

Communities Select Committee  
20 October 2014

## **Community Safety Partnerships in Surrey**

**Purpose of the report:** Scrutiny of Services and Performance Management.

Following the Police and Justice Act 2006, Local Authorities are required to undertake annual scrutiny of the local 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.

This paper sets out the current responsibilities of the CSPs and the County Strategy Group (known as the Community Safety Board) and informs the Committee of their current priorities and the challenges they will be facing in 2014/15.

### **Introduction:**

1. Crime is tackled in every local district and borough area by the multi-agency Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Membership of the CSPs comprises responsible authorities, as determined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. In Surrey they typically include:
  - District and Borough Councils (responsible authority)
  - Surrey County Council (responsible authority)
  - Surrey Police (responsible authority)
  - Surrey Fire & Rescue Service (responsible authority)
  - Surrey & Sussex Probation Service (responsible authority)
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups (responsible authority)
  - Other agencies or organisations determined locally, for example the local social housing provider.
2. The above named responsible authorities are under a duty to formulate and implement a strategy to tackle crime and disorder in their area.

3. The creation of new tools and powers introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 presents significant challenges to Community Safety Partnerships. Not only will all responsible authorities be required to ensure their practitioners have the requisite skills and knowledge required to make best use of these new powers, there is the very real possibility of an increase in their workload with the introduction of the Community Trigger (covered later in this report). This is set against a backdrop of continuing reductions in resource available for delivery of this agenda.

### **Delivery Structures**

4. To ensure the CSP delivers the priorities set out in its partnership plan, each local district and borough area has multi-agency delivery groups made up of officers from a range of local agencies. They are most commonly known as Community Incident Action Group (CIAGs) and Joint Action Groups (JAGs).
5. CIAGs will discuss and agree action to reduce the negative impact that problem individuals and families have on the wider community through their anti-social behaviour. The JAGs' role is to address crime and disorder issues that have been identified through the analysis of intelligence and statistical information provided by partner agencies.

### **County Community Safety Board**

6. In two tier areas such as Surrey, there is a requirement for a county-level group referred to in legislation as the County Strategy Group. In Surrey the multi-agency Community Safety Board (CSB) fulfils this duty.
7. The CSB is presently chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey and includes a wide range of partners represented in one forum to develop strategies and oversee plans that aim to increase the sense of safety of the people of Surrey. The CSB works collaboratively with other county boards to ensure effective strategic join up and the development of joint strategies where appropriate.

<b>The Surrey Picture</b>
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### **Surrey Single Strategic Assessment**

8. The Community Safety Board (CSB) agreed in June 2013 that the 2014 Strategic Assessment should be written as a three year product, with an annual refresh of priorities by exception. The Single Strategic Assessment for 2014-17 is now finalised and has been published on Surrey-i, where the county and local priorities are supported by baskets of data that links to other strategic documents, such as the various chapters of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The refresh of the document, for 2015 and 2016, will be a 'light touch' supported by data on Surrey-i and local analysis only of those issues that show significant change throughout the year.

9. Overarching strategic themes for the county for 2014-17 are not significantly different from previous years, and include:
  - Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Drugs
  - Alcohol
  - Resilience
  - Mental Health
10. The Surrey Single Strategic Assessment is accompanied by 11 separate district and borough chapters providing analysis of the priorities for each CSP.
11. To support the delivery against priorities identified in CSP action plans and the ongoing cycle of business planning, SCC’s Community Safety Team have offered support with any analysis or problem solving work that borough and district CSPs might require in order to strengthen local capacity and capability.

**Performance**

12. Surrey Police have again delivered improvements in meeting public demands in both confidence and satisfaction levels, and an overall reduction in total notifiable offences. Violence with injury and serious sexual offences show a rise in recorded offences, which in part represents increased confidence in reporting sensitive matters to Surrey Police, for example domestic abuse. A summary of performance is provided in **Annex 1**.
13. Supplementary to the above, **Annex 2** provides performance comparisons for CSP areas against priority crime types per 1,000 households for the 12 months 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014.
14. The table below shows a selection of local liveability factors from the Residents’ Survey that are most closely associated with anti-social behaviour and the percentage of residents surveyed who reported they were a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood.

