

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership 2014 -15 Review

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny Social Wellbeing Panel 3 November 2015

Executive Portfolio: Councillor R Harrison

Report by: Head of Community

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Executive Summary:

- 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 2014 – 15. Details of the costs associated with the District Council supporting the activities of the Community Safety Partnership, and how the new Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 powers have been utilised.

Recommendation:

- The Panel Members are requested to consider the content of this report and consider how the work of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership can be further implemented within your ward areas.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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. Forming the Partnership are representatives from the six statutory organisations, these being Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG and the Probation Service as well as invited organisations such as Luminus Homes and Link to Change.
- 1.2 Traditionally, funding awarded to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) by the Home Office was in the form of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) which had been used to contribute towards a number of different initiatives put in place to address the agreed priorities. For the third consecutive year, the funding was awarded to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner (P&CC) to allocate and in April 2014, the Partnership received £24,225. The grant award was a clear recognition by the P&CC that the Partnership had achieved what they had set out to do at the start of the previous 12 months.
- 1.3 The Partnership is required to allocate the funding in line with their priorities. The priorities form part of a three year annually refreshed Community Safety Plan of which 2014 – 15 was the first year of this plan. For the three years (2014 – 17), the Partnership agreed to focus on ‘Victims and Vulnerabilities’. The Strategic Assessments commissioned in 2014 – 15 focused on these priority areas to enable the Partnership to put a response in place to the reality of these issues locally. An example of some of the positive action taken by the Partnership in response to the priorities is:

Project	Link to 2014 – 17 Priority	Amount (£)	Associated Outcomes
Officer time in relation to Dodgems Project (Intensive work with 10 identified males who are at risk of becoming involved in or are already involved with the Criminal Justice System as well as being at risk of Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)).	Prevention and intervention	7,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaks the cycle of offending that in turn reduces the strain on Police, District Council, CPS, YOS and prison services; • Reduces repeat victimisation; • Addresses long term issues such as mental ill health; • Improves educational attainment/ employment

<p>Art Mind Therapy Project (working with identified children and young people who are suffering post-traumatic stress leading to them becoming involved in crime, disorder or ASB).</p>	<p>Project receives referrals in relation to victims and perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation.</p>	<p>8,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the most vulnerable; • Provides a quick response to a long term issue; • Reduces the strain on Police, District Council, GPs, A&E • Enables an individual to move on in their life;
<p>Insurance for Pubwatch Schemes (Covering the areas of St Ives and Huntingdon where historically alcohol related disorder has been of significant concern. The Pubwatch Schemes ban individuals from their premises who are having a negative impact on the night time economy as a result of their behaviour).</p>	<p>Supporting communities to have a zero tolerance to offending behaviour.</p>	<p>577</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the reduction in the number of incidents of violence against the person; • Reduce requirement for the Police to resource the night time economy; • Fewer people attending A&E with alcohol related injuries;
<p>Fuel Tank Alarm (Requested by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to tackle diesel thefts in the rural areas of the District).</p>	<p>Supporting vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>265</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of thefts; • Reduce the strain on Police resource; • Protects those living in rural areas of the District
<p>Bobby Scheme – Support the Bobby Scheme to respond to victims of crime and domestic abuse by putting in place, in the victim’s home, preventative and repeat victim measures.</p>	<p>Supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities.</p>	<p>3,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces repeat victimisation; • Reduces the strain on Police and support agencies; • Protects those living in rural areas of the District
<p>Remote access IP cameras – CCTV camera that can be used by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to gather evidence in relation to reported issues of anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Supporting vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>750</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects the most vulnerable members of our communities; • Supports the prosecution process ensuring better outcomes for the victim; • Addresses repeat victimisation;

External trainers appointed to provide a one day training course to frontline professionals in relation to the new tools and powers available under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.	To support the overarching theme of Victims and Vulnerabilities	750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient use of the legislation available; • Targets repeat offenders; • Provides reassurance for our communities that ASB will not be tolerated; • Reduces calls for service to the District Council and Police
Provision of a Breakfast Club for EU residents living in Huntingdon North Ward. A facility where residents can access advice and support in relation to drugs, alcohol, housing and benefits. A pilot project to try and break the cycle of early morning alcohol consumption.	Disrupting human trafficking and supporting victims as well as a priority community	3,383	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports victims and addresses perpetrators; • Community reassurance and integration; • Reduces calls for service to the Police and District Council
Total		24,225	

1.5 The Partnership has recognised the need to carry out a piece of work over the next 12 months that accurately evaluates the return on investment in relation to the projects that they have commissioned.

