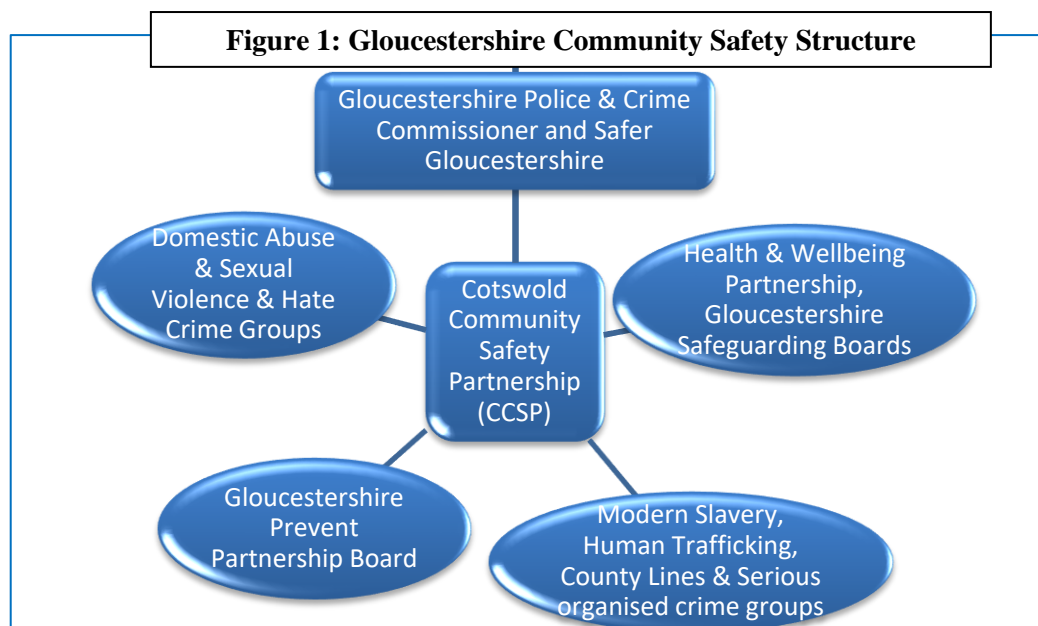




Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> <b>28 July 2020</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 11</b>
Subject	<b>MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE – CRIME AND DISORDER</b>
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde - Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk">jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Philippa Lowe - Business Manager for Localities Tel: 01285 623000 Email: <a href="mailto:philippa.lowe@publicagroup.uk">philippa.lowe@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To provide an overview of the Council's crime and disorder responsibilities; and to outline the main activities of the Community Safety Partnership.
Annexes	Annex A – Cotswold Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference Annex B – Cotswold Community Safety Partnership Action Plan 2019/2020
Recommendation	<i>To note the report</i>
Corporate priorities	Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and wellbeing
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	None

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the Council's crime and disorder responsibilities and highlight how responses to issues are tackled within the context of a whole system approach. For the purposes of this paper the more commonly used term of **Community Safety** is used with reference to the discharge of these responsibilities.
- 1.2 The basis of those responsibilities is set out in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which dictates that the responsible authorities (as defined by the Act) must consider the implication on crime and disorder of all their day to day activities. In its broadest sense the Act also brought about a duty to cooperate and led to the creation of Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) in each local authority area.
- 1.3 The structure for Community Safety in Gloucestershire is shown in Figure 1 below. Details of the roles across the system are summarised under the headings below as well as how a collective partnership response is translated into a set of priority actions (See Annex B; Community Safety Partnership Action Plan).



- 1.4 To support Councils in this work, the Local Government Association provides a range of guidance noting that community safety is not just an issue for police, fire and rescue authorities but that Councils also contribute in a variety of ways. Whilst their Community Safety Workbook for Councillors was produced in 2012, and therefore doesn't take into account the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners Office, it does however provide a useful overview. See link: <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/community-safety-1e2.pdf>

### **What is Community Safety?**

- 1.5 Community Safety is a broad term that refers to the protection of local communities from the threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour by achieving reductions in relation to both crime and the fear of crime. Community Safety encompasses anti-social behaviour and disorder (including behaviour adversely

affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances. It also involves the community in identifying the threat and the crime, the problems and the solutions.

## **2. COMMUNITY SAFETY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**2.1.** As noted above, tackling crime and disorder issues requires a whole system approach to community safety. Figure 1 illustrates the structure of how it works in Gloucestershire and the following sections introduce in more detail the key elements, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, Safer Gloucestershire and in particular the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership. Reference is also made to the approach developed directly in response to Covid-19.

