



Communities Select Committee  
31 October 2013

**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 County Strategy Group (Community and Public Safety Board) and informs the Committee of their current priorities and challenges they will be facing in 2013/14.

**Introduction:**

1. Crime is tackled in every local district and borough area by 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 or Borough Council (responsible authority)
  - Surrey County Council (responsible authority)
  - Surrey Police (responsible authority)
  - Surrey Fire and 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 areas.

3. The economic downturn has had significant ramifications for local authority budgets, which are predicted to tighten even more in the coming years. As a consequence of these cuts there will be an increased impetus for partnership working to ensure services are delivered and local needs met. Community Safety Partnerships are well placed to ensure this happens with regard to crime and anti social behaviour prevention.

### **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 Group (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.

### **Community and Public Safety Board (CPSB)**

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 and Public Safety Board (CPSB) fulfils this duty.
7. The CPSB 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 Board works collaboratively with other county boards to ensure effective strategic join up and the development of joint strategies where appropriate.
8. Further information on the structure of community safety in Surrey is provided in **Annex 1**.

### **Member involvement in Community Safety**

9. Councillor Helyn Clack, Surrey County Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, is the Chairman of a County Community Safety Lead Member's Group. Membership includes all borough councillors with a lead responsibility for oversight of Community Safety in their borough. This group gives an opportunity for lead members to collaborate and work together and in a quickly changing environment to address the long term sustainability of community safety in Surrey. The recent LGA Per review of the CPSB recommended that the County Council lead Member and three Members from the districts/boroughs should join the Board. This has been agreed and will be implemented from December 2013.

## Surrey Single Strategic Assessment

10. This year Surrey County Council's Community Safety Team has again led on the production of a Surrey Single Strategic Assessment. The timelines for this assessment were adjusted from last year in order to deliver a product in time for the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner, and to avoid any potential skewing of issues as a result of the Olympic period.
11. The purpose of the document is to provide knowledge and understanding of key community safety issues that will enable CSPs to set clear and robust priorities for their area, develop activities driven by reliable evidence that meet the needs of communities, and deploy resources effectively, presenting value for money.
12. Overarching strategic themes for the county for 2013/14 are not significantly different from previous years, and include:
  - Anti-social behaviour
  - Burglary
  - Domestic abuse
  - Mental health
  - Substance misuse
  - Working with the highest need individuals
13. The Surrey Single Strategic Assessment is accompanied by 11 separate district and borough chapters providing analysis of the priorities for each Community Safety Partnership.
14. A copy of the Surrey Single Strategy Assessment is available at:  
<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/communitysafety>

## Performance

15. Surrey Police have again delivered notable improvements in meeting public demands in both confidence and satisfaction levels increasing, and crime decreasing. A summary of performance is provided in **Annex 2**.
16. In addition to the above, **Annex 3** provides performance comparisons for CSP areas against priority crime types per 1,000 households for the past 12 months.
17. Overall satisfaction with Surrey as a place to live remains very high, with a large majority consistently satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, and residents' confidence and satisfaction in the police and local authorities in dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour has improved in the past two years.

18. The table below shows a selection of local liveability factors, from the Residents Survey, that most closely associated with antisocial behaviour and the percentage of residents surveyed who reported they were a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood (data produced in January 2013)

<b>Issue</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Speeding motorists and anti-social driving	42.1%	42.9%	40.7%
Traffic congestion	43.5%	43.2%	41.4%
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	30.2%	28.3%	25.7%
Graffiti and litter lying around	23.7%	22.8%	21.5%
Drunk or rowdy behaviour in public places	17.6%	17.9%	16.3%
Vandalism / damage	18.3%	16.4%	15%
People cycling / skateboarding on pavements	10.3%	10.3%	11.4%
Problem or noisy neighbours	7.8%	8.6%	9%

### **Funding**

19. Funding arrangements for CSPs have undergone a radical transformation over recent years, resulting in a dramatic decrease in funds directly available to CSPs for project delivery.
20. Past arrangement saw the majority of funding for community safety coming from central government sources that were administered and passported to the CSPs by Surrey County Council's Community Safety Team. This funding was called the Community Safety Fund (CSF).
21. In addition to the CSF, funding of varying levels was made available to the county pooled budget by partners such as SCC and Surrey Police. In 2012/13 the total county community safety budget amounted to £708,643. This represents a significant cut to the previous year's budget of £996,000 and an even more significant cut to the budget available in 2010/11 of c. £2million, due to Government Grant cuts and changes to partner funding.
22. In 2012/13 the decision was made by the Community & Public Safety Board to retain the CSF and create a Strategic Projects Fund to support delivery of initiatives that would have a positive impact on the strategic aims of the board, as determined by the Surrey Single Strategic Assessment, and those issues that are a high priority for the member agencies of the CPSB.

