



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29 June 2021
Report Number	Agenda Item 7
Subject	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAFER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TO THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde - Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety Email: jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jacqueline Wright – Community Wellbeing Manager Tel: 01285 623617 Email: jacqueline.wright@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To provide an overview of the 'Cotswold Safer Communities Partnership' work over the last year (2020/21). To inform the Crime and Disorder Committee about the CSP's future aims and objectives.
Annexes	Annex A: Cotswold CSP Action Plan 2020/21 Annex B: Cotswold CSP Action Plan Updates 2020/21 Annex C: Draft Cotswold CSP Forward Plan 2021/22
Recommendation/s	<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	CSP Members, Portfolio Holder, Senior Management

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.** A briefing note was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 July 2020. This provided an overview of the Council's responsibilities for Crime and Disorder and outlined the main activities of the Community Safety Partnership, in relation to the discharge of the authority's duties on Crime and Disorder. The Committee has powers, functions and duties conferred by Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 to act as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee.
- 1.2.** The responsibilities of the 'Crime and Disorder Committee' are 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.** Terms of reference for the Committee's Crime and Disorder Committee were approved at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 01 December 2020.
- 1.4.** It was proposed that an annual report be presented to the Crime and Disorder Committee, on the performance of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership together with the Action Plan be presented at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in June 2021, to support the role and decision making of the Crime and Disorder Committee.
- 1.5.** The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the 'Cotswold Safer Communities Partnership' work over the last year and inform the Crime and Disorder Committee about the CSP's forward plan/

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. The Cotswold CSP Action Plan (2019-2021)** can be viewed in Annex A.
 - 2.1.1.** As a result of the COVID19 Pandemic, the main focus of the Cotswold CSP in 2020/21 was to ensure public health and safety during national and local lockdowns, whilst continuing business as usual. Due to the necessary change of focus monitoring of activities set out in the Action Plan has not been as thorough as planned. The CCSP also recognised that it should improve the way it is measuring success and collating and using data, which is being taken into account for its forward plan in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Safer Gloucestershire Board by developing and using a common performance Monitoring Framework.
 - 2.1.2.** Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic and the first lockdown in March 2020, the CCSP decided to hold weekly meetings of a smaller group (Mini CSP) to work in close partnership to monitor and alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on community safety issues by supporting Government and public health guidelines and measures. These meetings were chaired by the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing & Public Safety and included CDC ERS staff (ASB, licensing, Covid19 compliance), CDC Community Wellbeing/Safer Communities team, Gloucestershire Police, Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Services (GDASS), Young Gloucestershire, a representative from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner/Safer Gloucestershire as well as guest attendances to address relevant issues. Since June 2020 weekly meetings changed to bi-weekly meetings which are still being held to date.

- 2.1.3.** The normal routine of quarterly CSP meetings (involving all partners) started again with a virtual meeting on 16th July 2020. The meeting discussed the CSP priorities to ensure they remain fit for purpose in light of COVID-19 and issues arising.
- 2.1.4.** Annex B gives an overview of the CCSP's activities/achievements during the year 2020/21.

2.2. Cotswold CSP Forward Plan

2.2.1. The Cotswold CSP reviewed its priorities and agreed forward priorities that are set out in Annex C. Please note that the Plan is a draft and work in progress. Priorities are subject to review after 12 months to ensure focus on the right priorities for the area and that they are aligned as appropriate with the Safer Gloucestershire Strategy plans and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners priorities.

2.2.2. 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 (2019-2022):

- 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.

2.2.3. The Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioners Plan (2020-2022) sets out the following priorities. These are likely to change following the recent election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner:

- Every crime matters, every contact counts
- Safer days and nights
- Young people becoming adults
- Older but not overlooked
- Safe and social roads
- A green and pleasant county

2.2.4. Going forward the Cotswold CSP is aiming to strengthen its partnership approach and to increase engagement with local communities through the various initiatives that are set out in the Forward Plan (Annex C). Some of the key principles going forward are (adapted from Scottish Community Safety Network):

2.2.5. *Person-centred, place-based*

Being person-centred and enabling strong networks of support, building connections across and between communities locally, and empowering people in communities to support each other and to take collective action.

2.2.6. *Addressing the needs of communities holistically*

Evidence consistently points to the need for integrated actions and a whole systems approach, rather than a sole focus on just the economic, physical or social aspects which, on their own, fail to achieve the desired improvements for communities. Inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities are therefore those that are functioning well economically (promoting inclusive growth), mentally, physically and socially.

2.2.7. *Prevention and Early Intervention*

We recognise the need to take action at an early stage – supporting people to change their behaviours and reducing risk, and working closely with individuals and communities to help them find solutions to local problems.

2.2.8. *Tackling Inequalities*

Increasingly target resources and focus on communities in greatest need, where inequalities exist in the way community safety issues are experienced, as a result of factors such as poverty, connectivity, vulnerabilities, health and age.

2.2.9. *Strong partnership working with governance and decision making that enables community participation, influence and ownership*

Continue to develop genuine partnership between public sector partners, third sector, business and communities. This includes working towards a common purpose and outcomes, co-producing policy and programmes, sharing resources and overcoming challenges with data-sharing.

2.2.10. *Evidence based action supported by evaluation and an understanding of ‘what works’.*

2.2.11. These principles are shared across the whole system and the aim must be to principally work together no matter what the focus is (health, safety, economy, climate action etc.) as all these factors are influencing people’s lives and livelihoods in different ways. Ultimately, we are all sharing one common goal: Increasing the quality of life for everyone by collaboratively addressing all those influencing factors.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

3.2. 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 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 in 2019 and further funding has been secured from the OPCCC to extend the post until July 2022. A key element of that role is to connect with communities and residents particularly those affected by issues of Hidden Harm (in particular Domestic Abuse).

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 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 (CSP's) in each local authority area.
- 4.2. 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:
- 4.3. "An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area".
- 4.4. 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.
- 4.5. For Cotswold District Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfils this function

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. Cotswold District Council is committed to support the CSSP 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 Council is therefore proactive in its safer community's related activities that form part of the Councils' 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 CCSP we are able to review, influence and shape the partnership's priorities and actions to ensure it's delivering against the priorities and in partnership with the other relevant county-wide agencies and boards.
- 5.2. The Cotswold CSP continually works with partners and others to ensure, as much they can that the 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. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)

- 6.1. As set out in the principles above (2.2.5-2.2.10) the CCSP's forward priorities are aiming to reach all geographical communities and different communities of interest. The partnership's work is inclusive of all backgrounds and targets support for vulnerable groups including young people and women and girls.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

- 7.1. N/A

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1. None

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None