

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **COMMUNITY PROFILE & PARTNERSHIPS
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **25 JULY 2013**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
UPDATE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide Members with an overview of the Community Safety Partnership's activities over the past year.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Flintshire Community Safety Partnership is required to formally report to this committee on an annual basis to provide an overview of activities undertaken over the previous twelve months. This ensures that the Partnership meets its obligations under sections 19 and 20 of the Police & Criminal Justice Act 2006. The legislation came into effect in Wales on 1 October 2009 through the Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.
- 2.02 Flintshire County Council has a statutory duty under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and the subsequent amendments by the 2002 and the 2006 Police and Justice Act, to work in partnership with the police, health service, probation and fire service to address the local community safety agenda. Collectively they make up the Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.03 There has been a partnership in existence in Flintshire since 1999. To support the Partnership, the county is served by a core team of local authority and police officers who tackle areas such as domestic abuse, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour, along with the Neighbourhood Wardens.
- 2.04 Each year the Community Safety Partnership is required to produce a Strategic Assessment, and also formulate a Strategic Plan every three years.
- 2.05 In recent years the drive to rationalise the work of partnerships has been the catalyst for significant changes in the Flintshire Community Safety Partnership's governance structure. In April 2013 the Partnership merged with the Local Service Board. This has had

minimal impact on the operational delivery structure; however at a strategic level it has meant a greater consistency of approach. The statutory duties of the Community Safety Partnership continue to be fulfilled.

- 2.06 Over the past year great progress has also been made in the way Community Safety Partnerships in North Wales have worked together. The establishment of the North Wales Safer Communities Board in July 2012 has been the most significant regional development. This Board represents a partnership between all the statutory authorities across the region (as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998), along with the voluntary sector. The overall aim of the Board is to introduce greater consistency in this area of work, whilst allowing opportunities to share expertise and work more effectively and efficiently.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 It is evident that partnership working improves how agencies tackle crime and disorder. The most recent full year figures for crime and disorder illustrate that rates continued to fall. Below is a summary of some of the key findings:

- There has been a steady reduction in recorded crime in Flintshire over the past four years. In 2012/13 there were 1133 fewer crimes recorded than in 2009/10; representing a reduction of 13.6%.
- Since 2009/10 the number of violence against the person offences have decrease year on year with an overall reduction of 15.6%
- In 2012/13 there were 64 fewer burglary dwellings across the county than in the previous year, representing a decrease of 17.7%
- During the same period Burglary other than Dwelling (BOTD) offences fell by 6.1%, Criminal Damage reduced by 5.7% and Vehicle Crime decreased by 1.5%.
- There were 364 fewer ASB incidents in Flintshire in 2012/13 than 2011/12, equating to a fall of 6.4%

- 3.02 The Community Safety Partnership's Strategic Plan underpins the work of the Partnership. It spans a three year period, and is reviewed on an annual basis. The current plan runs between April 2011 and March 2014. A copy of this document accompanies this report.

- 3.03 The priorities of the current Plan are to:

- Reduce the levels of violent crime including domestic and sexual violence.

- Tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce the levels of acquisitive crime.
- Reduce re-offending by supporting the agencies which actively manage offenders.
- Reduce the harm that substance misuse causes to communities, families and individuals.
- Tackle hate related crime and disorder and encourage reporting.
- Engage with the community to provide re-assurance and increase public confidence.

3.04 'People are Safe' also features as a priority for the Local Service Board's Single Integrated Plan. This will be Flintshire's primary cross-partner strategic plan whereby local, sub-regional and regional drivers will be underpinned through detailed delivery plans.

3.05 From 1 April 2014 a regional Strategic Community Safety Plan will be produced, which will compliment a regional Strategic Assessment. The community safety partnerships of North Wales are the first of the strategic partnerships to adopt this way of working. Local and sub-regional differences, and needs, will be reflected in the Strategic Plan.

3.06 At the 7 June 2013 meeting of the Safer Communities Board the draft priorities and outcomes of the Plan were presented, and approved. The areas identified have been recommended based on the findings of the North Wales Community Safety Strategic Assessment. The table below summarises the key priorities:

Overall aim: Making North Wales a safer place to live	
Priority Area	Outcomes
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase confidence reporting serious sexual offences ▪ Increase confidence reporting incidents of domestic abuse ▪ Reduce the risk of becoming a repeat victim of domestic abuse
Alcohol Related Violent Crime with Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the risk of becoming a victim of violent crime resulting in injury
Acquisitive Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop effective responses to locally identified problems of acquisitive crime ▪ Jointly address those who cause the greatest harm in our communities

Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the risk of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour
Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving availability and quality of education, prevention and treatment services and related support, with greater priority given to those related to alcohol¹

3.07 **Progress in 2012/3**

Since April 2012 the Flintshire Community Safety Partnership has undertaken a wide range of activities, and supported many different services, a sample of which is listed below. This work has been separated to denote regional and local work:

Regional Activities and Progress

The newly established North Wales Safer Communities Board has met on four occasions (3 July 2012, 1 November 2012, 4 February 2013 and 7 June 2013). Some of the key developments and decisions taken during the first year have been:

- i. Approval of a North Wales Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment for 2012
- ii. Agreement and approval to produce a regional Community Safety Strategic Plan
- iii. Strategic oversight of the Substance Misuse Area Planning Board
- iv. Co-ordinated response to the Welsh Government's 10,000 Safer Lives Initiative
- v. Consistency of approach to regionally commissioned grants, namely the Youth Crime Prevention Fund and Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund
- vi. Membership and participation of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- vii. Recommendation of a Commissioning Framework for the PCC
- viii. Establishment of a regional task and finish group on Human Trafficking

All actions have been completed, or are progressing to plan.

Local Activities and Progress

¹ Priority from the Welsh Assembly Government Substance Misuse Strategy 2008-18.

At a local level some of the key milestones have been as follows:

- i. Flintshire County Council is leading the co-ordination of the Safer Communities Board on behalf of regional partners
- ii. Leading the development of a regional Community Safety Plan
- iii. Co-ordinating the regional response to the 10,000 Safer Lives initiative
- iv. Obtaining formal approval of funding for the following grants: Community Safety Fund, Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund, Domestic Abuse Services Grant and the Safer Communities Fund funding for 2012/3.
- v. Re-establishment of the Joint Action Group, to replace the function of the Priority Crime Group. This group will focus on the victims, offenders and locations.
- vi. Successful launch of the Street Rugby Initiative that will target young people in Communities First areas during the summer holidays.
- vii. On-going support of Operation Housewatch. This initiative will safeguard vacant and empty residential properties through the installation of low-level security equipment. The scheme will be supported by the Neighbourhood Wardens.
- viii. Further delivery of training to multi agency groups around the use of the CAADA (national accreditation) 'Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Assessment' tool for Domestic Abuse.
- ix. Commissioning a number of service user recovery programmes following a successful pilot run in Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham. This will improve longer term and sustainable recovery from substance misuse.
- x. Contributing to the 'People are Safe' priority for the LSB
- xi. Awareness campaign to target older people misusing alcohol
- xii. Presence at the Flint and Denbigh Show
- xiii. Highly commended quality assurance from accredited body regarding the Flintshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- xiv. Successful White Ribbon campaign targeting young people
- xv. On-going support of Doorstep crime initiatives
- xvi. Establishment of task and finish Anti Social Behaviour groups in Holywell and Flint

All actions have been completed, or are progressing to plan.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- i. Flintshire Community Safety Partnership to merge with the Local Service Board
- ii. Continued support and co-ordination of the North Wales Safer Communities Board
- iii. Produce draft North Wales Community Safety Plan
- iv. Launch of the domestic abuse workplace policy for Flintshire

- County Council employees
- v. Scoping the work streams emanating from 'Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups' – particularly relating to domestic violence.
 - vi. Implementing the regional work programme for the 10,000 Safer Lives initiatives
 - vii. On-going work with HR to develop a Domestic Abuse Workplace policy
 - viii. Flintshire Substance Misuse Action Team to consider the implications of the Area Planning Board assuming greater commissioning powers
 - ix. Regional commissioning of substance misuse awareness training for practitioners
 - x. Strengthening links with Licensing, Substance Misuse Action Team and North Wales Police to ensure appropriate test purchasing operations within on-licence premises.
 - xi. Continued collaborative work regionally and sub regionally.
 - xii. Enhancement of existing services to young people based on the recommendations of the Hidden Harm Inquiry and a local service mapping exercise
 - xiii. Continue to work with Housing to look at the forthcoming requirement to implement the Wales Management Standard for Anti Social Behaviour
 - xiv. Contributing to the 'People are Safe' priority area for the Local Service Board
 - xv. Develop regional expenditure plan for the Youth Crime Prevention Fund
 - xvi. Delivery of programme to raise awareness of steroid abuse in educational settings
 - xvii. Provision of training for professional in relation to volatile substance misuse
 - xviii. Participating in the Integrated Offender Management Strategy Group for North Wales

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 To note the contents of the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Flintshire & Wrexham Community Safety Plan, 2011-2014

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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