

Overview & Scrutiny: 3rd September 2026

Report by: Rob Mitchell

Head of Service: Claudia Deeth

Lead Cllr: Debbie Mickelburgh
Communities, Health & Leisure



Wards

Open / Exempt

Key Decision?

ALL

Open

No

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

Executive Summary:

This report outlines the journey of Community Safety Partnerships following the Crime and Disorder Act receiving Royal Assent in July 1998 through to the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the new powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 followed by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and more recently the Domestic Abuse Act in 2021 and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Acts 2022 that introduced the Serious Violence Duty in 2023.

The report details the role and responsibilities of the six statutory partners of which the District Council is one of them and the collaborative approach needed to help tackle issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour across the district.

Recommendations

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel note the ever-changing landscape for Community Safety Partnerships and the additional responsibilities placed on them without accompanying funding provision.
2. That the Panel recognises the progress made by the HCSP despite the complex challenges faced by the organisations within their own sector and the recognition of what has been achieved by working collaboratively.
3. That the Panel use the information provided within this report to determine the scope of the Member Working Group and the issues that they wish to tackle.
4. Determine the part that Members can play in progressing the work of the Partnership and ensuring that the benefits are felt within their communities.

	Key Corporate Plan Priorities
1	Improving quality of life for local people
2	Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations

	Place Strategy Priorities
1	Pride in Place
2	Health Embedded

Report Author(s) Claudia Deeth, Head of Communities & Operational Housing (claudia.deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) Rob Mitchell, Community Resilience Manager (robert.mitchell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an overview of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP), including its statutory role, governance arrangements, current priorities and key areas of activity. The report also outlines the partnership's achievements and challenges and considers the potential implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and wider devolution in relation to future community safety governance and partnership arrangements.

2 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

2.1 OVERVIEW

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are statutory multi-agency partnerships established to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, reoffending and more recently serious violence. They bring together identified public sector organisations to map local community safety issues and develop coordinated responses to identified local concerns. Data and information from a number of sources is used to identify trends, hotspots and patterns in behaviour, all of which is used to develop an annual strategic assessment which helps guide where the CSP targets their resources, projects and initiatives.

2.2 HISTORY

The concept that more could be achieved by working in partnership on community safety issues emerged during the 1980s and 1990s, recognising that crime and disorder could not be addressed by the police alone and should be considered in all decisions made by statutory organisations. This led to the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory duty on local agencies to work together to reduce crime and disorder. The Act required the establishment of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and Community Safety Partnerships in Wales, with the term CSP later becoming the standard name across England and Wales.

The responsible authorities within a CSP now include:

- Police
- Local Authorities (District & County)
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Health Partners
- Probation Service

These organisations work collectively to assess community safety needs, undertake strategic assessments and develop and deliver local action plans. The CSP function is a shared responsibility with no one organisation having greater authority than the other. There are also a number of other organisations who have

been identified as being able to add value who have been co-opted onto the Partnership, for example Support Cambridgeshire and Places For People.

2.3 Introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

A significant change occurred following the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which introduced Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The first PCC elections were held in November 2012, replacing Police Authorities with directly elected individuals responsible for setting local policing priorities and holding Chief Constables to account.

The introduction of PCCs amended the governance arrangements for Community Safety Partnerships by creating a formal relationship between PCCs and CSPs. Funding that had historically been allocated by the Government on an annual basis to CSPs was now to be held and managed by the PCC. Funding needed to deliver local initiatives required a bidding process by CSPs to the PCC introducing scrutiny and the ability to allocate funding as they deemed appropriate.

Key changes included:

- CSPs must have regard to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan when developing local priorities.
- PCCs must consider CSP priorities when setting force-wide policing objectives.
- PCCs gained powers to call CSP representatives to meetings and request reports on partnership activity.
- PCCs can provide funding to CSPs and support local crime reduction initiatives.
- Both PCCs and CSPs have a statutory duty to cooperate with one another.

2.4 ROLE OF A COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

CSPs remain the primary local mechanism for coordinating community safety activity. Their work commonly focuses on:

- Crime reduction
- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse including Violence against women and girls
- Serious violence prevention
- Substance misuse
- Reducing reoffending
- Safeguarding vulnerable people and communities

CSPs provide the local, place-based response to these issues, while PCCs provide strategic oversight, commissioning and funding across the wider police force area.

2.5 HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership priorities are set for 2025-2028 and collectively reviewed on an annual basis. The HCSP's Strategic Assessment, published in 2024, prioritised four crime types, these being:

- violence against the person
- child sexual exploitation
- sexual offences
- shoplifting

Following a further breakdown of these crime types, the Partnership created five action plans, each with an organisational lead with an aim of focusing on:

- serious violence duty
- support to town centres & shoplifting
- child criminal exploitation
- nighttime economy
- crisis prevention through early intervention

2.6 HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SUPPORT

Huntingdonshire District Council hosts and administers the Community Safety Partnership on behalf of the responsible authorities. The Council's Community Safety Team provides coordination, project management, performance monitoring, funding administration, strategic assessment development and partnership support functions.

The Council also leads on a range of community safety initiatives, working closely with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, health partners, probation services, voluntary sector organisations and town and parish councils to address local community safety concerns and deliver the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.

2.7 DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS

A statutory function of the CSP is to determine when the threshold has been met for a Domestic Abuse Related Death Review, formerly known as a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR). This is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves.

Since 13 April 2011 there has been a statutory requirement for local areas to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria. Members of the CSP are required to share information held on the individuals involved and receive learning points following the review being signed off by the Home Office, this in turn forms an action plan for implementation and oversight by the CSP.

2.8 LOOKING TO LGR

Community Safety Partnership arrangements are under review as part of the transition to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Several county-wide working groups have been established to consider future governance arrangements and partnership structures. Once decisions have been made regarding the new authority boundaries, further work will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate model for the new authorities.

As part of the wider LGR review, consideration will also be given to the future role and relationship with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Whilst the PCC has no formal role in determining Local Government Reorganisation proposals, community safety governance, commissioning arrangements and partnership arrangements will need to be considered within any future local authority structure.

As part of LGR it is indicated that policing and crime responsibilities are expected to transfer from Police and Crime Commissioners to Mayoral Combined Authorities. Part of our role within the LGR Subgroups will be to ensure Community Safety Partnership arrangements are aligned with both Local Government Reorganisation and the broader devolution agenda across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

3 COUNCIL KEY PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE

The work of the Community Safety Partnership contributes directly to several of the Council's strategic priorities, particularly those relating to creating safe and resilient communities, protecting vulnerable residents, supporting health and wellbeing and maintaining attractive town centres and places.

The partnership supports the Council's ambition to work collaboratively with partners to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, exploitation and violence.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Community Safety Partnership receives funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to support the delivery of local community safety activity that contributes towards the Police and Crime Plan priorities. Funding is available via an application process and must evidence how it will assist the PCC in meeting their priorities.

For 2026/27, Huntingdonshire District Council secured £47,500 of PCC funding to support the work of the Community Safety Team and the delivery of local community safety initiatives across the district. This funding is subject to annual review and performance reporting requirements aligned with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. The Partnership is eligible to make additional applications to the PCC to fund projects and initiatives that tackle local issues of concerns, these are subject to grant agreements and formal monitoring arrangements.

5 LEGAL & CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The District Council is one of the six statutory organisations that make up the CSP and are required to consider issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in all the decisions that they make. In delivering these responsibilities, we are required to utilise legislation that has the ability to stop and or prevent certain behaviours in identified locations as well as prohibit identified residents from doing certain things. Policies and procedures are in place for the correct application of legislation as well as delegated authority for decision making and the use of powers.

6 COMMUNITY IMPACT

The activities of the Community Safety Partnership contribute positively to how someone feels about where they live, work and visit, confidence and wellbeing across Huntingdonshire. Through targeted interventions and partnership working, the CSP seeks to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, exploitation and violence whilst supporting vulnerable individuals and communities.

7 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Community Safety Partnership activity seeks to support and protect individuals and communities that may be disproportionately affected by crime or anti-social behaviour.

The partnership considers equality impacts when developing priorities, commissioning activity and delivering interventions to ensure services remain accessible and inclusive.

8 HEALTH & WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

There is significant evidence that demonstrates that where someone lives and how safe they feel within their home or local community has an impact on their health and wellbeing. We also know that levels of crime and the perception of crime are higher in areas of deprivation, where residents are also more likely to be experiencing issues of poor mental or physical health.

The Partnership is passionate about early intervention and prevention activity that aims to improve mental and physical wellbeing, resilience and community cohesion. Alongside this, the Partnership recognises the value of diversionary activity and changing repetitive familiar cycles of behaviours that result in poor outcomes.

9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) IMPLICATIONS

Community Safety Partnership arrangements will form part of ongoing Local Government Reorganisation discussions. Future governance structures, geographical boundaries and partnership arrangements may require review to ensure statutory community safety responsibilities continue to be delivered effectively within any new local authority arrangements. At this stage no decisions have been made regarding the future of Community Safety Partnership structures or models across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Demand exceeding available funding

Risk that demand outstrips available budget.

Mitigation: Prioritisation and ongoing review of spend.

Inconsistent data and reporting

Risk that impact is not fully evidenced.

Mitigation: Clear reporting requirements and support to organisations.

Delivery capacity of organisations

Risk that projects do not deliver as expected.

Mitigation: Ongoing monitoring and engagement.

Sustainability beyond funding

Risk that outcomes are not sustained.

Mitigation: Exploration of partner commitment and longer-term options.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Document List	Custodian	File Location
n/a		

12 LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

N/A