

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Date	20 FEBRUARY 2012
Title	FENLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (FCSP) – UPDATE AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

This report sets out the process by which the Fenland Community Safety Partnership (Safer Fenland Partnership) identifies appropriate crime and disorder priorities for Fenland.

The report also includes information relating to the type and level of crime for inclusion in the partnership’s 2011/12 action plan.

The report addresses crime and disorder issues identified by the local Strategic Assessment and gives details of projects already completed and those planned to tackle priority areas.

The report contains details of new priorities for the 2012 / 2013 period that meet the needs identified in the annual Strategic Assessment.

2. KEY ISSUES

- The Fenland Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership.
- Crime and Disorder issues, associated with wider ‘Stronger Community’ issues, are key priorities for our communities across Fenland.
- Each year the Partnership completes an assessment of priorities by analysis of crime statistics, consideration of emerging issues, consultation and engagement with Fenland’s community.
- The areas of work identified, i.e. priorities, become the focus of the Partnership action plan for the following year.
- The report identifies crime and disorder priorities written in the Strategic Assessment and gives details of projects already completed and those planned.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

To consider the progress of Fenland Community Safety Partnership in tackling crime and disorder in Fenland

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	N/A

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Background Paper(s)	

1. BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Safer Fenland Partnership is the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for Fenland (**CDRP**). These are now known as **Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)**. The partnership has been meeting regularly since 1998.

1.2. Statutory partners include:

- Fenland District Council
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Police Authority
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Fire Authority
- Cambridgeshire NHS/PCT
- Probation Service

Non-statutory partners include:

- Drug and Alcohol services
- Roddons Housing Association
- Education services
- Chamber of Commerce
- Neighbourhood Watch

1.3. The Partnership meets 4 times a year to develop strategic direction in relation to Crime and Disorder community issues. Each time the partnership meets, the chosen priorities are challenged and performance is reviewed in detail.

1.4. Each year the Partnership completes a detailed Strategic Assessment. The purpose of the Strategic Assessment is to:

- Analyse the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse
- Review any changes in these patterns when compared to the previous year's assessment (trends)
- Interpret these trends
- Assess progress against the current action plan for the Partnership
- Consider likely future issues that may impact upon delivery of partnership services
- Consult other partnerships to ensure all views are considered when setting strategic direction
- Identify opportunities for external projects and funding
- Identify gaps in information where further work is required to ensure full consideration of crime and disorder issues and assist in setting appropriate targets.

Every partnership in the country adopts a similar process, in line with the "National Intelligence Model".

1.5. Each year, findings of the Strategic Assessment are presented to the Fenland Community Safety Partnership Board. Once agreed, the Partnership uses this

assessment to focus resources and refresh the action plan for the following year to ensure successful outcomes are achieved.

2. PERFORMANCE OF 2011/12 PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN

2.1 The Strategic Assessment that **covers the year up to October 2010** identified the following priorities to be addressed as part of the action plan for 2011/12:

2.2 Priority one: Prevention, Awareness and Education

- **Fewer Deliberate Fires**

**Target = fewer deliberate fires for that for 2011/12 than that for 2010/11.
Actual year to date = 30.1 % reduction**

The reasons for this were:

- Targeting arson offenders
- Preventative work within schools by Fire & Rescue
- Community action areas e.g Cherry Road wisbech

- **Reduce Criminal Damage**

Target = a reduction of 10% on previous year. Actual year to date = reduction of 10.7%

The reasons for this were:

- Targeted patrolling from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams at key times and locations e.g main routes to school
- FDC CCTV patrols and direct communication to the police
- Police Community Support Officers school engagement sessions
- Partnership youth engagement sessions such as the Youth Arena
- Youth Engagement sessions with the Crimebuster (e.g Wenny Rec and Waterlees)

- **Anti Social Behaviour**

Target = a reduction of 10% on previous year. Actual year to date = reduction of 10%

- The reasons for this were as noted above for Criminal Damage. Anti social Behaviour is a regular feature of Neighbourhood Forum priorities raised by the community, where Fenland's residents have reported issues leading to drunk and rowdy behaviour and vandalism.
- Developing / commissioning early prevention programmes and interventions in partnership with appropriate agencies. In particular primary schools have shown to have a real influence their propensity to engage in crime and disorderly conduct.
- The Fenland Community Safety Partnership has taken part in a **National Anti Social Behaviour field trial** (8 areas were selected based on their current structure being adequate to handle the trial), which will develop improved information sharing and risk assessing to encourage earlier and more successful interventions for tackling localised Anti-Social Behaviour.

The 8 trials have submitted their evaluations to the Home Office. The district trial has been highlighted for our excellent ability to work in partnership to implement new processes and ideas. The full Home Office evaluation will be produced in 2012. .

- Refresh of the Wisbech, Whittlesey and March **Designated Public Places Orders** (DPPO), in line with Anti Social Behaviour trends, parks and open spaces expansion projects and improved development of the licensed premises locations (Community Action Areas).
 - It is recommended that the partnership focuses on preventing the emergence of frequent crimes by young people.
 - **Safety Zones**, which are community safety sessions delivered to every Year 5 (age 8) student across the district, are being reviewed to incorporate sessions looking at the effects and consequences of Anti Social Behaviour and internet safety. CrimeBUSTER is fully integrated into this initiative, delivering awareness about reporting incidents to the Police.
- **Reduce Acquisitive Crimes (burglary / vehicle crime)**

Target = to reduce both dwelling burglaries and vehicle crime by 3% on previous year. Actual year to date = a reduction of 9.4% in burglaries and 10.9% in vehicle crime.