### **The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)**

**2.2.** Police and Crime Commissioners now have overall responsibility for policing. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 set out ways in which the PCC could work with Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's), through a duty to cooperate to reduce crime and disorder and reoffending. Partnership working is seen as key to tackling a range of community safety and public protection issues.

**2.3.** The 2011 Act also required the PCC and CSPs to have regard to each other's priorities as set out within their respective plans. There is already consensus across all agencies of the importance of prevention and early intervention and a shared focus on more complex areas which are priorities for national government.

**2.4.** Section 17 of the 1998 Act, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires 'responsible authorities' (as defined by the Act) to consider the likely impact on crime and disorder, the community safety dimension, in all their day to day activities. It is also about the contribution that can be made to reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime as well as improving the quality of life in the area.

### **Safer Gloucestershire**

**2.5.** In tackling crime and disorder at a systems level, Safer Gloucestershire is associated County-wide strategic partnership that provides a coherent and holistic approach to the delivery of the Community Safety activities in Gloucestershire.

**2.6.** The role of Safer Gloucestershire is to provide strong and effective leadership to ensure all the statutory and voluntary partners and partnerships work together effectively to prioritise and promote early intervention and a problem solving approach to tackle the key crime and disorder concerns across the rural and urban areas in Gloucestershire.

**2.7.** Safer Gloucestershire also fulfils a statutory role under the Crime and Disorder Act, to deliver a Joint Strategic Needs and Intelligence Assessment (JSNIA) in order to co-ordinate and prioritise county wide activity on common themes, whilst championing the idea that prevention of crime, harm and disorder starts in local communities.

2.8. Safer Gloucestershire is chaired by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and meets on a quarterly basis. It is supported by a Secretariat (Development and Delivery Group) which is chaired by the Director of Partnerships and Strategy: GCC Children's Services, who also attends Safer Gloucestershire.

2.9. The partners on Safer Gloucestershire are as noted below:

- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service\*
- Gloucestershire County Council\*
- Gloucester City Council\*, Cheltenham\* and Tewkesbury Borough Council\*, Cotswold\*, Forest of Dean\* and Stroud District Council\*
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Gloucestershire Constabulary\*
- Voluntary Sector
- Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group\*
- Public Health
- 2gether NHS Foundation Trust
- National Probation Service\*
- Community Rehabilitation Company\*
- Youth Offending Team

\* **Responsible authority members Crime & Disorder Act 1998**

2.10. Safer Gloucestershire aims to complement & support existing Community Safety Partnerships capacity and its strategy reflects the views of the district councils, local partners and responsible authorities\* as determined by in the crime and disorder act. Safer Gloucestershire draft priorities 'Safer Gloucestershire 2019 – 2021' can be found at: <http://www.glosvcsalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/safer-glos-strategy-april-2019.pdf>

### **Gloucestershire County Strategy Groups**

2.11. Cotswold Safer Community Officers attend a number of County Strategy groups and contribute to the formulation of a County plan to ensure that these groups are working and contributing to issues that may arise in the Cotswold District.

## **3. COTSWOLD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)**

3.1. Section 5 of the Act established community safety partnerships in England (then known as 'crime and disorder reduction partnerships'). CSPs are statutorily responsible for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in each local authority area. CSPs are defined as: *"An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area"*.

3.2. The Terms of Reference for the Cotswold CSP are attached at Annex A. It defines the partnership as a district wide strategic group for community safety which will work to understand and coordinate a response to community safety issues in the Cotswolds. As has already been highlighted, it is whole system approached with locality specific priorities informed by evidence, and with due regard, as required, to the priorities of the PCC and Safer Gloucestershire.

**3.3.** The purpose of the Cotswold CSP is:

- *To take a strategic overview of community safety, crime, fear of crime the risk of re-offending and anti-social behaviour issues in the Cotswolds*
- *To produce an action plan and priorities for partners delivering community safety-related activity and to monitor and review the outcomes of their work*
- *To remove barriers to partnership working and delivery internally and externally in each CCSP member organisation.*

**3.4.** The Cotswolds CSP has responsibilities for:

- *Using the Strategic Assessment to produce the annual Community Safety Plan*
- *Committing resources from their respective organisations to support the delivery of the Community Safety Plan which will be updated annually*
- *Ensuring delivery plans are in place and to support the strategic objectives and provide good value for money*
- *Setting clear objectives, targets and responsibilities for Sub Groups*
- *Ensuring there are clear communication between partners and all sub groups, certifying that information is shared with other partners and the community.*
- *Ensuring that partner organisations adopt section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998*
- *Carrying out a Domestic Homicide review in partnership with Safer Gloucestershire following the death of a domestic abuse victim*
- *Communicating and championing the work of the CCSP within individual agencies.*
- *Ensuring that partnership organisations take responsibility for the provision of agreed data to the CCSP for the strategic assessment and performance monitoring and in line with the information sharing protocol.*

