



Communities Select Committee
19 May 2014

**Progress Report
Community Safety Partnerships**

Purpose of the report: This paper sets out progress made by the County Community Safety Board and District & Borough Community Safety Partnerships on recommendations made following the Scrutiny of Community Safety Partnerships held on 31 October 2013.

Introduction:

1. Following the Police and Justice Act 2006, Local Authorities are required to undertake annual scrutiny of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Surrey County Council's Communities Select Committee can meet the requirements of the Act as it has legal power to scrutinise and make reports or recommendations regarding the functioning of the responsible authorities that comprise a Community Safety Partnership.
2. The last scrutiny of Community Safety Partnerships took place on the 31 October 2013 and the following updates are provided in response to recommendations made at that meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Police and Fire Service safety campaigns be supported and driven through the Community Safety Board (CSB)

3. Both the Police and Fire Service are represented on the CSB and are encouraged to submit agenda items that require support, including any up and coming Safety Campaigns.
4. The Domestic Abuse agenda is already well supported by a multi agency DA Communications Group, a sub group of the DA Development Group, which co-ordinates high profile countywide campaigns and the annual Domestic Abuse Awareness week. A key achievement of this group was the launch of the countywide Surrey Against DA website: <http://www.surreyagainstda.info/>. The intention is to replicate this joint communications model for issues relating to Anti Social Behaviour.
5. Membership of the DA Communications Group is as follows:
 - o Surrey County Council, Community Safety

- Surrey Police, Communications
- Surrey County Council, Communications
- Surrey County Council, CSF Communications
- Surrey County Council, Libraries
- Woking Borough Council, Community Safety

6. Future plans include the development of a central Community Safety website, managed and maintained by the Surrey Community Safety Team, through which messages and information on a wide range of crime and anti social behaviour issues can be coordinated.

RECOMMENDATION: District, borough and county organisations are encouraged to explore closer collaborative working among Community Safety Partnerships in the County.

9

District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships

7. Local CSPs were asked to provide evidence of closer collaboration for the purpose of this report. Individual responses are provided in **Annex 1**.

East Surrey Community Safety Partnership

8. The community safety landscape has changed radically over the last two years; the arrival of the PCC, direct Home Office funding ceasing, huge pressure on all partners budgets, and the creation of new health structures.
9. Currently each district and borough authority in East Surrey has its own Community Safety Partnership (CSP) involving district and county members and officers, Police, Fire & Rescue, Clinical Commissioning Groups and a range of other partners.
10. Discussions amongst the responsible authorities across Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge CSPs have identified a desire to form a single East Surrey Community Safety Partnership. This builds upon co-ordinated delivery and single representation across these CSPs that has already been established over a number of years.
11. It was felt that the time was right to consider whether the benefits of three CSPs outweigh the overheads. A look at community safety strategies would suggest that the issues facing the boroughs are broadly similar with the addition of some uniquely rural crimes in some authorities. Clearly volumes and blend of crimes will differ driven by population numbers, demographics and geography, but this is an issue for the Police to address in deploying their resources and not an argument for individual CSPs. Given the pressures set out above it was felt there was logic in moving towards “a cluster CSP”.
12. Benefits / added value:
 - A merged East Surrey CSP would provide enhanced strategic leadership to reduce crime & disorder,

- A merged CSP would also increase efficiencies through a reduction in meetings for County-wide partners, a reduction in administration requirements across the three CSPs and reduced bureaucracy through a single Community Safety Plan which would enhance streamlined delivery on shared issues.
 - Locality-specific issues would continue to be addressed through the borough and district based Community Incident Action Groups and Joint Action Groups.
13. The Home Office is supportive of CSPs merging where this is felt to improve local delivery and the reduction of anti social behaviour and crime. The Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, Kevin Hurley, has also stated his support for this approach within Surrey.
14. Currently a formal proposal to create an East Surrey CSP is being considered by the responsible authorities and the district and boroughs concerned. Approval has been given at all Committees where presented so far. The proposal will go to Local Committees for information in June and it is expected that the first meeting of the Joint East Surrey CSP will take place mid-July 2014.