1.6 Unlike previous years, the Chair of the Partnership was not required to attend a P&CC 'Star Chamber' but they did receive notification in March 2015 that they would be awarded grant funding for the amount of £22,900 for 2015 – 16 based on their previous year's performance.

2.0 Financial

2.1 The District Council currently provides both administrative and professional support to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership as outlined in section 2.1 of this report. In the financial year 2014-15 this support is outlined below.

Post	Financial Year 2013 - 14	Financial Year 2014 - 15
<p>Head of Community</p> <p>Responsibilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at 4 meetings per year • Designated Officer in relation to use of AS legislation • Meetings with Chief Inspector and Portfolio Holder x 3 per year 	£16,511 (18.6% FTE)	£3,923 (5% FTE)
<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>Responsibilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending 4 meetings/ year • Supporting the Chair and Vice Chair • Provide briefings for Partnership members • Agenda setting • Writing of 70% of reports that are presented to the Partnership • Action Plan writing • Writing and monitoring progress against the 3 year CS Plan • Creating and supporting working groups • Managing the Community Safety Fund • Completing financial returns to the P&CC • Maintenance of Partnership web pages on HDC site 	£15,200 (40% FTE)	£15,028 (40% FTE)
<p>Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Responsibilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending 4 meetings/ year • Distributing the minutes and agenda • Distributing relevant information by email to Partnership members as requested by the Chair and CS Team Leader 	£402.00 (1.83% FTE)	£623.00 (2.25% FTE)
<p>Anti-Social Behaviour Case Worker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities included Progress actions as requested by the Partnership • Respond to the vulnerable victim agenda • Fulfil duties under relevant legislation 	£1,300 (5% 0.8FTE)	£1,300 (5% 0.8FTE)
<p>Community Safety Administration Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities included: Submitting invoices to the Office of the P&CC 	£200 (1% FTE)	£200 (1% FTE)
Total	£33,613	£21,074

- 2.2 The costs differ considerably from year to year because in 2013 – 14, the Chair of the Partnership was a Head of Service employed by Huntingdonshire District Council. In 2014 – 15, the Chair was a senior Police Officer therefore reducing the contribution of time and resource made by the District Council.
- 2.2 It is important to recognise that a considerable proportion of the work carried out by the Community Safety Team Leader for the HCSP is also of benefit to HDC as result of the issues being a priority in the Huntingdonshire area. This helps avoid duplication and consistency for communities.
- 2.3 Other organisations have demonstrated their commitment to the Partnership in the form of the elected Chair being a senior Police Officer for Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Vice Chair a Director for Luminus Homes.