**3.5.** Cotswold CSP is currently made up of 'responsible authorities', comprising:

- Cotswold District Council
- Gloucestershire Police
- Office of the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Gloucestershire Fire and rescue service
- National Probation Service
- Gloucestershire Clinical commissioning group
- Gloucestershire County Council Departments (to include Public Health)

Additional organisations may be co-opted to the CSP include housing associations and the Citizens Advice Bureau. Other organisations may also be invited to meetings to discuss specific issues, where they arise.

**3.6.** Covid 19 Update: Since the start of lockdown a sub group of the CPS has been meeting on a weekly basis to monitor the impact of Covid-19 on Community Safety issues. The normal routine of quarterly meetings starts again with a virtual meeting on Thursday 16th July. The meeting will discuss the CSP priorities to ensure they remain fit for purpose in light of covid-19 and issues arising. Further proposals include consideration of more focused work around domestic abuse and

recovery from Covid-19 along with consideration of projects proposed through additional funding from P&C Commission grant allocation.

- 3.7. In reviewing work the CSP demonstrates its flexibility and approach to issues that require a whole system response.

### **Cotswold CPS PLAN**

- 3.7 The Cotswold CSP agreed priorities are set out in the action plan 2019 – 2021 in **Annex B**. They are subject to review by the Partnership to ensure they focus on the right priorities for the area and as noted above are aligned as appropriate with the County strategy plans and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners priorities.

## **4. ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Funding**

- 4.1. Where community safety activities and initiatives are externally funded the Cotswold CSP will be accountable to the funder and will report performance and outcomes as required. For examples, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner provided funding which has been used to introduce a new post at Cotswold District Council. A new Safer Communities Project Officer was appointed on a two year fixed term contract and a key element of that role is to connect with communities and residents particularly those affected by issues of Hidden Harm.
- 4.2. Additional funding from the PCC has been applied for during Covid-19 pandemic and the partnership has agreed additional areas of work that would be covered by the funding. This would include commissioning:
- Young Gloucestershire, who have effectively educated, informed and dispersed young people during lockdown
  - Working alongside Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) to provide pre-recorded training sessions for teachers and school staff to understand domestic abuse, and
  - Working with partner agencies on a series of pre-recorded videos on topics of Hidden Harm i.e. Hate Crime, Modern Slavery, Stalking and County Lines.

### **Scrutiny**

- 4.3. The Police and Crime Commissioner are held to account by the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel. The Panel is a joint body of all the Gloucestershire local authorities and served by Gloucestershire Police. The Panel is made up of sixteen appointed Councillors and two co-opted members.
- 4.4. Cotswold District Council is currently represented on the Board by Cllr Ray Brassington. Consideration should be given to whether the Council's representative should be drawn from the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny

Committee in order to ensure close relationship between the Council and wider system structures.

- 4.5. The Panel's role is to maintain a regular check and balance on the performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner and is under a duty to support, as well as challenge, the commissioner.
- 4.6. In terms of Cotswold District Council scrutiny arrangements, the Police and Justice Act 2006 sets out the requirements for every local authority to have a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of their crime and disorder functions. The committee can also make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.
- 4.7. For Cotswold District Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfils this function. In order to support this role it is proposed to prepare an annual paper for the Committee in order to present an update on the performance of the Cotswolds Community Safety Partnership in relation to discharge of its statutory functions as defined by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 4.8. The overview of the Partnerships work will include:
  - Progress against the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan
  - Spending against external funding
  - Progress in relation to agreed Council Priorities

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1. Cotswold District Council is able to fulfil its Community Safety (Crime and Disorder) responsibilities by working with key partners as part of a whole system approach in order to protect the public, prevent crime and to promote strong, integrated communities. This partnership approach ensures that more is achieved by working together and in doing so improve the overall quality of life and wellbeing of our residents.