Surrey Domestic Abuse Strategy

15. This has now been published. A detailed annual action plan was discussed at the DA Development Group meeting in December with work stream leads being agreed. The action plan is now being populated by the leads with the group monitoring its delivery and in turn reporting to the Community Safety Board on progress and raising with them any issues or blockages to delivery.
16. Membership of the DA Development Group is as follows:
- Surrey County Council:
 - Community Safety
 - Children, Schools and Families
 - Adult Social Care
 - Surrey Safeguarding Children Board
 - Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board
 - Public Health
 - Surrey Police
 - East Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (Lead Provider)
 - Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Crown Prosecution Service
 - Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
 - Woking Borough Council
 - Tandridge District Council

Multi Agency Anti Social Behaviour Strategy

17. Since the scrutiny meeting on 31 October 2013 the County Community Safety Team has led on the development of a multi agency Anti Social Behaviour Strategy for the County. The strategy and delivery plan is provided in **Annex 2**.

18. This strategy has been developed by a multi agency ASB steering group in response to the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014, which received royal assent in March this year.
19. The key focus of the strategy is how, in partnership, we can provide effective support to victims of anti social behaviour, ensuring that together we understand better the impact ASB can have on their lives and ensure processes are in place to protect them from further harm.
20. The strategy also focuses on preparation for the new tools and powers introduced by the Act to tackle ASB. The Community Safety Team are working closely with partners to develop a range of briefings and training to assist CSPs in the transition from the old powers to new ones.

RECOMMENDATION: District, Borough and partner organisations be encouraged to establish a set list of substitutes for CSP meetings to allow for consistent attendance at these meetings.

21. Progress against this recommendation is provided in **Annex 3**.

RECOMMENDATION: The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner write to the Home Secretary regarding the issues raised by the Committee in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews.

22. Jeff Harris, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, wrote to the Home Secretary outlining concerns about the costs and timescales involved in conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews, against a back drop of significant reductions in both financial and human resources available to Community Safety Partnerships. The response received from Norman Baker MP, Minister for Crime Prevention, is provided in **Annex 4**.
23. The Community Safety Board has since adopted this issue as a priority and it was agreed that a pool of trained staff should be created who could sit on, and most importantly, Chair future DHRs. The aim being to achieve a reciprocal arrangement where CSPs provide support to each other and avoid the considerable expense of buying in outside consultants.
24. To this end the Surrey Community Safety Team organised and funded a one day training session delivered by a leading expert in the field of Domestic Homicides, which took place on 24 January 14. The day was well attended by representatives from 10 out of the 11 CSPs in Surrey.
25. A letter is due to be sent from the Chair of the Community Safety Board to Chairs of CSPs, strongly urging them to identify who would be best placed to Chair a DHR and nominate them to join the central pool of experts able to respond to future DHRs as they occur. If it is required, further training can be provided, in the form of a two day intensive DHR Chair's training course, to further enhance the knowledge and skills of this pool.

26. The above training was originally provided by the Home Office, although they have no plans to repeat it. However, SCC's Community Safety Team is in contact with the professionals that designed and delivered this training, so it could be commissioned specifically for Surrey colleagues.

RECOMMENDATION: That Surrey County Council is encouraged to use its representation in schools to educate and raise awareness of domestic abuse at all levels, including primary and secondary schools.

The following response was received from Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, in relation to this recommendation.

27. "In this connection, I am pleased to advise that awareness of domestic abuse issues is delivered through the Child Protection Liaison Officer network, the training for which takes place on a termly basis in each of Surrey's four education quadrant areas. This involves all of Surrey's Primary and Secondary schools. In addition, there is an Education Toolkit available to schools to support their work in this area.
28. Information about the Surrey Against Domestic Abuse campaign, which runs from 27th January until 16th February 2014, was included in the Assistant Director of Schools' Bulletin which is sent to all Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of Surrey's maintained schools."

RECOMMENDATION: That County communication and education programmes on domestic abuse be offered to both independent and state schools.

The following response was received from Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning, in relation to this recommendation.

29. "Further work to create closer links with independent schools is being planned by the Education Safeguarding Group, and I would be pleased to write to you again in, say, six months time to appraise the Committee of the Group's progress."

RECOMMENDATION: That the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner encourage the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to raise the issue of domestic abuse and support a national campaign to raise awareness.

30. This issue has now been superseded by the Home Secretary's announcement to set up a national group to oversee improvements in the police response to domestic abuse following the publication of the HMIC report, [Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse](#), published in March 2014. Surrey's PCC, Kevin Hurley, has written to the Home Secretary asking to be part of that group.
31. Each force area has been provided with their own summary report. Surrey's report is provided in **Annex 5**.

32. Going forward, all Police and Crime Commissioners will be expected to work closely with Chief Constables to draw up force action plans to improve police performance in tackling domestic abuse.
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