Issue	2012/13 (Q4)	2013/14 (Q4)	+/-
Problem or noisy neighbours	8%	7%	- 1%
Drunk or rowdy behaviour in public places	11%	8%	- 3%
People cycling / skateboarding on pavements	15%	13%	- 2%
Vandalism / damage	18%	16%	- 2%
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	23%	17%	- 6%
Graffiti and litter lying around	24%	18%	- 6%
Speeding motorists and anti-social driving	45%	38%	- 7%
Traffic congestion	47%	48%	+ 1%

## Funding

15. The Community Safety Fund (CSF) was transferred to the elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) from April 2013. The CSF is not ring-fenced and the PCC is able to use it to commission services that help tackle crime, reduce re-offending and improve community safety in Surrey.
16. Since the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kevin Hurley, in November 2012 he has made funding available for community and voluntary groups and partners to bid for.
17. Funding has been awarded to those groups who meet the PCC's People's Priorities and the Home Office criteria of reducing ASB, reoffending and substance misuse.
18. In the part year of 2012/13 £66,920 was awarded and in 2013/14 £706,844 was awarded to 63 groups. For 2014/15 £623,370 has been made available. Of that fund, £100,000 was allocated to domestic abuse outreach services for supporting victims of domestic violence. £300,000 was set aside to support PCC-led partnership projects, such as joint enforcement, cyber-enabled crime prevention, support for victims and drug prevention. The remainder has been available for local groups and partnerships to bid for.
19. With regards to Community Safety Partnerships, seven applications have been received and have been successful. The total awarded to CSPs in two years is £12,101.36. A further three bids are currently being reviewed. It should be noted however that there have been a number of bids submitted by partner agencies, but with the support of the CSPs.

### Creation of an East Surrey Community Safety Partnership

20. A significant develop in the CSP landscape over the past 12 months is the creation of a single East Surrey CSP, with their inaugural meeting taking place at the end of July 2014.
21. The new body is a merger of the CSPs of Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge and it is intended that it will provide enhanced strategic leadership to reduce crime and disorder, 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 will enhance streamlined delivery on shared issues.
22. The first meeting of the East Surrey CSP was taken up in electing a Chair, Louise Round – Chief Executive of Tandridge Council, adopting terms of reference (see attached in **Annex 3**) and agreeing priorities for the coming year. These are: Serious Acquisitive Crime, Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and Rural Crime.

23. In the lead up to the next meeting of the East Surrey CSP, in October 2014, a group of officers have been tasked to pull together a draft action plan outlining how the priorities of the East Surrey CSP will be tackled during the coming year.

### Key Countywide Priorities:

#### Anti Social Behaviour

24. Surrey County Council's Community Safety Team, working closely with Surrey Police, has led on the development of a multi-agency Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy, in response to the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014, which received royal assent in March this year.
25. The Act includes the following key provisions to tackle ASB:
- Simpler, more effective powers for tackling ASB, which provide better protection for victims and communities, act as a real deterrent to perpetrators and give victims a say in the way their complaints are dealt with.
  - Replacement of the existing 19 powers to deal with ASB with six faster, more effective ones.
  - Landlords given powers to deal swiftly with the most serious ASB committed by their tenants.
  - Victims given the power to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent ASB through the new Community Trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new Community Remedy.
26. **Annex 4** illustrates how the 19 existing powers to deal with ASB have been streamlined into six new ones.
27. Further information on the provisions of the act and what this means for practitioners is available at: [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of anti-social behaviour powers - Statutory guidance for frontline professionals](#)
28. Surrey County Council's Community Safety Team has commissioned specialist training for CSPs on the new tools and powers introduced by the Act to facilitate a joined up approach to their implementation. There are six sessions running during October 2014 and it is expected that up to 120 practitioners will attend.

#### The Community Trigger

29. The Community Trigger (CT) is introduced by the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 and represents a significant change in the way CSPs are required to operate. It gives victims and communities the right to request a review of their anti-social behaviour complaints and if a CT submission meets the defined threshold, a case review will be undertaken by the local CSP. Agencies will share information, review

what action has been taken and decide whether additional actions are possible.

30. Who can use the Community Trigger? A victim of Anti Social Behaviour or another person acting on behalf of the victim such as a carer or family member, MP or councillor or professional person. The victim could be an individual, a business or a community group.
31. Surrey County Council's Community Safety Team has worked with partners to develop a single Community Trigger Framework for Surrey, seeking agreement on the threshold against which CT submissions will be assessed and ensuring a consistent approach across the County. This has involved consultation and negotiation with a large number of partners, including all 11 district and borough councils, Surrey Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and some of the County's largest social housing providers.
32. The Community Trigger goes live from 20 October 2014. There is currently no way of knowing exactly how many Community Trigger submissions CSPs will receive. This will be closely monitored by the Community Safety Board.

