



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 10
Subject	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde - Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk">jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Jacqueline Wright – Community Wellbeing Manager Tel: 01285 623617 Email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.wright@publicagroup.uk">jacqueline.wright@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To provide an overview of the ‘Cotswold Community Safety Partnership’ work and achievements against its Action Plan over the period of July 2021 to June 2022.
Annexes	Annex A: Cotswold CSP Action Plan 2021/22 Annex B: Cotswold CSP Action Plan Progress Updates July 21-June 22 Annex C: Supporting Data
Recommendation(s)	<i>That the Committee reviews overall progress of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership</i>
Corporate priorities	Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	CSP Members, Portfolio Holder, Senior Management



## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 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 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 (CSPs) in each local authority area.
- 1.2 Terms of reference for the Committee's Crime and Disorder Committee were approved at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 01 December 2020.
- 1.3 It was proposed that an Annual Report will 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the Cotswold CSP work and achievements since the new Action Plan has been adopted in June 2021 to July 2022.

## 2. MAIN POINTS (This title can be changed to suit the specifics of the report if appropriate)

- 2.1 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
- 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:
  - 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.

- 2.3 Whilst the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership is supporting and working closely with the OPCC, it has set out its own principles and priorities in 2021 that are relevant to the local area. The Action Plan (2021/22), which has been adopted in June 2021 can be viewed in Annex A. The plan is a live document and is currently under review. CSP members will decide at their next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 if and how the plan will be updated.
- 2.4 The Cotswold CSP has continued to meet quarterly with additional biweekly so called 'Mini CSP' meetings. These were paused from June to August 2022 and will be resumed in September 2022.
- 2.5 Annex B gives an overview of the Cotswold CSP's activities/achievements for the period of July 2021 to June 2022. The reporting period has been amended (previously aligned to the financial year) due to the Action Plan's adoption in June 2021.
- 2.6 Supporting data  
Annex C gives an overview of crime levels, antisocial behaviour, local and national data on Domestic Abuse as well as young people's (mental) health and wellbeing. This information is relevant for the Cotswold CSP priorities and puts actions and activities into perspective. Please note that Gloucestershire Constabulary has significantly improved its crime recording processes after criticism from the HMIC inspection. As a result it is likely we will see recorded crime increase in many areas including the Cotswolds. This should not cause alarm and should be taken in that context of improved recording of crime. The Cotswolds is not seeing a significant or concerning rise in actual crime.

### **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 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.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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.
- 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 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.
- 5.2 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. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 6.1 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.

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

- 7.1 N/A

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 8.1 None

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None

(END)