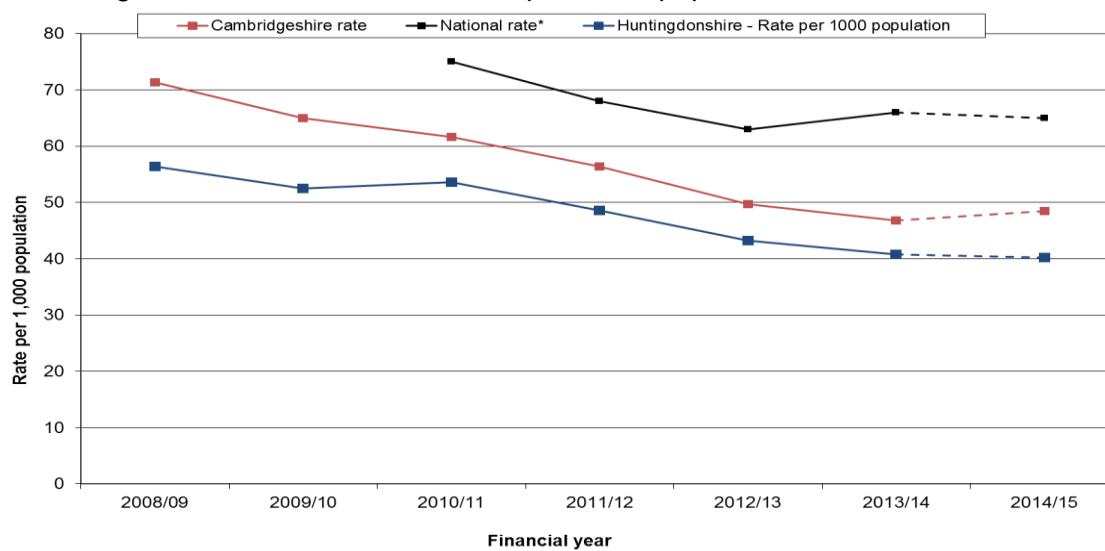
3.0 SUSTAINING A SERVICE IN 2015 – 16 AND BEYOND

- 3.1 The Co-located Community Safety Team that was created in 2012 remains secure with two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) based part time at Pathfinder House along with the Community Safety Team Leader, ASB Case Worker and Community Safety Administrative Support Officer. Also joining this team on a co-located basis in early 2015 was the Outreach Worker for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 The ECINs Case Management system continues to be used by the District Council Community Safety Team as well as partner agencies to report, record and manage individuals who are involved with or victims of anti-social behaviour. Since its launch in 2013, the number of organisations actively using the system has increased which in turns improves information sharing as well as the way that each case is managed and successfully closed.
- 3.3 The P&CC has committed to funding ECINs for the District and City Councils until 2017 as the need for better sharing of information to target those who cause our communities most harm has been recognised.
- 3.4 The co-located District Council Community Safety Team provides scope and flexibility, suggesting that there may be opportunities to provide a response to ASB on behalf of other authorities across Cambridgeshire or housing providers who own stock within the district. The Partnership is investigating these opportunities further because of the recognition that there are 29 Registered Providers across the District all of whom provide a very different response to anti-social behaviour. The Partnership would like to implement a stream lined response to victims regardless of their tenure.
- 3.4.1 Further research will now be carried out to establish the demand for a commissioned service and proposals in relation to what the service would look like will then be considered by the Partnership.

4.0 PERFORMANCE 2014 - 15

4.1 At the April 2015 meeting of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership a presentation was received in relation to performance against a selection of crime types. In the long term since 2008/09 total police recorded crime has reduced by 25% in Huntingdonshire and by 27% in Cambridgeshire for the same period of time. There is a 1% reduction in the police recorded crime when compared to last year, however Cambridgeshire has seen an increase of 4% in police recorded crime for the same period of time.

Figure 1: Total Crime Trend, rate per 1,000 population



4.2 Nationally, the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police in the year ending September 2014 decreased by 10% compared with the previous year. There has been a remarkable reduction in ASB incidents (54.0%) in Huntingdonshire and (56.9%) in Cambridgeshire since 2007/08. A reduction of 3.6% was recorded in Huntingdonshire compared to last year.

