

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN UPDATE*

Officer contact: Daniel Sullivan

Tel: 01494 421371 daniel.sullivan@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 2014-15.

The Commission is requested to note and support the Priorities for 2015-16 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 2015 to March 2016. 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.

Attending the meeting to present the update will be:

- Superintendent Ed McLean: Local Policing Area (LPA) Commander for the Wycombe LPA.
- Karen Satterford: Chair of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership.
- Daniel Sullivan: Prevent Strategic Co-ordinator, Wycombe District Council.

Background and Issues

The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 (as amended), 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 2014-15

Between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015 there has been a mixed picture in the direction of travel for the significant crime categories.:

- An increase of 9.2% in burglary dwelling offences (25 more victims)

- An increase of 26% of theft of motor vehicle offences (25 more victims)
- A reduction of 12% of theft from motor vehicle offences (82 fewer victims)
- There has been a significant increase in violence against the person offences which have resulted in an injury = 21% (this equates to 90 more victims)
- Not surprisingly there has also been an increase in violence against the person offences not resulting in an injury = 9.2%
- Harassment offences have decreased by 36.7% (this equates to 47 fewer victims)
- A decrease of 2.4% of non-rape sexual offences and an increase of 26.1% rape sexual offences (12 more victims)
- A reduction of just under 22% in public disorder offences
- An increase in the possession of drugs by 6.6%

In total Wycombe District has seen a reduction of 1.1% of all crime, which means the current picture is stable overall.

Summary of main crime types.

Crime type	% decreases 2014/5
Burglary Dwelling	+9.2%
Theft of motor vehicle	+26%
Theft from motor vehicle	-12%
Violence against the person with injury	+21.3%
Violence against the person without injury	+9.2%
Non Rape Sexual Offences	-2.4%
Rape Sexual Offences	+26.1%
Harassment	-36.7%
Public Order	-21.8%
Drug Possession	+6.6%
All Crime	-1.1

Wycombe Community Safety Plan 2015-16

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 2015/16 for the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership:

- Continue the work of the Nightsafe Partnership
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and gang related activity
- Tackling property related crime, including shoplifting
- Protecting our communities from violence, abuse and exploitation

Although they have not been included as individual priorities, the Community Safety Partnership is aware that drugs and alcohol fuel a large proportion of crime and anti-social behaviour and as such will feature in the work we undertake to tackle each of our priorities.

New and key existing areas of work

Prevent

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 2009-2011.

Prevent aims to reduce the risk of people becoming radicalised and then becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It does this operating in three main areas;

- Ideology
- Individuals
- Institutions

The Home Office funds a Strategic Prevent Coordinator, who 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 prioritised.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is recognised nationally as one of the most important challenges facing agencies today. It is a devastating form of abuse that can have damaging and long lasting impacts for children and their families.

Building on the work that has already been undertaken across Buckinghamshire, lessons learnt nationally and locally, statutory guidance and research, Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) have produced a draft Buckinghamshire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy which is currently being consulted upon with agencies across the county.

As the strategic lead for CSE the BSCB will oversee the Strategy, however it will also be supported by the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Agencies in Buckinghamshire are committed to tackling CSE by developing a strong multi-agency and child-centred approach in order to:

- Prevent CSE from happening and to stop existing CSE from continuing.
- Protect children who at risk of or become victims of CSE and ensure an appropriate multi-agency response is available to support them and their families. This includes support for adults who have disclosed CSE in their childhood and support for young perpetrators who we recognise are also likely to be victims of abuse themselves.
- Pursue and disrupt the perpetrators of CSE and support victims to safely disclose abuse and provide the evidence to prosecute offenders.

Anti-Social Behaviour

In March 2014 the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Act received Royal Assent. A central aim of the new legislation, in respect of anti-social behaviour, is to make the process for addressing such behaviour more victim centred. The legislation also aims to simplify the approach to preventing anti-social behaviour by consolidating the remedies within a single act.

The Act introduced six new tools to tackle anti-social behaviour:

- New anti-social behaviour injunctions known as Civil Injunctions
- Criminal Behaviour Orders (replacing the ASBOs)
- Dispersal Powers
- Community Protection Notices
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Closure of Premises Orders

Delegated authority has been granted by Cabinet to implement the new powers, and the police have been utilising the Dispersal Powers and have obtained two Criminal Behaviour Orders to date.

Conclusions/ Recommendations

The remit of the Community Safety Partnership is broadening to new and challenging areas, such as CSE, modern slavery and cyber-crime. But we need to ensure we address these whilst ensuring we tackle the more 'traditional' themes of community safety, which are still a priority for the community, such as acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Commission is asked to acknowledge the achievements of the Wycombe Community Safety Partnership during 2014-15 and to support its priorities for 2015-16.

Corporate and Financial Implications

This report contains no financial implications for the Council.

Next Steps

The Partnership Plan for 2016-17 will be presented to the Commission in September 2016.

Background Papers

The Wycombe Community Safety Plan 2015 -16 is held by Community Services Team and published on the Council's website.