

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW
REPORT BY THE HEAD OF HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary for Members of the activities and outcomes of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership in the year 2012-13.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 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 with a wide range of organisations. The partnership is administered and supported by the HDC Community Safety Team.
- 2.2 Traditionally funding awarded to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) by the Home Office (SSCF) had been used to contribute towards a number of different initiatives put in place to address the agreed priorities. In 2012-13 the grant was c£28k (down from £56k the previous year). From April 2013 the Home Office funding ceased and funds (c£28k) were awarded by the new Police and Crime Commissioner (P&CC) for Cambridgeshire for this purpose. From April 2014 the P&CC is open to the notion of providing funds to HCSP but does not anticipate necessarily having sufficient funds to permit an allocation (the P&CC's budget announcement from the Home Office is expected in October 2013).

3. SUSTAINING A SERVICE IN 2012-13

- 3.1 The reduced funding for Community Safety in 2011-12 and 2012-13 threatened the sustainability of the single, remaining, Anti-Social Behaviour Case Worker post traditionally funded from that source. [2011-12 had seen a reduction in SSCF monies allocated to HCSP so that the number of ASB Case-workers had been reduced from 2 to 1 in that year]. This presented a challenge as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has continued to be the number one priority for people living in Huntingdonshire and this is confirmed by the audits that have been produced as well as the more recent strategic assessments. The case worker is the key post responsible for receiving and addressing complaints to HDC from members of the public, partner agencies and town, parish and district Councillors, etc.
- 3.2 To meet the challenge a multi-disciplinary Community Safety Team was established within Huntingdonshire from 1 April 2012. The previous year (2011-12) year had seen an ongoing reduction in SSCF monies allocated to HCSP so that the number of ASB Case-workers had already been reduced to

one. This new team initially included the remaining members of HDC's Community Safety Team (Community Safety Manager, ASB Case Worker, Administration Support/Case Worker and Community Cohesion/Open Out officer) plus three members of staff from Cambridgeshire Constabulary [a police constable (licensing and night-time economy issues) and 2x PCSOs].

- 3.3 During the course of the year (2012-13) the staffing of the Community Safety team was further reduced to match the available funds, because ceasing all commissioning and activities on the part of the HCSP would not realise sufficient savings to address the short fall. It had been calculated there would be insufficient funds to cover the expenses for the number of posts, after March 2013.
- 3.4 Following consultation with affected employees two (2) posts were deleted from the structure: Administration Support/Case Worker and Community Cohesion/Open Out officer. At the same time, the single post of Anti Social Behaviour Caseworker was made permanent (this 'temporary' post had existed since 2005). To allow essential administrative support the job description of a Customer Service Assistant post in 'Community Health' was amended to include some community safety administrative duties. This, slimmed-down, shared services team is still based in Pathfinder House.
- 3.5 There may be opportunities to seek commissions in the future (c2014) but the arrangements are neither clear nor reliable at the moment. There is significant risk that if any funding could be secured in future it would be opportunistic and from a variety of sources and could still be greatly reduced from that available in the past.

4. PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 As 2012-13 was a year of change and tight financial constraint so commissioning by the HCSP was constrained. This was both to allow sufficient funds to be carried forward into the following year (to cover on-going financial obligations while work was undertaken to develop new income streams); and also because the Community Safety Manager was unavailable for 5 months of that year and there were insufficient funds to allow for a temporary replacement.
- 4.2 The HCSP reviewed performance during 2012 at their meeting on 7 March 2013 the data show that there had been 7,569 recorded crimes in Huntingdonshire in 2012, plus 5,043 incidents of anti-social behavior (ASB) and 2,165 domestic incidents. There is an element of double-counting within these figures of the 2165 'domestic' incidents', a portion will have then be converted into crimes. The 'top-ten' issues were: ASB [4935], Domestic incidents [2165], 'Other' Theft [960] (in 17% of these crimes (163) cash was stolen; 16% (150) were mobile phone thefts; 11% (107) metal theft; 10% (93) garden equipment; 6% (56) fuel), Theft from a vehicle [709], Theft from a Shop [604], Burglary involving a building other than a dwelling [603], Burglary of a dwelling [541], Criminal Damage to a vehicle [492], Common Assault [399], Assault with Injury [382].

- 4.3 In June 2013 the P&CC received a report on the progress of the HCSP. This report included the following headlines for Huntingdonshire:
- * Total Crime has fallen by 10.4% (843 fewer crimes) in the last 12 months.
 - * As a result of the targeted work to address incidents of violence against the person, violent crime has fallen by 16.2% (254 fewer crimes).
 - * Through the Dodgems Project, working with vulnerable 12 - 25 year old males, 24 clients have received intensive 1 to 1 support. These individuals have not come to the attention of the ASB PSG after working on this project. All 24 clients are secure in education, employment or training.
 - * The introduction and maintenance of Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime which has resulted in massive reductions in shop theft, since 2006.
 - * Up to April 2013 The Junior PCSO Scheme has worked with over 100 Year 5 pupils who were at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
 - * Diversionary activities have been introduced to areas where ASB is an issue.

The full briefing has been appended to this report. The P&CC was also provided with details of the types of projects funded by HCSP since it was created and examples of successful partnership working where funding has not been necessary (this too is appended to this report).

- 4.4 Overall, crime in Huntingdonshire fell by >10% last year (8102 crimes in 2011-12, 7259 in 2012-13) All victim-based crime down c10% (729 fewer offences) [Huntingdon ↓13.3%, 429 fewer; St Neots ↓10.5%, 202 fewer; St Ives ↓6.1%, 98 fewer]. All violent crime has reduced by more than 16% (254 fewer offences). However, acquisitive crime has crept up: 109 more burglaries, 155 more vehicle crimes and 69 more instances of shoplifting last year than 2011-12. Metal thefts became a new phenomenon for last year: with 144 instances.
- 4.5 The information gathered through the Strategic Assessment and consultations with community groups and residents of Huntingdonshire is used each year to help determine the priorities for HCSP to tackle. The partnership is actively seeking to limit the number and scope of priorities each year commensurate with the resources available but the emphasis on prevention remains.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The landscape for Community Safety was changing in 2012-13. Huntingdonshire District Council and a number of other organisations have a responsibility to respond to complaints of ASB and significant progress that has been made in Huntingdonshire to address ASB in recent years. The creation of a multi-disciplinary team provided a skilled resource that can continue to develop and market the service with a view to attracting funding in the future.

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- 5.3 HCSP actively reviews the crime figures throughout the year and tailors its approach to commissioning tactical responses as far as possible. However, the partnership's focus remains on prevention rather than amelioration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Panel Members are requested to note the content of this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2011-14, HDC April 2012
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Action-Plan 2012, HDC April 2012
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Action-Plan 2013, HDC May 2013

Huntingdonshire Strategic Assessment 2012: An analysis of community safety issues Draft Report Version 3.1; Produced by the Research & Performance Team of LGSS and Commissioned by Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership: Crime Overview for Huntingdonshire District, Cambridgeshire County Council, 07/03/2013