### **Joint Enforcement Project**

33. In 2013 the Police and Crime Commissioner announced his intentions to work with partners to deliver Joint Enforcement Teams across Surrey. It was agreed that Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Spelthorne Borough Council would pilot the project.
34. Reigate and Banstead's Joint Enforcement Team launched in June 2014 and the Joint Enforcement Team and Police continue to work effectively together and are pushing the normal boundaries of technology and information sharing.
35. The team are reporting that the pilot is beginning to deliver community benefits and during July 2014 they successfully dealt with the following issues:
  - Discussion with Trading Standards about how they can share information and improve joint working.
  - Immediate response to travellers' incursion and attempted unlawful access to Council land.
  - Joint patrols at Burgh Heath due to litter and fishing complaints and "door to door" visits and discussions with local residents.
  - Increased noise complaints due to the hot weather and parties and associated reports of inconsiderate parking and neighbour disputes.
  - Graffiti removal, street drinkers and vagrancy causing litter and excrement problems in an alleyway in Redhill.
  - Groups of youths congregating and causing disorder problems in Redhill.

36. The Spelthorne Team has had a series of unfortunate setbacks due to recruitment and vetting but are now in the process of recruiting and re-configuring their street scene team to meet the aims of the project.
37. Discussions are now taking place with other local authorities who may be interested in learning from the pilots and considering introducing Joint Enforcement Teams. It looks likely that Runnymede will be the next area to explore this opportunity.

### **Victims' Commissioning**

38. All Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) take responsibility for commissioning support services for victims from October 2014. The services commissioned will help victims to cope and recover from their experience of crime.
39. Victim referral, assessment and non-specialist support services  
The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is collaborating with the OPCCs for Sussex and Thames Valley to commission this service, which is currently provided nationally by Victim Support. A specification for services has been published and has involved an open, tender procedure. The OPCCs expect to award a contract for this service at the end of October, with the commissioned service due to go live in April 2015.
40. Specialist services and restorative justice  
For some victims, more specialist support is needed to help them cope and recover. A local needs assessment, and consultation with service providers, victims and partners, as well as existing research, is helping to inform the commissioning process. Local charitable organisations and public sector partners have been invited to apply for 2014/15 grant funding to deliver the specialist services needed, e.g. support for victims of domestic and sexual violence. The grant application window has closed and an assessment panel will make recommendations to the PCC for his approval.
41. Budget  
The budget allocation the OPCC will receive from the Ministry of Justice for the final two quarters of 2014/15 is £395,200. However, this excludes funding for victim referral, assessment and non-specialist support, as the MOJ will continue to manage this service until April 2015. The Ministry of Justice has indicated that it would like the OPCC to spend at least £126,343 of the allocation on restorative justice and at least £26,279 on services for domestic and sexual violence, although this is not formally ring-fenced and the actual amount of funding that will go towards domestic and sexual violence will be far greater.

### **Domestic Abuse**

42. With the launch of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategy in 2013, the focus through 2014 has been on the delivery of the DA action plan work streams in order to contribute to achieving the aims of the strategy. A

brief outline of some of the key pieces of work that have been progressed is provided in **Annex 5**.

#### **Key Achievements of Surrey CSPs:**

43. For the purpose of this report Surrey CSPs were asked what they consider to be their key achievements during 2013/14. A summary of their responses is provided in **Annex 6**.

#### **CSP Challenges for the future:**

44. The introduction of the new ASB tools and powers, although designed to streamline the toolkit, in reality imposes additional pressures on all partners. Certain new powers have been made available to police, local authorities and housing providers that were not available to them before. This may present issues over their capacity to use them to their full effect. The launch of the Community Trigger also introduces an element of public accountability that has not necessarily been there before.
45. The East Surrey CSP will face their own particular set of challenges this year in demonstrating that the merger has made a positive difference and reassuring local elected members that local issues will still be addressed as before.
46. All CSP partners continue to face resource pressures. This could impede individual partners' ability to support some CSP work, which may be seen as secondary to their own agencies' core priorities.

#### **Conclusions:**

47. Public expectations could well be raised with the introduction of new ASB tools and powers and particularly the Community Trigger which puts greater emphasis on public accountability and the rights of a victim to demand action.
48. CSPs are expected to deliver more for less, many partner agencies have had to reduce resources and prioritise workloads that will inevitably impact on their capacity to contribute to multi-agency working.
49. In order to meet the demands put upon them, CSPs will inevitably need to explore new, collaborative ways of working, make hard choices about what they prioritise locally and take full advantage of any additional resources available to them such as the PCCs Community Safety Fund.



**Recommendations:**

50. Members are asked to:

- a) Discuss with witnesses the value of CSPs, their delivery and governance arrangements, and their role in maintaining low levels of crime and high public confidence.
- c) Comment on progress made since last year, particularly against a setting of continuing reductions in resources available to undertake CSP work.
- b) Explore with witnesses their preparedness for the new tools and powers introduced by the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 and in particular the challenge of managing and resourcing the Community Trigger process.

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**Annexes:**

1. Surrey Police Performance
2. CSP Comparisons Against Priority Crime Types
3. East Surrey CSP Terms of Reference
4. ASB New Powers
5. Domestic Abuse Update
6. CSP Key Achievements 2013/14

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