

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

**Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011/12**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Margaret Sherry
Relevant Head of Service	Angela Heighway
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the 2011/12 Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- 1.2 The contents of this report outline the main local priorities within the plan and highlight some of the key challenges in tackling local priorities.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the priorities within the Community Safety Partnership Plan be acknowledged; and
- 2.2 The board consider areas of interest within the plan that could be included in the overview and scrutiny work programme for further investigation.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In community safety, it has become more evident that a range of organisations and agencies working together deliver more effective and long lasting solutions than any one agency working alone. It is recognised that all agencies have a part to play in tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour; it is the role of the Community Safety Partnership to facilitate an environment for effective partnership working and coordinate delivery at a local level.
- 3.2 In place of nationwide mandates from Government, the onus is now on Community Safety Partnerships to understand the full breadth of crime and community safety issues in their local area and be able to demonstrate effective action to address them.
- 3.3 Following recommendations arising from the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships are now required to carry out an annual assessment of crime, disorder, and the harm caused by substance misuse to inform the development of a three year Community Safety Partnership Plan, refreshed annually.

- 3.4 An annual assessment ensures that the Community Safety Partnership is making intelligence-led and evidence-led decisions. This assists the partnership to work within defined budgets and with a focus to address a wide range of community safety issues that are of the greatest importance to communities and that the partnership are best suited to address effectively.
- 3.5 The annual assessment is conducted by the partnership's analyst who uses a variety of data sources from all of the partner agencies to build an understanding of local crime and community safety issues. The analyst will source data from police, the local authority, the fire and rescue service, the probation trust, local landlords such as BDHT, from PACT meetings, local surveys and many other sources.
- 3.6 Once this assessment has been completed, the findings are discussed amongst partners who sit on the steering group. The assessment is considered alongside local, regional and national drivers; a set of local priorities are then created and adopted.
- 3.7 This year the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan only spans 12 months in light of financial pressures and potential partnership re-structures from April 2012. The latest strategic assessment identified six local priorities; they are domestic burglary, domestic abuse, youth related anti-social behaviour, disorder linked to the night time economy, protecting vulnerable people from the harm caused from ASB and environmental crime. For marketing purposes and in recognition of their links with each other these priorities sit within three themes; Secure Homes, Safer Streets and Public Places, and Protecting Communities
- 3.8 For each priority The Community Safety Partnership Steering Group will provide some parameters for the tasking group to work in appendix 1.
- 3.9 The Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group will create a local delivery plan to coordinate the efforts and resources of partners to tackle the priorities set. These delivery plans are evolving throughout the year to ensure they are flexible enough to meet changing demands, and address emerging issues
- 3.10 A partnership plan is also published. This is a public document which summaries the priorities of the partnership and the actions they will undertake. It will also give a brief introduction to the partnership and an outline of the partner agencies with it.
- 3.11 The partnership plan is published on the Bromsgrove District Council website and is available to members of public on request. The current partnership

plan is currently out for consultation with partners and will be available to the public in July. A copy of the partnership plan can be seen in Appendix 2.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Dwelling burglary is often linked to known offenders in hot spot areas such as Alvechurch, Wythall, Barnt Green, Cofton Hackett and Rubery. Bromsgrove District has the highest volume of offences than any other district/borough in the County. This is possibly due to its proximity to large conurbations such as Birmingham and Sandwell, and its vast road network providing easy access and egress to perpetrators.
- 4.2 The detection of burglary is the task of the police but the role of prevention and public reassurance is best suited to a multi-agency response. In 2011/12 the Bromsgrove CSP will be setting up a home security initiative to give residents the information and guidance they need to secure their property. The initiative will also give support through home security assessments to victims and those that are identified as vulnerable. In some cases this may include financial support to make essential security improvements.
- 4.3 Bromsgrove Town Centre is statistically a safe place to be during the evening compared to other town centres around the County with relatively low levels of violent crime, and other disorder linked to the night time economy. The Bromsgrove CSP chose to include the night time economy as one of their priorities in recognition of the importance to maintain a safe environment with the town centre at night by supporting current initiatives such as CCTV and the pub watch scheme as well as provide professional guidance to the regeneration programme.
- 4.4 Bromsgrove CSP has a strong history of investing in tackling environmental crime in recognition that an area that looks uncared for is an area that attracts crime and anti-social behaviour. This year Bromsgrove CSP are focusing on tackling graffiti but also building on its previous efforts to make environmental improvements that deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Survey data also highlights the importance amongst residents of the importance of clean streets.
- 4.5 Bromsgrove CSP will be assisting the local authority in developing a graffiti management strategy and set up systems and processes that will aid the detection of perpetrators of graffiti. Efforts will also be made to explore ways in which the community can get involved in tackling environmental

crime and in schemes such the community pay back scheme whereby low level offenders undertake unpaid work in communities.