23. Bids against this fund were invited for both county and local initiatives, provided they supported / delivered against strategic aims and were evidenced based and outcome focused. The total county community safety budget was allocated as follows:

<b>Income 2012/13</b>	
Central Government Community Safety Fund	402,000
Police (ring-fenced for Domestic Abuse Outreach)	70,000
Surrey County Council (ring fenced for DA Outreach)	132,000
Supporting People (ring fenced for DA Outreach)	90,000
Health (ring fenced for DA Outreach)	14,643
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>708,643</b>
<b>Allocation 2012/13</b>	
Domestic Abuse Outreach	376,796
Alcohol Intervention Services	136,080
Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)	74,777
Strategic Projects Fund	120,990
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>708,643</b>

24. This represented a significant shift in past funding arrangements for CSPs where a large proportion of the CSF was allocated directly to CSPs to support local delivery.

**Transfer of CSF to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

25. The totality of the CSF fund was transferred to the elected Police and Crime Commissioner 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.
26. The PCC has made available £509,000 to receive bids from groups including, but not limited to, CSPs that can support him in the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan.
27. The CSF is only available for one year (2013/14) and in April 2014 the allocation will be rolled into the Police Main Grant.
28. Surrey CSPs have made significant efforts over the last 2-3 years to plan for the continued reduction in funding directly available for community safety work. They have made tough decisions to reduce the number of CSF funded posts and discontinuing projects that were no longer sustainable. As a result of this planning most, but not all, CSPs have reported that the transfer of CSF funds to the PCC has had limited impact on their ability to deliver their priorities.

**Local Funding Arrangements**

29. Individual CSPs maintain a local pooled budget, made up primarily of contributions from district/borough councils and SCC local committee allocations and in some cases, successful bids to various local and nationally available funding streams including the CSF made available by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

30. Local CSP pooled budgets have also reduced significantly in recent years with some partners no longer able to contribute due to pressures on their own agency's budgets. Despite this, all partners have the ability to make significant contributions to the reduction of crime and disorder through collaboration, intelligence led business processes and a commitment to supporting local delivery groups such as CIAGs and JAGs.

### Local Government Review of the Community & Public Safety Board

31. In July 2013 The Local Government Association's Safer Communities Peer Review team were invited into the Surrey Community and Public Safety Board (CPSB) to review four key elements:
- How the CPSB interacts with community safety partnerships
  - How the needs of criminal justice partners are being met
  - How the CPSB manages performance and accountability
  - How the CPSB can best work with other local leaders, especially the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), in setting the strategic direction for the county.
32. The aim of the review was to help the CPSB improve its current and future partnerships, commissioning structures and governance arrangements with a view to improving its efficiency, effectiveness and relationships with the Office of the PCC, district Community Safety Partnerships, and other county-wide strategic partnerships.
33. Following the review a multi agency working group met to discuss the report's recommendations in more detail and to develop actions for their implementation. The recommendations and their associated actions are included as **Annex 4**.
34. To assist the future running of the CPSB new Terms of Reference have been developed. They take the recommendations from the LGA review and develop them further to make suggestions on how the CPSB could run to ensure consistency in direction between the CPSB strategy and local CSP activity. The new terms of reference are included as **Annex 5**.
35. By implementing the LGA recommendations it is anticipated that there will be greater synergy between all partners involved in delivering community safety.

### Key County-wide Priorities

#### Anti Social Behaviour

36. In anticipation of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14 receiving royal assent next year, Surrey Police and SCC's Community Safety Team have been working closely with partners to develop an Anti Social Behaviour Strategy for Surrey.

37. A key focus of the strategy will be how CSPs can provide effective support to victims of anti social behaviour, ensuring they understand better the impact ASB can have on their lives and ensure processes are in place to support and protect them from further harm.
38. A key priority will be the identification and protection of high risk or vulnerable victims of ASB. A vulnerable person is one whose experience of ASB, and resulting harm, is likely to be more significant because of their individual personal circumstances.
39. The draft strategy was endorsed by the Community and Public Safety Board at their meeting in September 2013 and the delivery plan will be further developed and agreed by the multi agency Anti Social Behaviour Steering Group.

