

WYCOMBE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2013-14 AND PRIORITIES FOR 2014-15.

Officer contact: Gillian Stimpson

Tel 01494 421404 Gillian.Stimpson@wycombe.gov.uk

What is the Commission being asked to do?

The Commission is asked to note the successful work of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership in 2013-14.

The Commission is requested to note and support the Priorities for 2014-15 for the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership.

Executive Summary

The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan (Appendix A) sets out the aims and objectives for the Partnership for the period from April 2014 to March 2015. The Plan explains the structure and system for conducting business and the contribution and commitment of partners. The plan is forward looking with a focus on community and tackling the issues that matter most to residents, businesses and visitors.

The Wycombe Community Safety Partnership (WCSP) regards the Plan as a living document that will build upon successes and identify areas where there is a need to focus resources and expertise.

Background and Issues

The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, in conjunction with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, sets out the requirements for discharging crime and disorder overview and scrutiny arrangements. Every local authority is required to have a designated crime and disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee with power to make recommendations regarding the functioning of their local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (locally the Community Safety Partnership). Wycombe District Council uses the Improvement and Review Commission for this purpose.

The regulations leave the frequency of meetings to local discretion, subject to the minimum requirement of once a year.

Progress during 2013-14

Between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014 there has been:

- A reduction of 46% in burglary dwelling offences (236 fewer victims)
- A reduction of over 35% of theft of motor vehicle offences (51 fewer victims)
- A reduction of almost 16% of theft from motor vehicle offences (130 fewer victims)
- 5% fewer violence against the person offences which have resulted in an injury (this equates to 29 fewer victims)
- 6% fewer violence against the person offences not resulting in an injury – for example this would include harassment, possession of weapons etc. (this equates to 44 fewer victims)
- An increase of serious sexual offences by 57% (this equates to 77 more victims)

- A reduction of over 6% in criminal damage offences (79 fewer victims)
- A reduction of 15% in Public Disorder offences
- A reduction of 15% of drug offences

In total Wycombe District has seen a reduction of almost 10% of all crime, which means there have been 866 fewer victims of crime during 2013/14.

The Partnership has achieved reductions in all the main recorded offences over the last 3 years. The only exception to this is the big increase for sexual offences which in the main have come in the aftermath of the Jimmy Saville case and are historic abuse offences

Crime type	% decreases 2011/12 to 2013/14
Burglary Dwelling	-64%
Theft of motor vehicle	-44%
Theft from motor vehicle	-33.5%
Violence against the person with injury	-11%
Violence against the person without injury	-22.5%
Serious Sexual Offences	+58%
Criminal Damage	-20%
Public Order	-32%
Drug Offences	-29%
All Crime	21.5%

Wycombe Community Safety Plan 2014-15

Thames Valley Police undertakes an annual Strategic Assessment of crime. This is then used to inform the priorities for policing and for partnership working. Within the Thames Valley Police Force Strategic Assessment, crimes are grouped within the following categories:

- Crimes that are of most concern to the community
- Protecting communities from the most serious harm
- Emerging issues

Within these categories, based on the crime data and analysis undertaken, the following have been identified as the proposed priorities for 2013/14 for the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership:

- Developing the Nightsafe Partnership
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and gang related activity
- Tackling property related crime
- Protecting our communities from violence and abuse

New and key existing areas of work

Wycombe continues to be identified as a priority area for Prevent, which is part of the Government's Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy. In the past Wycombe was a Prevent priority area from 2007-2010.

Prevent is the second strand of this strategy and has three main aims which are;

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and;
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

The Home Office required WDC to employ a Strategic Prevent Coordinator and has provided a grant for 2 years to cover their costs. We are now moving into year 2 of this work. The Officer employed works very closely with the Police and with key community contacts and organisations. The new Prevent Strategy is focused on safeguarding vulnerable individuals. In the past it had a strong cohesion element which is no longer funded by Government.

Identified last year as a key focus, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) continues to be an area the Partnership is working on. The Countywide CSE Sub Group of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is well established and is now chaired by WDC's Community Services Manager. This area has seen some considerable developments including a large awareness raising campaign. Work is now being undertaken on strengthening the CSE Strategy for the County along with further developing the awareness raising work.

October 2014 sees the introduction of new legislation to help tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). The ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Act mainly focuses on the new provisions around ASB powers and tools, bringing with it the biggest change in ASB powers since their introduction in 1998. The Act also looks at some other areas of work within Crime and Policing, such as forced marriages and firearms, but the focus of the Partnership's work will be around the ASB elements of the Act (parts 1-6 of the Act).

The Act, which applies in England and Wales, takes forward measures to:

- focus the response to anti-social behaviour on the needs of victims
- empower communities to get involved in tackling anti-social behaviour
- ensure professionals can protect the public quickly through faster, more effective powers and speed up the eviction of the most anti-social tenants

The anti-social behaviour provisions in the Act will consolidate the existing 19 ASB powers into 6 more flexible powers. Two new powers have also been introduced to help focus the response to such behaviour on the needs of victims. These are the Community Trigger and Community Remedy.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has now been in post since November 2012. In his Plan for 2013-4 he has identified the following as his priorities and objectives, which will be considered by the Partnership when the next Strategic Assessment is carried out during July - September 2014.

PCC's Strategic Priorities

1. Cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities (includes ASB)
2. Protect the visible presence of the police and partners to cut crime and the fear of crime and reassure communities
3. Communicate and engage with the public in order to cut crime and the fear of crime, and build trust and confidence with our communities
4. Work with criminal justice partners to reduce crime and support victims and witnesses
5. Ensure policing, community safety and criminal justice services of delivered efficiently and effectively

The current Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Plan already complements many of these priorities and objectives. The Partnership is at present undertaking the Strategic Assessment for 2015-16.

Conclusions/ Recommendations

Community Safety continues to face a very challenging time ahead. Crime has fallen consistently over a number of years and so to maintain or continue these reductions, will prove an increasingly difficult challenge.

There are a number of key areas of developing work for the Partnership which will continue to spotlight Wycombe, including Prevent and Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Commission is asked to acknowledge the achievements of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership during 2013-14 and to support its priorities for 2014-15.

Corporate and Financial Implications

The relevant legal and financial implications are set out within the body of the report.

Background Papers

The Wycombe Community Safety Plan 2014 -15 is held by Community Services Team and published on the Council's website.