

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2010

**Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Michael Webb
Relevant Head of Service	Angela Heighway
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the 2010/11 refresh of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- 1.2 The contents of this report outline the main local priorities within the plan and briefly highlight some of the key challenges in tackling local priorities.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to:

- 2.1 note the priorities outlined within the 2010/11 refresh of the Community Safety Partnership Plan; and
- 2.2 Consider areas of interest within the plan that the crime and disorder scrutiny panel may wish to include in their future 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.

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- 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 budget and with a full range of community safety issues to address, the assessment helps priorities the partnership's efforts to reduce crime and disorder.
- 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 others. A summary of this assessment can be found in the 'Partnership Plan' pages 16-19 of appendix 1.
- 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 by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.7 The Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 is now in its third and final refresh. The latest strategic assessment identified four local priorities; they are youth related anti-social behaviour, acquisitive crime, violent crime and environmental crime.
- 3.8 For each priority The Community Safety Partnership Steering Group will provide a defined summary of the problem with an outcome measure and some perimeters for the Tasking Group to develop annual delivery plans. A summary of the priorities can be seen in the 'Partnership Plan' pages 20-25 of appendix 1.
- 3.9 The Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group will create a local delivery plan against each priority to coordinate the efforts and resources of partners to achieve the outcomes set by the steering group.
- 3.10 The partnership plan will also give a brief outline of the partner agencies, a description of key legislation, the current performance framework, a risk register and an outline of planned and opportunities for communications and community engagement.

3.11 The partnership plan is published on the Bromsgrove District Council website and is available to members of public on request.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The youth related anti-social behaviour problem in Bromsgrove has been defined as: Youths hanging around recreation areas within St Johns, Charford, Alvechurch Rubery and Catshill often engaging in alcohol misuse, rowdy nuisance behaviour, and vandalism and criminal damage; predominantly between 6pm and 10pm on Fridays and Weekends during the spring and summer months; especially during school holidays.
- 4.2 The Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group has developed an action plan to tackle youth related ASB. This action plan includes providing additional positive activities in Sanders Park during the school summer holidays and activities in Catshill. The action plan focuses on tackling underage alcohol misuse by targeting premises to prevent proxy sales of alcohol and carrying out confiscations of alcohol in parks and open spaces. An additional project is in development which will enable the police to refer those who are persistently found misusing alcohol to a programme of education and support which will include a joint visit home from a police officer and youth worker to encourage parental responsibility.
- 4.3 The acquisitive crime problem within Bromsgrove has been defined under three strands: firstly dwelling burglary often linked to known offenders in hot spot areas such as Cofton Hackett/Barnt Green, Rubery, Wythall, Alvechurch as well as Charford and Whitford – Offences are more common in the second half of the financial year.
- 4.4 Secondly, non-dwelling burglary occurs more frequently through the summer months in Wythall, Catshill, Stoke Prior and Lickey end – offences involve sheds including allotment and other buildings in secluded areas.
- 4.5 Finally, theft from motor vehicles occurring in beauty spots during weekends and holiday periods as a result of valuables left in vehicles – there are also TFMV offences occurring in residential areas such as Charford, Sidemoor, Catshill, Rubery and Wythall.
- 4.6 The Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group has developed a delivery plan, which focuses on offering reassurance to residents as the volume of domestic burglary offences around the district are relatively low but the fear of becoming a victim continues to be high. There is a hot spot area across

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Wythall and Alvechurch which the tasking group is considering a local SMARTwater campaign.

- 4.7 Neighbourhood Wardens will be delivering a targeted campaign at allotments and stables using advice and practical support to assist people to make their sheds and buildings less vulnerable.
- 4.8 Police and Neighbourhood Wardens will be delivering a programme of high visibility presence at the beauty spot car parks around the District at key times to deter opportunistic thieves in a bid to reduce the volume of thefts from motor vehicles.
- 4.9 The Violent Crime problem within Bromsgrove is two fold, firstly assaults with less serious injury are often alcohol related and connected with the night time economy on Friday and Saturday evenings – offences occur in the Town Centre and on route to local dwellings in Sidemoor and Charford between midnight and 2am; offenders are mostly male between 14 – 24 years old. Secondly domestic violence offences equates to nearly a third of all violent crime and occurs mostly in Charford, Sidemoor and St Johns (Burcot Lane); repeat offences and multiple victims increase the volume of reported domestic violence.
- 4.10 The Community Safety Partnership Tasking Group has developed a local delivery plan to tackle Violent Crime. This plan includes conducting research into the problem to clarify the true nature of the problem. An analysis into domestic violence within the Charford area is being completed as well as assessment of the current strategies which are used to manage the night time economy.
- 4.11 The tasking group are also planning to develop a domestic violence project targeted at both victims and offenders within the Charford area once a problem profile has been completed and zero tolerance to violence campaign in the town centre.
- 4.12 The environmental crime problem has been defined as issues such as litter, graffiti and damage to fences and public property are linked to young people hanging around during Friday evenings, weekends and school holidays. There is also a link with litter from hot food takeaways and damage in relation to the night time economy. Main areas of concern are St Johns (Bromsgrove Town Centre), Charford and Rubery.
- 4.13 The tasking group have yet to create a delivery plan to tackle the environmental crime issues in Bromsgrove but this will be completed following their tasking meeting in October. It is likely that the delivery plan

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will include specific actions to clear areas of historical graffiti and develop strategies to manage graffiti in the long term.

- 4.14 In addition to the challenges of operating within a changing financial, policy and legislative climate, there are a number of key local challenges facing the Community Safety Partnership to effectively tackle the priorities outlined in the partnership plan.
- 4.15 Following national media coverage anti-social behaviour has become a high profile subject in the public domain. This has raised awareness of the impact of ASB on communities and raised expectations amongst residents to take firmer action against perpetrators.
- 4.16 Since April 2010 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to reduce reoffending. Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership are awaiting steer from County in meeting this statutory duty which will involve developing a local strategy or being part of a County strategy. A large proportion of acquisitive crime is committed by re-offenders and in Bromsgrove there is a particular problem with tackling cross border crime from re-offenders in Birmingham and Sandwell.
- 4.17 Violent Crime is a crime type which Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership has failed to reduce within the District over recent times. This is due the influence of alcohol within the night time economy and within the community. This year alone (2010/11) violent crime offences have increased by 22% when compared to the same period last year (2009/10).
- 4.18 All of these challenges have to be taken into consideration alongside the tightening and in some cases reductions of budgets across all partners, and within a evolving climate of policy and legislative change.

#### **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.

19.2 The plan is available for the community to view through the Bromsgrove District Council website and available to members of the public on request.

**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	

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Head of Service	YES
Head of Resources	
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	
Corporate Procurement Team	

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards affected

**22. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-11 (2010/11 Refresh)

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**24. KEY**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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