

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 2015/16 – HALF YEAR REPORT

Report of the: Chief Executive
Contact: Kelvin Shooter – Officer to the Community Safety Partnership
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 - Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership Strategy & Action Plan 2015/16
Other available papers (not attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

This report informs the Committee of the work of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the first half of 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

- (1) **The Committee is asked to note and comment on the work and expenditure of the CSP for the first half of 2015/16.**

Notes

1 Implications for the Council’s Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 The Council has the following priority for 2015/16: ‘Safer and stronger communities – promote safer, more active and caring communities’. This encompasses a commitment from the Council to work with the Police and other organisations to reduce anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime and the wider issues associated with creating a safe environment to reside, work and study in.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 set up the requirement for local authorities and police authorities to jointly conduct crime & disorder audits and based upon those audits develop strategies to deal with identified issues. This was managed under the banner of ‘Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership’.

- 2.2 Over the years this has evolved through legislation, such as the Police & Justice Act 2006, and operational necessity to include organisations such as Fire and Rescue, The Probation Service and Health. To reflect the wider partnership the name was changed to become 'Community Safety Partnership'. This Act also provided an opportunity for the work of the local CSP to be scrutinised.
- 2.3 The Policing & Social Responsibility Act 2011 removed the Police Authorities and replaced them with Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC). With regard to the PCCs engagement with a CSP the 2011 Act has removed the mandatory requirement for the PCC to take over the previous role of the Police Authority and have left it to the PCC and CSP to decide the best way to work together.
- 2.4 Prior to the 2011 Act the CSP received funding directly from the Home Office to cover its operating costs and to finance the undertaking of the strategic work it had agreed in the action planning process. As a result of the 2011 Act this funding was removed from the CSP and given to the office of the corresponding Police & Crime Commissioner. The Surrey PCC does not currently fund the operating costs of the Borough CSPs. The CSP can bid for grants PCC grants for specific projects that meet the PCC criteria.
- 2.5 The purpose of this report is to present the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the on-going work of the CSP.

3 2015/16 Partnership Strategy

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee held in June 2015, the Committee was updated on the agreed on-going strategic direction of the CSP.
- 3.2 The strategy direction is based upon the statutory requirements placed upon the CSP and the resources available to it.

4 Action Plan

- 4.1 Points of note in the delivery of the action plan;
 - 4.1.1 A contribution has been made to the purchase of two Police off road motor cycles to tackle an increase in illegal use of motor cycles and recreational vehicles.
 - 4.1.2 Continued support for the Epsom & Ewell Street Pastors.
 - 4.1.3 Negotiating with Surrey Children's Services to reinstate the CRUSH project (healthy relationship building for young adults).
 - 4.1.4 Continued governance of the Surrey Supporting Families Programme.
 - 4.1.5 Use of the 'Joint Action Group' sub group of the CSP to tackle an upturn in youth ASB in parts of the Borough.

- 4.1.6 The use of the 'Community Incident Action Group' sub group of the CSP to identify individuals who are engaging in ASB/crime or are in imminent danger of doing so with a view to putting in place a multi-agency solution.

5 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 5.1 Whilst the CSP retains a reserve sufficient to meet its administration and statutory obligations there are no negative implications to the Council.
- 5.2 The CSP held a reserve of £83K at the start of 2015/16. It has currently spent £5K and has received £1.5K in income. A further £6K has been received that is ring-fenced for tackling youth ASB. £7K will be spent at the end of £2015/16 to cover the administration of the CSP for the year.
- 5.3 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** As set out in this report the Council retains a Community Safety reserve that had a balance of £83k as at the 1st April 2015.

6 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 6.1 None other than stated in the body of this report.
- 6.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** There are a number of general duties which the Council has in the exercise of its functions. Of particular relevance to this report are the duties under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. There is a general duty for the Council to have regard to the likely effect on, and the need to prevent: crime & disorder, the misuse of drugs alcohol & other substances, and reoffending. The 1998 Act also contains the specific duties on the Council and other public bodies to formulate and implement strategies in respect of the same issues. There is now also a general duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard, in the exercise of our functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Whilst that might not be considered a significant issue in Epsom & Ewell, it is something which should be considered as part of the work of the CSP.

7 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 7.1 This report supports the Council's Sustainability Policy Statement objective of creating sustainable communities by reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime, and encouraging community engagement in Community Safety issues.

8 Partnerships

- 8.1 The success of the work of the CSP depends upon the extent to which all partners co-operate to deliver recognisable improvements.
- 8.2 The principal agencies involved have been:
- 8.2.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (Statutory partner)

- 8.2.2 Surrey Police (Statutory partner)
 - 8.2.3 Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner (Partner by mutual agreement)
 - 8.2.4 Surrey County Council (Statutory partner)
 - 8.2.5 Rosebery Housing Association (Partner by mutual agreement)
 - 8.2.6 Public Health [Including the Surrey Downs CCG] (Statutory partner)
 - 8.2.7 The new organisation that replaces the Probation Service has yet to engage as a statutory member of the CSP.
- 8.3 However, others involved including community leaders, voluntary groups and the residents themselves are encouraged to engage with the CSP in matters that affect them and others in which they can contribute.

9 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The future role and funding of the Community Safety Partnership continues to be uncertain. The election of the Police & Crime Commissioner saw the Home Office funding transferred to the PCC. The provisions of the 2011 Policing & Social Responsibility Act allows a more flexible approach to how the CSP and PCC work together. No direct funding, other than for specific project grants, has been forthcoming from the PCC to District & Borough CSPs and there is no indication that this position will change in 2015/16.
- 9.2 The CSP has a residual fund which enables work to continue, although it is likely that annual expenditure will exceed income which will gradually deplete the reserve.
- 9.3 A number of the partner organisations are going through structural and organisational change at this time which may in the short term affect their ability to engage with the CSP, and in the long term their revised objectives may place differing demands upon the work of the partnership. The CSP benefitted in 2014/15 from the interest shown by the CCG for the Borough although this has not been maintained during the first half of 2015/16.
- 9.4 The amalgamation of the other Districts and Boroughs CSPs that fall within the same Policing Division as Epsom & Ewell is an option for the this CSP to join. The CSP is continuing to work with these Boroughs and should there found to be a demonstrable advantage in amalgamation at a time in the future, that option would be considered.

10 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 10.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment upon the review of the Community Safety Partnership performance, its action plan and method of operating over the first half of 2015/16.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL