

**SCOPING REPORT: BACKGROUND ON WORK OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
(Report by Head of Environmental & Community Health Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information to Members - summarising the work of the Huntingdonshire Community Partnership and what benefits it brings to the Council.

2 BACKGROUND TO REPORT

- 2.1 Service Delivery Panel Meeting, on 3 June 2008, Members suggested the Community Safety Partnership as a potential study area. A request was made for a pre-scoping report to be submitted to the next Panel meeting (1st July 2008). It was intended this report would provide background information for Members. The Panel have requested this information prior to deciding whether a study on the matter should be undertaken.

**3. THE ORIGIN, MEMBERSHIP AND PURPOSE OF THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

- 3.1 Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) was set up in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aims to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the district; through the close partnership working of a wide range of organisations. The terms of reference of the group are attached at Appendix 1. Organisations involved in the wider partnership include: Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust, Luminus Group, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Addaction, DialDrugLink Drinksense, Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC), Cambridgeshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Office of Children and Young People, Victim Support, and others.
- 3.2 The Partnership also has close links with a number of countywide groups such as Cambridgeshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership, Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, the Distraction Burglary and Rogue Trader Task Force; Arson Task Force, Domestic Violence Forum; Open Out Scheme (Racial and Hate Crime) and the Vehicle Crime Reduction Partnership, etc.
- 3.3 The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership is supported by the Community Safety Team, which includes a Community Safety Manager and a Community Safety Assistant employed by Huntingdonshire District Council.
- 3.4 In addition to fulfilling the function of the statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) for the district the HCSP Executive Group is also part of Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership. The Chair of the HCSP has a seat on the HSP Executive Group. The HCSP has acted as the thematic group for the 'Safer Stronger Communities' block for the LAA/HSP. There is a

current proposal that under the new arrangements for LAA thematic groups it could adopt the role of 'Inclusive, Safe & Cohesive Communities' group.

- 3.5 Membership of the HCSP is influenced by both statutory duty and practical need (Appendix 2 shows the established members of the HCSP Executive)

4. PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 The HCSP has been in place since 1998 and is coming to the end of the third 3-year Community Safety Strategy. Throughout this period, the partnership and associated action groups have been focused on addressing the crime and disorder priorities identified within the strategy. Real improvements have been seen in the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Huntingdonshire and this can be attributed to the strong working relationships that are in place and the initiatives that have been developed to tackle specific crime types and 'hotspot' areas.

- 4.2 Within the 2005–08 Strategy, the Partnership set a target to achieve a 16% reduction from the baseline year 2003/04 in British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crime, and the Partnership actually achieved a 21.9% reduction by end of 2007 (23% by end of March 2008). The Partnership recognises that they have not met some of the targets set for 2005-8 and therefore will continue to address these as priority areas within the Community Safety Plan 2008 – 11. (Further performance information is included in Appendix 3).

- 4.3 Progress is monitored regularly. Progress towards some Community Safety targets are reported to HDC Members quarterly via the Growing Success progress reports. The HCSP also receives quarterly progress reports, with cross-County and benchmark comparison-data.

5. MEANS OF EFFECTING CHANGE

- 5.1 The partnership seeks to reduce crime and disorder by:
- Commissioning research into emerging issues: evidenced-based approach
 - Jointly commissioning interventions/services to address specific service gaps/need,
 - Providing new technology or equipment to address issues,
 - Initiating multi-agency problem-solving groups to holistically address specific issues across agencies,
 - Developing solutions to issues by initiating new ways of working collaboratively.
 - Using the enforcement tools available to address anti-social behaviour.
- 5.2 Below is an example of some changes initiated in the last three years by the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership:
- The formation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Problem Solving Groups
 - 'Less Tricks More Treats' Halloween Campaign – reduced ASB
 - Development of the ASB Self Help Guide
 - Project to address vehicle crime
 - Purchase of equipment to address malicious fires
 - Secured funding and delivered new CCTV to hot-spots in Yaxley
 - Implementation of the Domestic Violence Sanctuary Scheme
 - Funding secured for a permanent skate facility – Huntingdon area
 - One Designated Public Places Order,
 - Four Dispersal Orders,
 - 140 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) negotiated,

- 16 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) imposed,
- 2 Anti-social Behaviour Case Workers funded, located at HDC
- 700 calls for service relating to ASB handled by ASB case-workers at HDC
- Implementation of the Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) Scheme
- Contribution towards a post for the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP)

5.3 The priorities for action and the targets are set within the Community Safety Strategy. For each strategic priority there is an action plan. These priorities are determined by an annual strategic assessment and consultation feedback.

5.4 The Partnership Strategic Assessment is intended to provide an overview of the current and longer-term issues facing Huntingdonshire in respect of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and behaviour adversely affecting the environment. In accordance with the revised 'Crime & Disorder Act' the Partnership Strategic Assessment forms part of the annual business process of HCSP. The Strategic Assessment is based on the research and analysis of a wide range of information sources. The assessment enables partners to come together to discuss and agree on future priorities in the light of research and analysis. Once these are identified then the process moves on with a period of consultation and the incorporation of priorities within the three-year, annually refreshed, Community Safety Plan. This Community Safety Plan will identify actions to be undertaken to address the priorities and reach targets; these action plans inform decisions in relation to the spending plan.

6. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

6.1 The HCSP attracts significant funds from sources other than Huntingdonshire District Council. The HCSP currently receives funding from the Government's Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF). From 2009 it is likely that this direct funding will cease and these funds will be part of the combined LAA resource.

6.2 The amount of SSCF funding (after County Top-slice) for 2008-9 is £28,996 capital, and £123,051 revenue. The spending plan for this was agreed at the meeting on HCSP meeting on 22 May 2008.

6.3 SSCF monies have historically been time-limited and are only available for each financial year, the amount of grant being confirmed in each case after the start of the financial year. The HCSP spending plan is agreed at the start of each financial year to allow services/interventions to be commissioned promptly, to reduce the impact of the funding-break as far as possible. All of the spending is focused on addressing needs in Huntingdonshire. HCSP's spending plan reflects the agreed priorities for the year.

6.4 For 2008-9 the revenue SSCF spending was agreed as follows:

£57,000	2x ASB Case Workers (HDC-based)
£18,000	Young People's Drug Misuse Worker (DIAL Druglink)
£11,000	Drinksense Project with Young People
£ 3,418	Youth Workers/Holiday scheme (Fusion)
£ 4,637	'Community Chest'

6.5 For 2008-9 the Capital SSCF spending was agreed as follows:

£11,670	HBAC Night-time Economy Project
£ 4,450	CCTV up-grade to Women's Refuge
£ 796	Equipment for Fusion Project
£12,080	'Community Chest'

- 6.6 In addition to the SSCF Fund the HCSP can also influence the BCU (Police) funding. At the 22 May meeting the HCSP agreed the BCU Spending plan for 2008-11. The Central BCU covers both Huntingdonshire and Fenland so the available funds have to be split between the two areas; approximately £57,500 was secured for the benefit of Huntingdonshire.
- 6.7 The BCU funds and SSCF funds are used to complement each other. For 2008-9 the BCU spending in Huntingdonshire was agreed as follows:
- Youth Workers/Holiday scheme (Fusion)
 - Rural Policing + working with Countryside watch
 - Bobby scheme- home-security assistance for older people
 - HBAC Co-ordinator contribution
 - Secondary schools sessions re ASB
 - Public Order Police patrols re alcohol-related ASB
 - HBAC Night-time Economy Project
 - BUZZ project- Young People and ASB
 - Police 'SmartWater' project

7. QUALITY OF ENGAGEMENT & DELIVERY

- 7.1 There was a national review of the Crime and Disorder Act undertaken in 2006 improvements were reflected in legislation that came into effect on 1 August 2007, which set out new statutory requirements for Community Safety Partnerships. In addition the Home Office has published guidance; including a 'Guide to Effective Partnership Working' which sets out six 'Hallmarks' that represent the key aspects of partnership working deemed to underpin effective delivery.
- 7.2 A recent audit of Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has been undertaken using this guide (May/June 2008). In total the six Home Office 'Hallmarks', together with statutory requirements, produce 115 markers. The audit concluded that Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership have already adopted and are meeting the standard for 90 (78%) markers. The review therefore identified 25 action points relating to identified gaps. A draft of the action plan has been developed to respond to the findings of the audit is attached as Appendix 4. (This draft plan is due to be presented to the HCSP on 28 August 2008 for comment/agreement.)

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 This partnership is a statutory partnership and therefore the purpose, membership and performance are controlled. Performance is monitored regularly, both of monies spent and outcomes achieved. There are reporting mechanisms in place to report to the HSP Executive, the Cambridgeshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership and elected-Members of Huntingdonshire District Council. In addition there is the formal annual feedback of progress to the general public as part of the Community Safety Plan which is published each April.
- 8.2 Thorough consultation is built into the formal process of assessing needs. In addition, during 2007-8, the Neighbourhood Policing Panels have been used as a means of canvassing local views.

- 8.3 The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has been the most successful partnership, of its type, in Cambridgeshire over the last 3-years. It retains a clear focus of that which needs to be achieved in the near-future and has an action-planning approach to delivering the desired outcomes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2008-11, HDC April 2008
[[http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/750B19CC-C65E-4880-B488A982233C1146/0/Community_safety_partnership.pdf]

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended)
[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/ukpga_19980037_en_1]

Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working; Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships, Home Office 2008 [169 pages] [<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/partnerships/partnerships001.htm>]

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