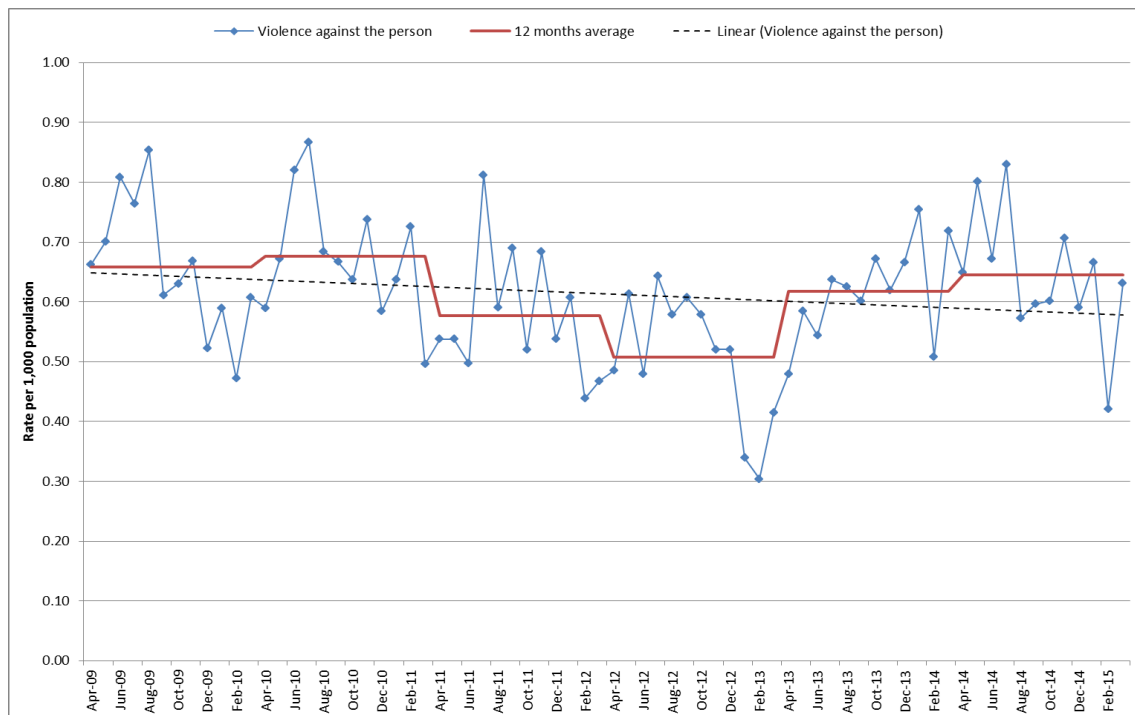
Table 1: shows a long term reduction in the volume of ASB in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15*
Huntingdonshire ASB	6,958	7,019	6,144	4,755	4,534	4,370
Year on year reductions	-23.9%	0.9%	-12.5%	-22.6%	-4.6%	-3.6%
reduction compared 2007/08	-26.8%	-26.1%	-35.3%	-50.0%	-52.3%	-54.0%
Cambridgeshire ASB	25,027	26,067	22,765	18,061	17,086	15,870
year on year reduction	-27.4%	4.2%	-12.7%	-20.7%	-5.4%	-7.1%
reduction compared 2007/08	-32.0%	-29.2%	-38.1%	-50.9%	-53.6%	-56.9%

