

Safer and Stronger Board Questionnaire Results

3. Please describe your name, role on the board

- Questionnaires show representation from Voluntary and Community sector, Primary Care Trust (PCT), Health, Wycombe District Council, Bucks Fire and Rescue,

4. Please provide a few examples of the Board's major achievements

- I have only just joined the Board so I cannot comment.
 - Integrated Offender Management (IOM), I: on Bucks, Partnership working to reduce the fear of crime and communicating relevant messages to the public to help reduce crime. Joint Strategic Assessment with Thames Valley Police and all the Community Safety Partnerships.
1. Increasing the focus of Performance Management on crime rate, in particular serious acquisitive crime and seeing a significant fall.
 2. Developing an increased focus on integrated offender management approach to tackle the "whole life" approach to the management of crime.
 3. Setting up the i-on Bucks website and monitoring and information database to enable professionals and the public to access greater information about crime in their area.
 4. Making linkages with wider partnerships in, e.g. voluntary sector, sport etc. to encourage a more holistic view of tackling crime.
- Launch of I: on Bucks. Improvements in dealing with delivering shared outcomes.

5. Where do you think the Board currently is in terms of its stage of development – e.g. early formation, delivering shared outcomes, or fully developed?

- It appears to be unbalanced. I am told that it has always focused heavily on the Safer part of its remit and has given very little attention to the Stronger part. Certainly that was discussed at the meeting I attended. There had been plans to address this, but due to impending funding cuts it was decided that it is not possible to implement these.
- Delivering shared outcomes.
- Delivering shared outcomes – the Board now has a stronger angle on the need for focus on a small number of outcomes to be achieved which will make the most difference to the public.
- (A more "economical" approach to servicing the district council Community Safety Partnerships would assist in efficiency savings).

6. Please describe any major obstacles towards the Board's success

- As answer in point 5 above.
- Difficulties in collecting relevant data to be shared.

- No major obstacles.
 - Change of BCU commander every 18-20 months means a lack of continuity.
- 7. Please describe your understanding of how members are appointed to the Board?**
- PCT has a statutory duty to be part of this partnership.
 - Members are appointed to the Board as a result of their positions in their organisations, e.g. CDRP Chairman, or are nominated by partner organisations, e.g. reps from PCT, voluntary sector, fire and rescue etc.
 - By their constituent authorities.
- 8. How are decisions recorded?**
- Presumably in the minutes.
 - Administrator takes notes of each meeting, including decisions taken which are written up and shared with board members.
 - All meetings are fully minuted; minutes are circulated and distributed widely.
 - By minutes, and agreed as part of action plans.
- 9. Who makes sure decisions are acted on?**
- Chair of the Board.
 - Ultimately this is the responsibility of the Chair of the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board, but all members are responsible for ensuring decisions in their organisations are implemented.
 - Most actions are delegated to the implementation group, the minutes of which are discussed at the board.
- 10. Please describe your understanding of how the Board is held to account and by whom?**
- I believe it reports to the Bucks Strategic Partnership.
 - Bucks Strategic Partnership (BSP, Bucks County Council – Overview and Scrutiny).
 - The Safer & Stronger Partnership Board reports to the Bucks Strategic Partnership, a Member led body which oversees outcomes and steers priorities for the area.
 - By the O&S process of the councils.
- 11. As a Board member, please describe how you monitor and report progress against targets set by the Board**

- As stated at point 4 above, I have only just joined the Board and have not been given an induction so I don't know how this happens or what my role is in this.
- Progress reports are shared and discussed at each meeting. Actions are delegated to the Safer Bucks Co-ordinating Group.
- As CDRP Chair I take issues from my CDRP into the Safer & Stronger Partnership Board and vice versa. My own CDRP's performance management regime, working with other partners, monitors the implementation of outcomes and steers local priorities. Meetings of the community safety managers across the County with the Police feed in to this work as well as the work of the Safer & Stronger Partnership Board.
- Via routine board meetings and where appropriate via LAA meetings/Thematic groups.

12. Can you describe how issues are raised through the local Community Safety Partnerships through to the Board?

- Usually the chair of the local CSP puts issues on the Board agenda but any partner could.
- See response to question 11 above.
- Via the implementation group or directly by CEO at the SSPB.

13. How does the Board agree action on targets that are not likely to be met?

- Discussion and resulting plan agreed by consensus with delegated actions.
- Through discussion at the meetings, or, if urgent, by email.
- Exception reports are made and commence action agreed.

14. How do you demonstrate publicly that the partnership adds value?

- Through the Safer Bucks Plan. Each district has its own Community Safety Plan.
- The SSBPB has significantly increased its focus on communication and publicity to publicise the outcomes for the public as a result of what the partnership is doing.
- Improved visibility of I: on Bucks would help to publicise success and improvements.

15. How does the public know that the Board achieves value for money?

- Annual reports.
- Currently limited.

- An evaluation process for board initiatives would help demonstrate Value for Money.

16. Do you think the work of the Board is sufficiently accessible to the public?

- (Two people) Do not know.
- Improving greater public understanding of crime and disorder in the area is always challenging. Some of the work, by its very nature, needs to be kept confidential but increased publicity assists enormously in the public understanding of the local crime challenges, the significant improvements in crime for example, and challenges the high perception of crime that we have in Buckinghamshire.
- The SSPB is a private meeting but it does involve members of the police authority who also act in an ambassadorial role with the public to publicise what the board does. CDRPs often (including Wycombe) incorporate local members who add real value in a similar way. Incorporating local members in the SSPB could also assist in improving public accessibility.
- With only one elected member on the board, this is questionable.

17. Do you have any views on how O&S can assist in the development and achievement of the Board's objectives?

- By asking questions about the balance of its work and focusing attention on the stronger aspect of its remit.
- By talking about the work of the Board at other committees or meetings.
- Publicising the work of the Board, and in particular achievements and improvements in crime rates.
- O&S could play a key role in making C.S. partnerships less bureaucratic and less focused on D.C issues.

18. Councils are now required to scrutinise crime and disorder arrangements on an annual basis – particularly in relation to performance. For future reviews, do you have any views on how this could be most efficiently achieved/

- & SC could come out and visit projects on the ground.
- I believe the role of scrutiny could be improved by looking at specific targets, rather than wider remits.

19. Are there any other comments you wish to make?

- There is duplication of effort from partners attending each local CSP and the county CSP.