The reasons for this are:

- Targeted work around locations and offenders.
- Reducing theft of catalytic converters by engaging the rural communities and offering free marking services for the vehicles targeted
- Targeted Police operations to identified persons, scrap yard inspections, vehicle stop & search tactics and prevention and awareness events in key Fenland locations.
- Neighbourhood Watch, Trading Standards and the CCTV team all continue to operate in our high crime areas, as well as CrimeBUSTER 'hard targeting' events with Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Moving forward the partnership want the IOM team to prioritise the reduction of Serious Acquisitive Crime within Fenland and that the scheme is demonstrated to be working effectively in the area.

- **Reduce Shoplifting**

Target = reducing shoplifting by 10% compared to the previous year. Actual year to date the reduction has been 12.7%

The reasons for this were:

- Workshops held within Wisbech to the top 10 targeted shops by offenders
- Security and safety packs developed for shop owners within Wisbech
- Engagement with major retailers to review security processes linked to shoplifting

2.3 **Priority two: Intervention and Emerging Issues**

- **Violent crime (assault including domestic violence)**

Target = reduce by 10% compared to the previous year. Actual Year to date = 4.4 % reduction

Reasons for this are:

- Violent assaults have decreased when compared to figures in 2010.
- Alcohol related violence and domestic violence are the two areas where most crimes are recorded.
- There has been a notable increase in the most serious violent offences.
- Domestic Violence repeat offences are currently comparable to the rest of Cambridgeshire. This is due to better reporting, engagement and management processes.
- Building awareness of Domestic Violence services, which involves improved reporting of incidents from both adults and young people and training to front line staff. A focus will also be to improve reporting of incidents from A8 communities.
- Reducing violent crime linked to the night time economy. March and Wisbech town centres were targeted in the lead up periods to identified calendar trends linked to previous crime data and current trends (community action areas). Public houses worked closely with Trading Standards, FDC licensing and CCTV teams and the Police to:
 - improve quick reaction times to signs of trouble
 - improve challenging of age limits
 - focus Police and CCTV patrols
 - carry out joint visits and reassurance visits from the Police.

To reduce violent crime moving forward it is recommended the partnership focus on the reduction of offences associated with the night-time economy; building on the development of the use of the “Cardiff model” within the partnership and targeting the ‘hot’ times and places. Through pilots in Cardiff it has been shown that Emergency Departments (ED) can contribute distinctively and effectively to violence prevention by working with Community Safety Partnerships and by sharing electronically wherever possible simple anonymised data about the location of violence, weapon use, assailants and day/time of violence. This data and the contributions of Accident and Emergency (A & E) Consultants enhance effectiveness of targeted policing and licensing action to significantly reduce licensed premises and street violence and reduce Emergency Department violence related attendances

The plan refresh which comes into effect in April 2012 will address the new issues raised.

2.4 **Priority 3: Reducing Reoffending**

- **Integrated Offender Management**

Fenland CSP continues to support the development of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and work as a partnership to ensure it is an effective way to

reduce crime and disorder. IOM is a process where by the Police and other partners will identify and then work with offenders to reduce crime by helping to find jobs, a place to live, support drugs & alcohol treatment programmes and for those that do not cooperate targeting their offending behaviour on a daily basis to prevent and detect any criminal offences.

The partnership is currently awaiting a performance management system for the IOM cohort.

Currently under development is a project empowering young people identified as a future risk of offending to become Community Safety Champions within their schools.

National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) have worked successfully with FDC to introduce a Junior FEET (Fenland Environmental Enhancement Team) project to improve the Fenland environment e.g Norwood Road Nature Reserve.

- **Substance misuse**

Fenland has the highest rate of treatment for people with alcohol problems compared to the other districts in Cambridgeshire; although this is partly related to the availability of treatment.

The rate of those in treatment for drug problems is significantly lower than Cambridge although higher than the remaining districts.

Analysis within the previous strategic assessment noted that Wisbech was the main place of concern for substance misuse. Since December 2010 there has been a significant rise in the number of drugs offences recorded in Fenland. There was an increase of 59% in drug offences (290-461 offences). The changes in the level of drugs offences are most commonly linked to police activity.

Moving forward it is recommended that substance misuse is considered on the impact on particular groups of offenders.

3. PRIORITIES FOR 2012 / 2013

3.1 Due to the demise of National Indicators, the Partnership will take a focused approach to set local targets against the recommendation offered from the Strategic Assessment.

3.2 The priorities will focus on crime type targets. In those will be the partnership projects (to be decided by the Partnership in the April 2012 CSP meeting). These priority areas are as follows:

- Violent Crime
- Domestic Violence
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Integrated Offender Management (IOM) (Serious Acquisitive Crime)
- Shop Lifting
- Substance misuse theme throughout

3.3 An action plan for 2012/13 is being developed to address the new priorities.

4. COMMUNITY IMPACT

4.1 The broad work of the Fenland Community Safety Partnership has a huge impact within the Fenland Community. Reducing crime, fear of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and building community cohesion contributes to making Fenland Safer and Stronger.

5. KEY PRIORITIES

5.1 The work of the Fenland Community Safety Partnership contributes to the Streets Ahead priority.