## ANNEX A

### Cotswold Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) Terms of Reference August 2019

#### Purpose

The Cotswold Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) is the strategic group responsible for community safety in Cotswold district. It will work to understand and coordinate a response to the evidence-based needs and priorities of local communities and will also have due regard to the priorities of Safer Gloucestershire County Board and the Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner

The purpose of the Cotswold CSP is:

- To take a strategic overview of community safety, crime, fear of crime the risk of re-offending and anti-social behaviour issues in the Cotswolds
- To produce an action plan and priorities for partners delivering community safety-related activity and to monitor and review the outcomes of their work
- To remove barriers to partnership working and delivery internally and externally in each CCSP member organisation

#### Membership

The Responsible Authority members of the Cotswold CSP are:

Cotswold District Council
Gloucestershire Police
Office of the Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner
Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
National Probation Service
Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Gloucestershire County Council Departments (to include Public Health)

#### Co-opted Members

Bromford Housing
Sovereign Housing
Greensquare Group
Citizens Advice Bureau

Other groups/organisations may be invited to meetings to discuss specific issues, where they arise.

The Cotswold CSP is the statutorily required crime and disorder reduction partnership for the Cotswold District area in the county of Gloucestershire, all members of the CCSP must work in partnership through their own organisations to address community safety issues, no one partner on the CCSP has overall control.



The CSP is responsible for compliance with crime and disorder statutory duties and responsibilities:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 5 and 6
- Police and Justice Act 2006,
- Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- Domestic Violence crime and victims Act 2004 section 9 (Domestic Homicide review)
- Prevent Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Any relevant future Legislation pertinent to Community Safety

### **Objective**

To reduce:

- Crime and disorder
- Anti-social behaviour
- The fear of crime
- Risk of reoffending

### **Other Statutory obligations**

- Prevent Agenda
- Modern Slavery (NRM)
- Safeguarding (Children & Adults)

### **CSP Responsibilities**

The CSP will have responsibility for:

- Using the Strategic Assessment to produce the annual Community Safety Plan
- Committing resources from their respective organisations to support the delivery of the Community Safety Plan which will be updated annually
- Ensuring delivery plans are in place and to support the strategic objectives and provide good value for money
- Setting clear objectives, targets and responsibilities for Sub Groups
- Ensuring there are clear communication between partners and all sub groups, certifying that information is shared with other partners and the community.
- Ensuring that partner organisations adopt section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Carrying out a Domestic Homicide review in partnership with Safer Gloucestershire following the death of a domestic abuse victim
- Communicating and championing the work of the CCSP within individual agencies.
- Ensuring that partnership organisations take responsibility for the provision of agreed data to the CCSP for the strategic assessment and performance monitoring and in line with the information sharing protocol.

### **Community and Wider Engagement**

The Cotswold CSP will take into account the views of residents and communities across the nine areas of the Cotswold district. This may be supplemented by specific community engagement activities.

The CCSP will also report progress and outcomes at each quarterly meeting.

## **Accountability**

The CCSP will work in partnership with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and be cognisant and pay due regard to the priorities set by the Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner.

The CCSP will also work in partnership with Safer Gloucestershire to address wider community safety issues that may affect the Cotswold District area.

Where activity is externally funded, e.g. by the Police & Crime Commissioner, the CCSP will be accountable to the funder and will report performance and outcomes as required.

## **Meeting Arrangements**

The CCSP will meet four (4) times a year (every three months). Meetings will be coordinated on an annual basis.

The Chair of the CCSP will be the Cotswold District Council Portfolio holder for Leisure & Communities and Cotswold District Council will provide secretariat support to the Partnership.

It is expected that each organisation that sits on the CCSP will provide both verbal, written reports and data at each meeting to enable a true record of activity in the Cotswold District.

If a representative is unable to attend a meeting it is expected that a replacement attend on their behalf

## **Decision making**

Decision making will be arrived at by consensus of the members of the CCSP with a casting vote by the Chair.

## **Sub Groups**

From time to time Sub groups will be formed to reflect the priorities as set out in the strategic assessment and plan.

The CSP will oversee the work of the subgroups and may appoint a chair to each group.

## **Communication**

Each partner has a responsibility to cascade information through their own agencies as appropriate.

CCSP minutes will be circulated to all CCSP members.

The CCSP will have close links with the following: (co-operate with and keep informed)

- The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner
- The Health and Well Being Board
- Local Safeguarding Boards
- The Criminal Justice Board
- The Youth Offending Board

## ANNEX B

### Cotswold Community Safety Partnership Action Plan 2019 – 2021

#### COTSWOLD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (COTSCSP) ACTION PLAN 2019 - 21

Cotswold Community Safety Partnership action plan is dedicated to assisting the delivery of the priorities in the Gloucestershire Police Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan. In accordance with the duties specified in the Crime and Disorder Act of 1998, which in summary are; 'Local authorities must do all that they reasonably can in the prevention of crime and disorder'.

The Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Priorities 2017-2021 can be found at: [www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk)

Safer Gloucestershire Draft Priorities 2019 – 2021 can be found at: <http://www.glosvcsalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Safer-Glos-Strategy-April-2019.pdf>

In addition to these duties the plan must have cognisance of the priorities of the Safer Gloucestershire the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board and the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board. The priorities of these boards complement those of the police, especially those surrounding vulnerability and safeguarding.

Statutory members of CotsCSP are:

- Cotswold District Council
- Gloucestershire Police
- National Probation
- Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service, Adult Social Care, Public Health and Children's Social Care

CotsCSP relies on the data provide by MaiDen (GCC) and the Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment (GCSSNA) to see what is coming that may impact on the lives of its residents and visitors. Details of the current CSSNA can be found at:

- <https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/1520660/overview.pdf>

In addition to this CotsCSP shares intelligence and information amongst its partners.

## Cotswold Community Safety Partnership priorities 2019 - 2021:

1. Crimes of Local Concern
2. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour in all its forms
3. Support Vulnerable People
4. Build Stronger & Resilient Communities

### Priority 1: Crimes of Local Concern:

**Aim to reduce crime and work with partners in preventing crimes and crimes which become entrenched with people at risk of re-offending**

Action:	Owner	Target Date	Outcome
To monitor specific property related crime especially Burglary and vehicle crime	Police	31/03/20	To reduce property related crime and encourage residents to protect their assets.
Undertake a review of the outcomes of the serious organised crime local profile and engage partners to share information and intelligence	Police	31/03/20	To inform residents of organised crime and to reduce its impact in the district
Raise awareness of crime issues in the district and provide crime prevention advice and early intervention	All	31/03/20	Residents are informed of crime prevention initiatives so fewer crimes take place

### Priority 2: Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour in all its forms

**Aim to work with partners and Housing Associations to address anti-social behaviour and unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment.**

Action:	Owner	Target Date	Outcome
Prevent and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and hate crime and encourage reporting to relevant authority	ERS/ Police	31/03/20	Residents know where to report ASB and what action can be taken and have confidence in the process. To increase public awareness of hate crime and encourage reporting
Undertake public campaigns to promote Hate Crime reporting			

To continue ASB meetings in the South and arrange for meetings to take place in the North with RSL's and Housing	ERS/ Police/ Bromford/ Sovereign	31/03/20	To reduce ASB in both North & South Cotswolds and sharing better intelligence and more effective responses for residents.
Tackle incidents of anti-social behaviour that occur in all its forms, including responding to community concerns and delivering enforcement and advice	ERS/ Police	31/03/20	To ensure all reports of ASB are recorded and dealt with in a timely and robust way so communities feel safe and strong
Work with ERS Licensing Authority to identify problem premises/sales of alcohol	ERS	31/03/20	To reduce incidents of drunkenness/ASB and assaults

### **Priority 3: Support Vulnerable People:**

**Aim to provide support to the more vulnerable members of the community particularly those at risk of exploitation in any form**

Action:	Owner	Target Date	Outcome
Co-ordinate Partnership activity around Domestic and Sexual Abuse including training and education of frontline workers and communities	All	31/03/20	Staff and residents are more confident to spot issues and support victims
<b>Priority 3 cont.</b> Action:	Owner	Target Date	Outcome
Raise awareness of Exploitation in all its forms including sexual and county line exploitation for frontline staff and within communities	All	31/03/20	Staff and residents more able to spot and report concerns about exploitation
Pilot the Intensive Engagement project in Moreton in Marsh with partner agencies and local community	Police	31/03/20	Young people at risk in Moreton feel more supported and residents are more aware of issues and can support each other
Raise awareness of harm caused by substance and alcohol misuse	All	31/03/20	Frontline staff and residents able to recognise and signpost to appropriate agencies.
Raise awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and the statutory referral process with all front line workers (inc Modern Slavery Transparency statement)	All	31/03/20	To encourage better reporting of Modern Slavery via the NRM

**Priority 4: Build Safer, Stronger & Resilient Communities:****Aim to help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.**

Action:	Owner	Target Date	Outcome
Undertake different forms of community engagement, including weeks of action and regular public face to face contact i.e. local markets and public events	All	31/03/20	Residents know more about what services are available and where to get help and support
Promote methods of contact through a range of media channels including popular social media sites used by young people through all members of the partnership.	All	31/03/20	Communities feel more confident about how and where to report or More channels of communication are opened up to reach more people of different ages
Promote the use of community alerts by all partners	All	31/03/20	Issues are recognised and acted upon quickly and effectively