*Two months projections are used

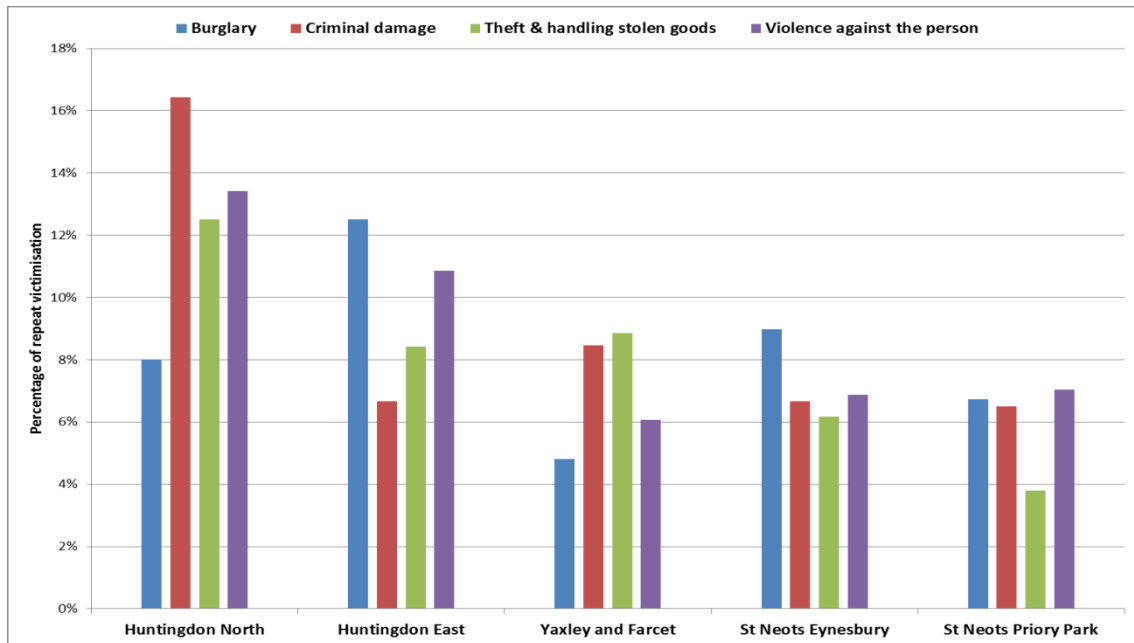
- 4.3 Looking at the data for year ending January 2015, dwelling burglary has reduced by 17.2% (80 offences) and vehicle crime reduced by 18.9% (154 offences). However, there is an increase by 60.6% (20 offences) in all robbery and an increase by 88.9% (24 offences) in personal robbery offences in particular. Possession of a weapon offences increased by 82.6% (19 offences) and hate crime offences increased by 35.5% (11 offences). Serious sexual offences, rape in particular, increased by 46.5% (20 offences).
- 4.4 The Partnership has had violence as a priority for a number of years, with a particular focus on alcohol related violence. There has been good overall improvement in this area. Data collected from Hinchingbrooke Accident and Emergency department for assaults presenting at the department has recorded, in the medium term, a 7% reduction in the past 2 years. Hinchingbrooke's data shows average yearly reductions for the past 3 years with peaks being more notable in summer months.

Figure 2: Long term trend for the rate per 1,000 population of (VAP) in Huntingdonshire



- 4.5 A research project on Repeat Victimization completed by the Cambridgeshire Research Group revealed that Huntingdon North Ward accounted for 13% of the total repeat victimisation in Huntingdonshire. The ward also has the highest recorded rate of repeat victimisation at 47.3 per 1,000 population, compared to the Huntingdonshire district rate of 13.9 per 1,000 population. Huntingdon North Ward has the highest proportion of repeat victims (12%) who have been victimised between 2 and 3 times and also recorded the highest volume of repeat victims (95%) who have been victimised four or more times in three years.

Figure 3: First five wards where higher repeat victimisation is recorded with crime type



4.6 The Partnership took the opportunity at this point to consider the emerging issues as well as their performance over the previous 12 months.

5.0 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

5.1 The 20th October 2014 saw the commencement of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. There are four parts to the Act that replace 19 powers that were previously available to address anti-social behaviour; this included the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

5.2 The Partnership commissioned an external provider to deliver training on the new legislation to frontline professionals all of whom would be required to utilise the tools and powers. The training was attended by 30 officers representing different services and organisations.

5.3 The Partnership commenced the process for implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering Huntingdon Town Centre. The Order was required in response to ongoing issues with street drinkers who significantly effecting the day time economy and those living in and visiting the town. A report was submitted to the Licensing and Protection Panel that requested the following prohibitions:

- the consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol in the Designated Area; and
- acting in a manner that causes alarm, harassment or distress as a result of consuming alcohol.

5.3.1 The Order was approved with an implementation date of 1st April 2015.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The landscape for Community Safety continues to change. Huntingdonshire District Council and a number of other organisations have a responsibility to respond to complaints of ASB and significant progress 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.
- 6.2 The Partnership has continued to use their resources effectively to tackle issues of crime, disorder and ASB resulting once again in a reduction of total crime compared to the same time last year. This is not an opportunity for the Partnership to be complacent; they must focus their efforts in to emerging issues and continue their proactive way of working as opposed to being reactive.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 The HCSP has continued to achieve year on year reductions in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour since its formation in 1998.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2014 – 17, HDC May 2014
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Spending Plan – Community Safety Fund – January 2015
Huntingdonshire Strategic Assessment April 2015

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