- 4.6 Domestic abuse incidents are largely unreported however a recent piece of analytical work and research undertaken by Bromsgrove CSP highlighted some key areas of support needed in specific areas of the district. Domestic Abuse as a priority is also warranted by the impact such incidents have on victims, their families and the community.
- 4.7 Bromsgrove CSP has recently developed actions aiming to improve the skills of front line officers to recognise abusive relationships and support victims. The CSP will also facilitate multi-agency coordination to support victims and increase the awareness of services to the wider community. Educational resources are also being explored to start raising awareness amongst young people.
- 4.8 Last year there were significant reductions in reported youth related anti-social behaviour; the largest reductions in the County. The harm caused by alcohol consumption amongst young people is significant and CSP resources this year aim to continue the positive action taken against youth related disorder, but also support young people and their families to address their alcohol consumption.
- 4.9 Finally the CSP are also facilitating partnership working to support people who are at risk of serious harm to themselves, other or the environment as a result of their experiences of crime, anti-social behaviour or through their own vulnerability. This work is essential in light of recent high profile cases such as the Fiona Pilkington case which is ended in fatal consequences.
- 4.10 The most significant challenge Bromsgrove CSP has faced in the context of its delivery is the removal of national indicator set and the local performance framework for local area agreements. The outcome measures (success measures) and targets associated with this framework have previously provided the CSP with a way to measure success of its projects and interventions.
- 4.11 Community Safety Partnerships are now required to identify local measures of success. This can sometimes be simple when trying to reduce the level of burglary offences which can be measured against police data however difficulty arises when trying to achieve increases in confidence, reductions in the fear of crime or non-crime community concerns where perceptions are no longer recorded as it was in the place survey.

- 4.12 Bromsgrove CSP has faced some significant challenges this year including a reduction in its Community Safety Grant. This reduction equated to an 18% reduction compared to the previous year. Two of the four partnerships within Worcestershire received an increase in their grant with Bromsgrove receiving the greatest reduction of the two partnerships that received less grant funding.
- 4.13 Bromsgrove CSP has been able to maintain its financial support for project delivery in 2011/12 compared to previous years through sourcing other funding and utilising earmarked reserves from previous financial years however this financial challenge will become further difficult knowing that the Community Safety Fund for Worcestershire will be reduced by a further 40%.
- 4.14 Other challenges that Bromsgrove CSP face includes the introduction of an independent police and crime commissioner which has been proposed through the police reform and social responsibility bill currently being debated in the House of Lords. The commissioner would have responsibility to publish a police and crime plan, set local police and crime objectives and set the budget which would include the Community Safety Grant.
- 4.15 These financial challenges and the introduction of a police and crime commissioner have placed all Community Safety Partnerships in a period of change. Bromsgrove CSP will need to consider its future partnership arrangements to sustain its strategic strength and maintain its delivery.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan meets all legislative requirements including:
- a) Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
  - b) Police and Justice Act 2006; and
  - c) Policing and Crime Act 2009

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

8.1 Council Objective 3: One Community

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 None

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan aims to improve the quality of life to make Bromsgrove a safer place to live, work and visit. The contents of the plan give direction to partner agencies to coordinate efforts and resources by setting priorities and parameters for the deliver of crime and disorder reduction activities.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This report is to inform members of the content of the Community Safety Partnership Plan which will itself have an equality impact assessment completed. There are no equality and/or diversity implications on this scrutiny report.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

12.1 None

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

13.1 None

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

16.1 Decisions taken by Bromsgrove District Council with regard to the level of commitment towards the Community Safety Partnership Plan will directly affect the levels of crime and disorder within the District as will the delivery of community safety and environmental services provided by the authority in line with this plan.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17.1 None

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 None

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 The Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan has input from all of the agencies that make up the partnership. The plan is adopted formally by the responsible authorities at the Community Safety Partnership Steering Group.

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	
Chief Executive	
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	
Head of Service	YES
Head of Resources	
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic	

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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Services	
Corporate Procurement Team	

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards affected

**22. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Bromsgrove CSP 2011-12 Themes and Priorities

Appendix 2 Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011-12

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**24. KEY**

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