

**EPSOM & EWELL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - END OF YEAR
REPORT 2016/17**

Report of the: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Contact: Kelvin Shooter

Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No

If yes, reason urgent decision
required:

Annexes/Appendices (attached):

Other available papers (not
attached):

REPORT SUMMARY

This report informs the Committee of the work and position of the Epsom & Ewell Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the year 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

- (1) The Committee is asked to note and comment on the work of the CSP for the year 2016/17.**

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

- 1.1 The concept of creating a safe and secure community is implicit across the services provided by the council. The CSP is a vehicle by which that concept can be achieved, and its work contributes to our Key Priority of "Supporting our Community".

2 Background

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 made it a requirement for local authorities and their respective police authorities to jointly undertake crime and disorder audits with a view to using the information to develop strategies for dealing with any issues the audit identified. This process was managed under the banner of 'Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (CDRP). To undertake the work identified as a result of the strategies the CDRPs received annual Home Office funding.

- 2.2 Subsequent legislation contained within the Police & Justice Act 2006 expanded the local partnerships to include Fire & Rescue, Probation Services and Health Services; the partnerships became known as 'Community Safety Partnerships' (CSP).
- 2.3 The Police & Justice Act 2006 also made it a requirement that CSPs should be scrutinised using the scrutiny process within local authorities.
- 2.4 The position of CSPs further changed in 2011 with the passing of the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act. This Act impacted upon CSPs in two significant ways, affecting their position and their ability to undertake work resulting from the strategies they were still required to undertake. Firstly the Police authorities were removed and replaced with Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) who had no statutory requirement to be part of the CSPs, leaving it to CSPs and PCCs to decide the relationship upon which they were going to operate in the future. Secondly, Home Office funding was removed from the CSPs and transferred to the PCCs. CSPs have no access to that funding aside from the ability to bid for small grants based upon meeting the objectives of the PCC.
- 2.5 The purpose of this report is to present the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee with an update of the work and position of the Epsom & Ewell CSP (E&ECSP).

3 CSP structure

- 3.1 As previously reported to this Committee, a review of the E&ECSP that took place following the 2011 changes highlighted the difficulties in delivering any meaningful action plans or in maintaining pro-active engagement of partners.
- 3.2 To mitigate the difficulties of delivering CSPs at a local level, the districts and boroughs within the East Surrey Police Command have amalgamated to form an East Surrey Community Safety Partnership (ESCSP). E&ECSP made an official request to the PCC as required under the relevant legislation to combine with Mole Valley District Council, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and Tandridge District Council in 2016. This was accepted by the PCC and the E&ECSP is now part of the ESCSP.
- 3.3 The ESCSP meets quarterly with representation from all the districts and boroughs, the other statutory partners, and other critical invited partners such as housing providers. The current chair and administrator roles are fulfilled by Tandridge District Council; the roles are rotated between the districts and boroughs on a two year cycle. Epsom & Ewell has now attended 3 ESCSP meetings and has been pleased to note the consistency or representation by the partners at each meeting.

- 3.4 Since combining with the ESCSP quarterly meetings have considered key issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Serious and organised crime, Antisocial Behaviour mapping and risk assessment and Modern slavery.
- 3.5 In addition to full ESCSP meetings, CSP/Local Authority Officers meet monthly with specialist officers from Surrey Police in relation to serious and organised crime and PREVENT (counter terrorism). These are two areas of public safety where local authorities have been given a recent mandate by central government to be pro-active in identification of any problems and to work with the police to seek remedies.

4 Community Incident Action Group (CIAG) and Joint Action Groups (JAG)

- 4.1 At the time of requesting a combination of local CSPs to form the ESCSP, it was determined by all the district and borough CSPs involved that there was still a need to retain the ability to address local community safety issues. It was also recognised that not all issues were relevant outside of a geographical area. For example, rural crime is not an issue that would need to be considered in Epsom & Ewell while in areas of a more rural nature in the ESCSP it would be. To ensure there were avenues by which these local issues could be addressed each original CSP area kept its CIAGs and JAGs.
- 4.2 CIAGs are used to bring a range of partners together in order to consider individuals that have been identified as involved in crime and/or antisocial behaviour (ASB). Epsom & Ewell CIAG meets monthly and is chaired and administered by the Epsom & Ewell Neighbourhood Police. At any one time over 2016/17 there have been between 10 to 15 individuals in two categories, youth and adults. The process also allows victims of crime and/or ASB to be considered. Individuals remain under the remit of the CIAG until deemed not to be engaged in crime and/or ASB. An individual can come under the remit of the CIAG at a later date if crime/ASB has been further associated with them.
- 4.3 JAGs are used where an issue or geographical area has been identified in relation to crime and/or ASB. A JAG is called to deal with a particular issue and are time limited, that is, they cease once a problem is removed or all possible solutions have been considered. If a JAG is closed it can be re-called if the problem resurfaces.
- 4.4 During 2016/17 JAGs were called for issues occurring in the Town Centre, two estates in the north of the Borough, an identified section of the community and the use of stolen motor scooters in crime/ASB.

5 Proposals

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note and comment on the work of the CSP for 2016/17.

6 Financial & Manpower Implications

- 6.1 All resources associated with the activities contained within the report were managed within the budget set out by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and the reserves held by Epsom & Ewell CSP.
- 6.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** The Community Safety spend is within budget and a reserve balance does exist for Community Safety.

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

- 7.1 The Community Safety Partnership is subject to the following legislation;
- The Crime & Disorder Act 1998
 - The Police & Justice Act 2006
 - The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 7.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *It is important that the Council continues to meet its obligations in respect of crime & disorder. Working with the East Surrey CSP presents the best opportunity to do this, having regard to the limited direct resources available to the Council and other partners for this important work.*

8 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 8.1 The ESCSP along with its subsidiary CIAGs and JAGs remain sustainable at this time although are subject to the input and engagement by the relevant partners.

9 Partnerships

- 9.1 The CSP is a partnership between statutory and non-statutory partners who are in a position to collectively provide solutions to crime and ASB.

10 Risk Assessment

- 10.1 The inherent risks of undertaking partnership work have been considered in meeting the statutory obligations of forming and delivering the CSP

11 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 11.1 The CSP will continue to address cross boundary and county wide community safety issues via the ESCSP while addressing local issues through its CIAGs and JAGs

WARD(S) AFFECTED: (All Wards);