns of child sexual exploitation)

16. JATAC provides a framework for holding responsible agencies to account for the actions they've taken to support vulnerable residents and identifying any further

action needed. The cases brought to JATAC are difficult to solve. In addition, what may appear to be a low level incident can be masking more complex issues.

JATAC case studies

1. A case this year focused on repeat reports of noise nuisance. However, when fully investigated by all agencies at JATAC, the problem turned out to be domestic abuse and a child protection matter. The necessary child protection referrals have been made and the case is ongoing.
2. Another case involved complaints of a neighbour whose behaviour was cause for concern. When investigated initial concerns were around fire safety and reassurance was provided to neighbouring residents. However, the case review identified concerns for mental health and criminal acts of theft. The offender was sentenced for the crimes committed as the mental health assessment revealed the neighbour had capacity.
3. A case involved a caravan that was situated on the highway. When investigated the health and wellbeing of occupants was identified as the biggest concern and actions were taken by partners in order to support this family.

17. The CSP has a legal duty to provide a Community Trigger, in accordance with the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This mechanism gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to review cases of persistent anti-social behaviour if they feel the issues have not been properly addressed already. The trigger could be activated by a member of the public, a community or a business. Rather than set up a new panel, the CSP use JATAC as the ASB case review panel for the statutory Community Trigger process which maximises resources. The Community Trigger process is managed by the community safety team and we have received five triggers of which, three were in Didcot and two in Abingdon. Only one is currently open. The triggers that are closed have resulted in further agency support for example child protection plans and police prosecutions.

18. The CSP have also issued two Community Protection Notices (CPN) both in Wallingford and three Community Protection warnings, all in Didcot. A Community Protection warning is issued when an individual's behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. The team issue a warning prior to serving a notice. Should the individual breach that notice a fixed penalty notice of £100 will be issued. To date, no-one has breached therefore the notice to curtail individual behaviour is working.

TACKLING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

19. The community safety team runs Nightsafe, a multi-agency sub group of the CSP which delivers initiatives to help reduce late night violence and associated crime and disorder. Resources, knowledge and data from TVP, licensing, community safety, Public Health and Fire & Rescue are pooled to tackle premises of concern and key events (e.g. running joint test purchase operations to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage people and beer mat campaigns to ensure people who order a taxi only use licensed taxis).

20. The community safety team are currently introducing a Nightsafe award scheme. The Nightsafe awards scheme aims to reward best practice and promote safe licensed venues. The scheme assesses and rates licensed venues who will be awarded a bronze, silver or gold Nightsafe standard, depending upon which criteria the premises meets. Each premises will receive a certificate and window sticker to display the achieved bronze, silver or gold Nightsafe standard.
21. A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) made up of voluntary and statutory organisations was launched in Wantage and Grove in August 2015, to tackle underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. This is the first CAP in Oxfordshire and we are currently sharing best practice with Cherwell as they are looking to launch a CAP in Banbury. Free training to prevent sales of alcohol to those underage in has been provided to 17 staff from eight off-licence premises in Wantage and Grove with free materials for display (e.g. challenge 25 posters and it is an offence for adults to buy alcohol for under 18s). In addition, the Community Safety Projects Officer is working with the local secondary school on ways young people can influence their peers and be responsible role models.

TACKLING DOMESTIC BURGLARY, RURAL CRIME AND MANAGING OFFENDERS

22. The CSP continue to provide support to victims of burglary by funding a small repairs/ target hardening service to help vulnerable victims of crime stay and feel safe in their own homes. Referrals are currently low due to the absence of a Crime Reduction Adviser due to recruiting problems.
23. In addition, the CSP part funds a Community Relations Officer (employed by the police) to support and promote rural crime initiatives, providing prevention advice to rural communities.
24. The CSP also help offenders during their transition between offending and stability by providing funding to Compass Housing who manage ex-offenders. Further information is included in the attached Q3 CSP performance report which can be found in Appendix A.

Protecting Vulnerable People

TACKLING HUMAN EXPLOITATION (INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND MODERN SLAVERY) AND DOMESTIC ABUSE, RAPE AND FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

25. The CSP has agreed an action plan to raise awareness in South and Vale about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and how it can be prevented. It has commissioned a project in partnership with secondary schools to help young people recognise the dangers relating to risky behaviours and to engage them in making positive life choices.
26. In terms of reducing domestic abuse in South and Vale, the CSP has a statutory duty to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). These take place when a murder has been committed in either of the district areas and the victim and offender were in some form of relationship. The main aim of a review is to establish what lessons can be learned regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims. The community safety team is responsible for managing the DHR process. So far in 2015/16, the CSP has commissioned one DHR for three murders that happened in May 2015 in Didcot. It is

also continuing to oversee two DHRs, one in Abingdon (Hales Meadow) in 2014/15 and one in Didcot in 2013/14. The 2013/14 Didcot DHR is being run jointly with a Serious Case Review (SCR) due to the age of the victim and has been recently approved by the Home Office.

27. With funding from the CSP, Mears provides a small works sanctuary scheme to help people suffering from domestic abuse stay safe in their own homes. Details of how this service has been used so far in 2015/16 can be found in the attached Q3 CSP performance report (Appendix A).

28. The CSP continues to fund a dedicated outreach service for women, men and children whose lives have been disrupted by domestic abuse in South and Vale. On behalf of the CSP, A2 Dominion provides 61 hours of domestic abuse services each week across both districts. They also set up and run help groups and enable those in need to draw upon a range of resources, for example, providing a local help-line service and refuge accommodation. Further information on this service is included in the attached South Oxfordshire and Vale, Domestic Outreach Service, Q3 report (Appendix D).

29. The community safety team supported the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) summer campaign by raising awareness of the crime within South and Vale external and internal publications.

Domestic abuse outreach service – a case study from 2015 (Q3) (names have been changed)

Aysi called the helpline in May 2015 seeking support regarding incidents of domestic abuse from her husband Amara. Aysi and Amara have five children under the age of nine and both are Black African. Aysi has experienced years of physical, mental and emotional abuse from her husband. He has always been excessively jealous and accuses Aysi of having affairs. Things got worse when Amara brought a spiritual leader in to the family home. Aysi, having recently given birth to twins was forced to sleep on the sofa with her children whilst Amara and the spiritual leader slept in the bedrooms.

Amara became more and more under the spiritual leader's control and this led to a severe physical incident whereby he pulled out Aysi's hair and beat her repeatedly. Aysi did not report this to the police but has taken photos and now has to wear a wig.

Aysi wants to leave Amara, however he is controlling both her financially and physically (e.g. not allowing her to drive). She is frightened that Amara will harm her and children spiritually, her fear of this is greater than the physical abuse.

Aysi is aware of what she needs to do to keep herself and her children safe. Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Outreach Service contacted a police specialist unit in London called 'Project Violent' which is a response to abuse based on faith and belief. They signposted them to an African Community Forum in London. The outreach worker and Aysi met with the service co-ordinator for black African communities and other professionals in London who have an understanding of the situation. The community leader spoke to Aysi about spiritual abuse and made it clear to her that whatever spirits Amara can inflict on her, she has a greater power to overcome them and she must believe that she cannot be hurt and the need to leave him in order to keep her and her children safe.

Aysi has become more positive and stronger and is working with the outreach worker on her decisions. Her support continues.

Communicate with the public to learn of their concerns, help to prevent crime and reduce their fear of crime

30. We support the police in raising key messages through the Thames Valley Alert Service to our residents about current crime trends and crime reduction initiatives. For example, raising awareness on reporting hare coursing, how to report to the new hate crime service, and encouraging people to mark their property with Smartwater to help prevent burglaries.

Protect the public from serious organised crime, terrorism and internet based crime

TACKLING COUNTER-TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

31. The CSP has agreed a PREVENT action plan in accordance with Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on local authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The Community Safety Manager regularly attends the Oxfordshire Channel Panel meetings. Channel provides a mechanism for ensuring that individuals identified as vulnerable to radicalisation are referred to and assessed by a multi-agency panel which decides on the most appropriate support. The Channel process uses existing partnership working between the police, local authorities, statutory partners, and the local community to support those who are vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism by: **identifying** individuals and groups at risk of being recruited by violent extremists; **assessing** the nature and extent of that risk through multi-agency panels; and **referring** cases to intervention providers (as required) to develop the most appropriate support package to safeguard the individual at risk.

32. With regards to Cyber-Crime, the community safety team promoted ‘Get Safe Online’ week to raise awareness of online crime through Twitter.

Anticipated direction of travel for the CSP in 2016/17

33. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has advised CSPs that the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan would not be updated in 2016/17 due to the forthcoming elections. Therefore the CSP will keep these existing priorities for their rolling annual plan. Although local priority crime and ASB will continue to feature in CSP’s work, we expect the plan to have a greater emphasis on tackling domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation and helping protect missing persons and vulnerable adults.

Financial Implications

34. The PCC has announced that the CSP funding for 2016/17 will be cut by one per cent. The Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership receives the funding for Oxfordshire and agrees the formula for allocation with partners. The South and Vale CSP funding for 2016/17 will remain static i.e. £117,000.

Legal Implications

35. None

Risks

36. None

Other Implications

37. None.

Conclusion

38. The CSP continues to deliver projects to meet the needs of local communities and ensure that statutory functions are delivered. The CSP anticipates the need to continue to focus on protecting vulnerable people when it sets its priorities for 2016/17.

Background Papers

None