



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 31st October 2023
Subject	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
Accountable member	CLlr Lisa Spivey - Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Safety Email: lisa.spivey@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 Community Safety Partnership’ work and achievements against its action plan over the period of July 2022 to June 2023.
Annexes	Annex A: Cotswold CSP Draft Action Plan 2024/25 Annex B: Cotswold CSP Action Plan Achievements & Updates
Recommendation(s)	<i>That the Committee reviews overall progress of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership and frames any recommendations the partnership should consider.</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. 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 July 2022 to June 2023.
- 1.2 The report also includes the draft CSP plan and priorities for the year 2024/25, which can be found as Annex B.
- 1.3 The CSP priorities for the last year were safe and social roads, domestic abuse, crimes of local concern, antisocial behaviour, community engagement and supporting young people. Updates on each of the priorities are presented in Annex B.
- 1.4 The committee is asked to review overall progress of the Cotswold Community Safety Partnership and to frame any recommendations the partnership should consider based on the achievements of last year and forward priorities.

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.
- 2.5 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the Cotswold CSP work and achievements for the period of June 2022 to July 2023 as well as presenting the reviewed CSP Action Plan for 2024/25.

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 biweekly so called ‘Mini CSP’ meetings.

3.4 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 (2021-23), which was adopted in June 2021 has been reviewed, and the updated draft version can be viewed in Annex A.

3.5 The reporting period for the new CSP Action Plan has been reviewed and will subsequently change to align with the financial year. Hence, the new Action Plan will go 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 The new Action Plan will be adopted by the Cotswold CSP at its next quarterly meeting.

3.7 Annex B gives a detailed overview of the Cotswold CSP’s activities/achievements for the period of July 2022 to June 2023.

3.8 *A summary of the main achievements and activities is listed below:*

3.8.1 CSP secured £50k Safer Streets Funding to transform areas in the district that feel unsafe. Application for an additional £45k submitted.

3.8.2 Two public consultations completed in 2023. ‘Safer Streets Cotswold’ consulted on areas that may feel unsafe as well as community safety perceptions. Results can be found in the detailed overview in Annex B.

3.8.3 Planned and delivered 3 successful community engagement events in summer 2023.

3.8.4 Externally funded Rural Domestic Champions Network launched in June 2023 with CDC as lead organisation. This is a partnership between all four rural districts.

3.8.5 Cotswold youth network supported young people through increased and improved youth provision across the district, 7 new youth led projects as well as inclusion training and advice.



- 3.8.6 The Cotswold Chat project (mental health support) secured funding for another 12 months until March 2024.
- 3.8.7 24 Active Community Speed Watch Groups in Cotswold District. New policy being prepared in order for the Constabulary to deal with data from automated speed monitoring devices. 20 areas have applied for funding for cameras. During 2022 there have been 8 speed surveys carried out at various locations around the district. At present there are 48 active Camera van sites in the Cotswold District. There are also a further 41 active hand-held Camera sites. In September 2022, GRCC launched their updated CARS toolkit.
- 3.8.8 The environmental protection team secured a prosecution for Fly-tipping and a fine of over £1600 was issued by the Court. This last year has seen the purchase of surveillance equipment which has been placed in problem hotspot locations with some success in identifying the perpetrators of fly-tipping.
- 3.8.9 308 service requests about nuisance and ASB were dealt with over the last 12 months.
- 3.8.10 Cotswold District Council joined a 12-month pilot led by Gloucestershire Police called Project Solace. The scheme is a partnership between the Police, Gloucestershire County Council and the Gloucestershire Councils to deal with high level anti-social behaviour. Case workers from each body are appointed and Daniel Smith from the Environmental Protection team is the caseworker for Cotswold District. The CSP has partly funded his work and he is able to allocate between one and two days a week to this project. The project has been extended until the end of March 2024.
- 3.8.11 Cotswold Water Park (CWP)- *Dog Fouling*: weekly patrols of the Water Park, particularly Neigh Bridge and Lake 86 and the De Vere site to create a presence. Added additional signage around the area with the help of the resident who suggested placement and designs based on the routes dog walkers might take. *Litter*: Created a series of Litter Posters targeting a variety of people with different messages about littering, including the fine if caught. Again, this measure was taken with the help of a resident who knew the area better than we did. *Nature*: Published and promoted CWP Nature Recovery Plan.
- 3.8.12 Cotswold District currently has 250 active neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- 3.8.13 The Police force has changed the way they record crime since last year, which has seen an improvement in recording crime. Therefore, a comparison of crime rates with previous years would not present an accurate picture. This also means that a comparison in total numbers is not relevant and that detection rates are more representative:
- Burglary dwelling 266 in a year. Detections up by 40% compared to previous year.
 - Burglary commercial premises 212 in year. Detections up 4.3% to previous year
 - Robbery of persons 14 in a year. Detections down by 28% to previous year.
 - Theft from a vehicle 220 in the year. Detections up 1% to previous year.
 - Make off without payment (drive off from petrol station) 79 in a year. Detections up by 133%
 - Assault (with injury) 401 in a year. Detections up 59% to previous year.

A more detailed update can be found in Annex B.

The OPCC is currently working on developing a data dashboard for all Gloucestershire CSPs. This dashboard will enable the Cotswold CSP to better evidence its work. A first



version will be available from January 2024, which will be improved and extended over the following months.

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 31st 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 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

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