### **Domestic Abuse**

40. The culmination of a Rapid Improvement Event held in 2012 looking at the county's response to domestic abuse has led the Surrey Community Safety team to lead on the development of a new multi agency Domestic Abuse Strategy for Surrey. This was endorsed by the Community and Public Safety Board at their meeting in September 2013.
41. The strategy is a commitment by all involved; public, voluntary, community and faith organisations to work together as one, to raise awareness and to address both the causes and effects of domestic abuse and to improve lives.
42. A key challenge for CSPs with regards to Domestic Abuse is their ability to respond to, and resource, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
43. DHRs were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011 and the responsibility for conducting DHRs falls with the CSPs.
44. The rationale for the DHR process is to ensure agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic violence and abuse by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions with an aim to avoid future incidents of domestic homicide and violence.
45. Since this provision came into force there have been five Domestic Homicides in Surrey. Two in Surrey Heath, two in Guildford and one in Waverley.
46. DHRs are very resource intensive both financially and in officer time. There is also a skills requirement that has resulted in the need for investment in further training in this area.

## Information Sharing and Joint Problem Solving

47. During 2012/13 SCC Community Safety Team provided training on Information Sharing and Problem Solving Training for all Community Incident Action Group (CIAG) and Joint Action Group (JAG) members.
48. The above training was integral to preparing partners for the roll out of two web-based tools in 2013/14 aimed at improving information sharing and joint problem solving across both the Community Safety and Supporting Families agendas.
  - SafetyNet is a secure web application that provides a multi agency facility for the integrated case management of offenders and/or victims of crime/anti social behaviour
  - Patchwork is a web application which allows users across multiple agencies to quickly access the contact details of other front line staff working with their clients.
49. It is expected that the introduction of the above tools will lead to better integration of CIAGs and Supporting Families Teams at the local level.

## Transforming Public Services

50. Through its work on the domestic abuse agenda the Surrey Community Safety team are actively engaged with the Family Support Programme and Transforming Public Service project at both a local and strategic level. This will be a key thematic piece of work going forward.

### Key Achievements of Surrey CSPs

51. For the purpose of this report Surrey CSPs were asked what they consider to be their key achievements during 2012/13. A summary of their responses is provided in **Annex 6**.

### CSP Challenges for the future

52. For the purpose of this report Surrey CSPs were asked what they see as key challenges for the future. These are summarised as follows:
  - Ensuring strategic join-up of cross-cutting agendas i.e. Community Safety, Family Support Programme, Public Health etc.
  - Continuing reductions in funding and its longer term impact on CSPs
  - A sense that some county agencies are moving away from local engagement and delivery and concentrating their resources on 'core' work
  - Responding to anticipated changes to legislation contained in the ASB, Police and Crime Bill
  - Resourcing of future Domestic Homicide Reviews



### Conclusions:

53. Despite reductions in public funding having inevitably led to CSPs making tough decisions about their staffing and how they deliver locally, Surrey continues to benefit from low levels of crime and effective partnership working has been a key factor in this achievement.
54. The LGA peer review provides the CPSB with an opportunity to redesign its operations in order to achieve the most effective outcomes from a wide range of both local and strategic partnerships across the county.
55. Accountability continues to be a challenge for the CPSB, particularly as it does not have the statutory authority to hold CSPs to account and whilst priorities are being set by CSPs, further support is required to ensure targets are both deliverable and measurable.

### Recommendations:

56. Members are asked to:
  - a) Discuss with witnesses the value of CSPs and their role in maintaining low levels of crime and high public confidence.
  - b) Explore with witnesses how CPSB and CSPs might improve operations and outcomes in the future, working collaboratively with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - c) Comment on progress made since last year, particularly CSPs response to radically reduced budgets whilst maintaining their ability to deliver against locally set targets, and the development of new county strategies for Domestic Abuse and Anti Social Behaviour.
  - d) Consider how scrutiny of CSPs should be carried out in the future and how useful they find the current process.

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### Annexes:

1. The structure of community safety in Surrey
2. Surrey Police Performance
3. Performance comparisons of CSP areas against priority crime types
4. Recommendations and actions from LGA review of CPSB
5. New terms of reference for the CPSB
6. Key achievements of CSPs

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