



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 November 2024</b>
Subject	<b>REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE</b>
Wards affected	<b>ALL</b>
Accountable member	Cllr Lisa Spivey - Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Safety Email: <a href="mailto:lisa.spivey@cotswold.gov.uk">lisa.spivey@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Jacqueline Wright – Business Manager Leisure & Wellbeing Email: <a href="mailto:democratic@cotswold.gov.uk">democratic@cotswold.gov.uk</a>  Sarah Clifton-Gould – Community Wellbeing Officer Email: <a href="mailto:democratic@cotswold.gov.uk">democratic@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To provide updates and RAG rating against the ‘Cotswold Community Safety Partnership’ Plan for the period of April 2024 to September 2024.
Annexes	Annex A: Cotswold CSP Plan 24/25 Annex B: Cotswold CSP Action Plan Updates April 24-September 24
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note overall progress of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership</li><li>2. Agree any recommendations to Cabinet that the partnership should consider</li></ol>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting Communities</li></ul>
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	CSP Members, Portfolio Holder, Senior Management



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the 'Cotswold Community Safety Partnership' (CSP) work and achievements against its action plan over the period of April 2024 to September 2024 (Annex B).
- 1.2 The report also includes the CSP Plan and priorities for the year 2024/25, which can be found as Annex A.
- 1.3 The CSP priorities are:
  - Engage, involve, connect, empower and inform communities
  - Support Victims of Domestic Abuse
  - Serious Violence Duty
  - Prevent and reduce antisocial behaviours
  - Tackle Crimes of Local Concern
  - Create Safe Roads for all
  - Supporting children and young people
- 1.4 The committee is asked to review overall progress of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership and to make recommendations the partnership should consider.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The responsibilities of the 'Crime and Disorder Committee' are set out in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("The Act"), which dictates that the responsible authorities (as defined by the Act) must consider the implications 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 (CSPs) in each local authority area.
- 2.2 Terms of reference for the Committee's Crime and Disorder Committee were approved at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 01 December 2020.
- 2.3 It was proposed that an Annual Report be presented to the Crime and Disorder Committee, on the performance of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership ("Cotswold CSP") together with the Action Plan at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in June 2021, to support the role and decision making of the Crime and Disorder Committee.
- 2.4 A first Annual Report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 June 2021. This provided an overview of the Cotswold CSP's action plan and work of the period 2019-2021 as well as its Forward Plan for the year 2021/22. This was followed by an update at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 04 October 2022 and 31 October 2023.
- 2.5 At the meeting on 31 October 2023 the Committee asked for a progress update and RAG rating every 6 months.
- 2.6 The CSP, which adopted a new plan in April 2024 (Annex A) decided to bring their reporting in line with the financial year, which resulted in a delayed update against the new action plan.
- 2.7 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the Cotswold CSP work and achievements for the period of April 2024 to September 2024.



### 3. MAIN POINTS

- 3.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”) in 2021 has set out its priorities in its Police and Crime Prevention Plan for Gloucestershire (2021-2025) under Chris Nelson - Police and Crime Commissioner. The six priorities are:
- Creating Safer Communities
  - Tackling Violence against women and girls
  - Strengthening your Constabulary
  - Targeting the causes of crime
  - Supporting victims and reducing re-offending
  - Empowering local communities
- 3.2 In April 2018 Safer Gloucestershire undertook a Strategic Needs Assessment (“SNA”) which provides a solid evidential basis for planning and delivery of community safety activity at County, District, thematic and cohort levels. This identified six priority areas:
- Locality based crime
  - Domestic abuse/ sexual violence
  - Substance/alcohol misuse
  - Social isolation (priority shared with Health and Wellbeing Board)
  - Safeguarding children
  - Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation

Each of these priorities is set out in an action plan which will be subject to regular review and refresh over the life of this strategy.

- 3.3 The Cotswold CSP has continued to meet quarterly with additional bi-weekly so called ‘Mini CSP’ meetings.
- 3.4 Whilst the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership is supporting and working closely with the OPCC, it is setting out its own principles and priorities that are relevant to the local area. An Action Plan (2021-23), which was adopted in June 2021 has been reviewed, and an updated plan has been adopted in April 2024.
- 3.5 The reporting period for the new CSP Action Plan has been reviewed and will subsequently change to align with the financial year. As a result, the new Action Plan went live in April 2024. Progress of each of the actions set out in the plan will be updated quarterly using a detailed action tracker that also identifies owners for each action, available resources (e.g. external funding) and any potential risks.
- 3.6 Annex B gives a detailed overview and RAG rating for the Cotswold CSP’s activities/achievements for the period of April 2024 to September 2024.

### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.
- 4.2 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 example, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, up to this year, has provided funding annually. The Cotswold CSP decides how the funding will be used. Agreed



initiatives and projects are always aligned to the Cotswold CSP priorities and/or OPCC priorities.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 17 of the Act 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 brings about a duty to cooperate and work together and led to the creation of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in each local authority area.
- 5.2 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:
- 5.3 "An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area".
- 5.4 The UK Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made – or other action taken – in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities 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.
- 5.5 For Cotswold District Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfils this function.
- 5.6 Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) ("the Duty") on a range of specified authorities. This will ensure relevant services work together to share information and allow them to target their interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The Duty became statute law on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- 5.7 The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships and by making sure they have a strategy in place to explicitly tackle serious violence.
- 5.8 Under the amended Crime and Disorder Act, CSPs are required to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent people becoming involved in serious violence, both as victims and perpetrators, and to reduce instances of serious violence in the local area.
- 5.9 The Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been given the responsibility of overseeing and driving the implementation of the Duty across Gloucestershire Constabulary and its partners and is working closely with the Cotswold CSP on its implementation.
- 5.10 The Cotswold CSP will be required to report activities related to the SVD to the OPCC on a monthly basis from January 2024.
- 5.11 The SVD is now included in the updated CSP Plan as a priority.
- 5.12 A briefing on the SVD for elected members and the Council's Senior Leadership Team will be organised and held in due course.

## 6. RISK ASSESSMENT



- 6.1 Cotswold District Council is committed to support the Cotswold CSP in accordance with the duties specified in the Act, which in summary are; 'Local authorities must do all that they reasonably can in the prevention of crime and disorder'. The Council is therefore proactive in its safer communities related activities that form part of the Council's priority of 'Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and wellbeing'. As a statutory partner of the Cotswold CSP we are able to review, influence and shape the partnership's priorities and actions to ensure it is delivering against the priorities in partnership with the other relevant county-wide agencies and boards.
- 6.2 The Cotswold CSP continually works with partners and others to ensure, as far as reasonable, that residents are safe, well informed and resilient. There is a risk that partners through lack of funding/capacity/staff could disengage from the CSP.
- 6.3 In case the OPCC does not continue providing financial support to the CSP, as it has done in recent years (on average £30k per year), then the CSP's activities and impact may be limited in respect to some of its priorities.

## **7. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 7.1 Cotswold CSP's principles and priorities are aiming to reach all geographical communities and different communities of interest. The partnership's work is inclusive of all the protected characteristics and backgrounds and targets support for vulnerable groups including young people and women and girls.

## **8. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 N/A

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 9.1 None

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None

(END)