

TITLE	Development of the Wokingham Community Safety Strategy 2018/21
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health and Wellbeing Board on 12 October 2017
WARD	None Specific
KEY OFFICER	Julia Mlambo, Interim Community Safety Partnership Manager

Reason for consideration by Health and Wellbeing Board	To improve partnership links between community safety and public health policy.
Relevant Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority	The Community Safety Strategy links to the 'enabling and empowering resilient communities' priority. The CSP has adopted 'Champion the resilience of local communities as one of its four priorities.
What (if any) public engagement has been carried out?	Statutory guidance states that Community Safety Partnership should include the community when setting priority, this is planned for the early part of 2018.
State the financial implications of the decision	There are no additional costs associated with this report. The costs of developing the community safety strategy will be included in within existing budgets.

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This paper concerns the development of a Community Safety Strategy for 2018 to 2021. The aim of the strategy is to reduce crime within Wokingham by supporting victims, reducing offending and diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system, by directing resources and interventions to people and communities most in need.

Addressing community safety priorities has a documented beneficial effect on Health and Wellbeing of the local population. Examples of this include addressing the health and related needs of victims and offenders by enabling them to access relevant support services, reducing fear of crime thus improving mental wellbeing and addressing public health concerns for example reducing alcohol misuse by encouraging responsible licensing practices.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board support the development of a Community Safety Strategy to drive forward the Borough's crime reduction activities from 2018 to 2021.

The development of the strategy will be led by the interim Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Manager, with the support of key officers within the Council and partnership agencies such as the Police, CCG, the National Probation Service etc.

SUMMARY OF REPORT The report outlines the process of developing a community safety strategy within Wokingham Borough Council. It outlines the Borough's statutory responsibilities as well as potential benefits for the Council and its partners.

Background

Wokingham Council does not have a current Community Safety Strategy. This is despite the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (as amended by Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011) placing a statutory duty on all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare and implement a partnership plan to reduce crime, substance misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within their areas.

The 1998 Act also requires that Community Safety strategies be informed by document called a strategic assessment which comprises of local data aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of crime and disorder related need in their area. Although Wokingham CSP has not produced a strategy for a number of years, it has a current strategic assessment, which was written in 2016.

This strategic assessments comprises of data and information from Thames Valley Police, Wokingham Council, Public Health, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Services etc. The assessment has enabled Wokingham CSP to set priority areas and address them in order to reduce overall crime, support victims and build resilient communities.

The CSP identified the following as their crime reduction priorities:

- **Priority One - Domestic Abuse**, the CSP has produced a three year domestic violence strategy includes actions to prevent domestic violence, improve provision and reduce the risk from domestic violence perpetrators.
- **Priority Two - Serious Organised Crime** which looks to disrupt organise crime networks and making sure that Thames Valley Police have access to intelligence from members of the community, in order to have an impact on the activities of organised crime networks.
- **Priority Three - Child sexual exploitation (CSE)** focussing on cyberbullying, children sharing personal images inappropriately and working with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to improve the safety of children and young people.
- **Priority Four - Champion the resilience of local communities** by working with them to improve their own ability to address crime and community safety priorities within their own communities.

Analysis of Issues

Currently, the CSP reviews progress against priorities at each community safety meeting. As part of the performance management framework an analyst from the Council gives an overview of performance, highlighting any issues of concern. This seems to have worked well and the CSP currently has a good handle on short term community safety issues within the borough. However, it would seem that there is a need for a Wokingham wide Community Safety Strategy.

In addition to enabling the partnership to meet its statutory duty as outlined above, a comprehensive strategy would have a positive impact on the CSP's activities in the following ways:

- 1) It will enable it to mainstream crime and community safety issues by integrating CSP priorities into wider Wokingham Borough Council and Partnership strategies and plans for example:
 - The 21st Century Council model
 - Wokingham Borough Health & Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020
 - Council Plan 2014-2017
 - Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2017-21
 - LCSB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017
- 2) Bring together the strategies which the CSP oversees e.g. Prevent, Substance Misuse, Domestic Abuse Strategies, and ensure that they work together effectively.
- 3) Have an impact on areas of need which have not been addressed by the current CSP priorities due to the low numbers of incidents, for example addressing sexual violence.
- 4) Enable the CSP review its subgroup structure in order to make it more streamlined, reduce any duplication, maximise the case management function and clarify lines of accountability.
- 5) Better direct the partnership's financial resources and improve commissioning. In addition, a clearer idea of needs and priorities could support the development of bids for additional funding where it is available.
- 6) Improve partnership working by CSP members by enabling them to more clearly identify shared strategic priorities and outcomes, addressing them through joint working.

Next steps

- The next step in the process will be to refresh the 2016 strategic assessment to include data on recent and emerging issues.

The CSP Manager will be part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) working group, which will facilitate the sharing of relevant data key intelligence leads.

- The Community Safety Partnership will consult with partners including public health colleagues when setting its priorities for 2018 and 2021.

Partner Implications
As stated above the community safety strategy aims to improve partnership work by enabling the mainstreaming of crime and community issues into wider Wokingham Borough Council and Partnership strategies and plans.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
None

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