



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Strategic Committee  
10 July 2018  
Agenda Item 12

Key Decision [No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

## **Keeping the Communities of Adur & Worthing Safe**

### **Report by the Director for Communities**

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1.Purpose**

1.1 Creating places that are welcoming and enabling our Communities to feel safe is a key part of our ambitions within Platforms for our Places and is central to the work of our multi-agency Community Safety Partnerships. Adur and Worthing have two distinct partnerships, but recognise the benefits and synergies of collaboration, and as a consequence have worked in partnership for some years.

1.2 This report provides a brief overview of how the Community Safety Partnership was formed, it's core duties, the role of Councils in this partnership, a flavour of the types of activity delivered to build safe/ resilient communities and the challenges facing the partnerships in light of a significant reduction in grant funding from the PCC. As a consequence the report highlights options and issues in considering how the Councils will meet their statutory duties against a backdrop this significant reduction in grant funding.

## **2.Recommendations**

2.1 Recommendation One : For Members to note the activity and the progress made by the partnership in building safe and resilient communities.

2.2 Recommendation Two : To note the implications of the significant reduction of grant from the PCC in 2019 onwards and the impact that this will have on the partnerships' ability to deliver it partnership plan.

2.3 Recommendation Three: To endorse the partnerships' approach to managing this funding issue and identify opportunities for external funding this time.

## **3. Context**

### **3.1 Background**

3.1.1 The Crime & Disorder Act was introduced in 1998 and put a statutory duty on public services to work together to fight crime, support victims of crime and ensure appropriate sentences/ orders are issued to offenders.

3.1.2 The key driver for this legislation was to increase the safety of communities for the people that live in them. The Crime & Disorder Act created Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in each local authority area. This provided a space for key agencies to come together to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder. In 1999, separate partnership's were formed in Adur and Worthing.

3.1.3 CDRPs, now commonly known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are made up of six responsible authorities which are: Local Authority (as a two-tier authority this includes District & Borough membership as well as West Sussex), Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Probation (national and local) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) were introduced in late 2012 and have a duty to co-operate with CSPs, however it should be noted that PCCs didn't replace police authorities as responsible authorities.

3.1.4 The role of CSPs over the last 20 years has continued to evolve with the introduction of further legislation which has strengthened the tools, powers

and duties in which partnerships operate under. CSPs have the following core statutory obligations:

- Forming a strategic group that directs the work of the partnership,
- Engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress in achieving them,
- Have protocols and systems in place for sharing information,
- Produce an annual strategic intelligence assessment (SIA) that analyses a wide range of data, including crime levels and any patterns.
- Produce a partnership plan that sets out how the priorities in the SIA will be addressed and how this will be delivered.
- Monitor the progress and resources allocated to deliver the partnership plan.
- Produce a strategy to reduce reoffending\*
- Commission domestic violence homicide reviews\*

*\*As a two-tier authority area, the strategy group for West Sussex would be responsible for delivering these duties.*

## **3. 2 The Role of the Councils in Community Safety Partnerships**

3.2.1 The role of the Councils in CSPs is fundamental and extends beyond the simple discharge of statutory duties. Councils are uniquely placed to understand local needs and opportunities and to engage with their communities. In Adur & Worthing, our Councils are pivotal leaders of place and since the creation of partnerships, have adopted a central role in coordinating and guiding them.

3.2.2 The benefits of safe communities are not limited to achieving lower levels of crime and injury, but also contribute to building strong, cohesive, vibrant, prosperous, resilient and participatory communities. Consequently Adur and Worthing Councils have committed resources to coordinate and lead our CSP and demonstrate their ongoing commitment to supporting Community Safety in the Councils' strategy [Platforms for our Places](#).

3.2.3 It is worth noting that whilst the Councils have statutory duties under the Crime & Disorder Act, Councils under the act and through subsequent legislation passed have additional duties placed upon them, which include:

- Community Trigger (ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014) ~ this enables victims to require agencies to carry out a review (also known as an ASB Case Review) of their response to anti-social behaviour they reported,

where they feel they did not get a satisfactory response. The Councils are the lead for all reviews.

- PREVENT (Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015) ~ to ensure that frontline staff are appropriately trained and are aware of the available programmes to deal with extremism/ terrorism. To ensure that publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a profile for extremists. Councils are also expected to consider whether publicly-available IT equipment should use filtering solutions that limit access to terrorist and extremist material.
- Section 17 (Crime & Disorder Act 1998) ~ to consider crime and disorder (including Anti-Social Behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. This means that in all policies, strategies and service delivery there is a need to consider the likely impact on crime and disorder.

### **3.3 Building Safe and Resilient Communities**

- 3.3.1 In 2009, Adur CSP and Worthing CSP embarked on a journey of joint working arrangements between the partnerships. Both CSPs recognising the merit and synergies of working collaboratively across boundaries, not just for responsible authorities, but for the benefit of the communities of Adur & Worthing. The initial driver for change was to strengthen service delivery and enhance the work of the partnerships. However this has given rise to opportunities to pool resources, share expertise and scale projects that were delivering key outcomes and benefits. In April 2009 the partnerships came together (although are not merged) as Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (A&WSCP).
- 3.3.2 The Adur & Worthing CSPs have continued to evolve providing strategic direction in addressing priorities to keep our communities safe. The partnership produces a joint strategic intelligence assessment and partnership plan, annually. Members collaborate on the identification of need, the prioritisation of resources and work with key stakeholders to put in place solutions to address areas of concern. The activity of the partnership diverse and address the priorities as set out in the partnership plan each year. Below are some key examples of the work undertaken:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) ~ a multi agency group that assess and manage the risk of vulnerable victims of ASB and Hate Crime. Includes representatives from housing providers, Public Health & Regulation, Social Care, WSCC, Victim Support, Community Mental Health and Sussex Police. Approximately 30 cases are reviewed each month, joint interventions are agreed and actioned to support vulnerable victims. Cases are often complex and in recent years mental health has become a key factor in many cases.
- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) approach to supporting our street community ~ a multi-agency group that designs and delivers coordinated services for people with multiple needs. In Worthing, 22 individuals have been identified for intensive case management to bring about long term change. This group also identifies gaps in service provision and how these can be met.
- Drug Litter ~ the coordination of reporting and geo-coding of all discarded drug litter. Data which is analysed and 'heat' mapped in order to target outreach support to substance misusers using direct patrol activity (as appropriate). This data also informs drug and alcohol service commissioning.
- Local Action Team (LATs)~ time limited task and finish groups created in response to community concerns around a geographical area or issue, drawing together a range of professionals and local stakeholders, to tackle emerging crime trends. LATs aim to innovate and work closely with local residents. A recent LAT was created to address drug dealing in one area and identified a telephone box as a central point for drug exchange. The LAT submitted a case to BT to release the box for community use, and successfully gained funding for its conversion to a defibrillator station.
- Campaigns ~ the partnership co-ordinates and delivers campaigns based on the priorities of the partnership. For example the annual Late Night Partnership (LNP) coincides with Alcohol Concerns' Alcohol Awareness Week. Held in Worthing Town Centre it engages with the public and local businesses, raising awareness of the risks associated with excessive alcohol and drug use. In 2017, the event provided an alternative to alcoholic drinks and saw South Street play host to a dry bar based in a converted horse box offering free mocktails. Sponsored by local late night venues, more than 100 people sampled a mocktail and discussed the plans for their night and journey home.

- Child Exploitation (CE) Training for Taxi Drivers ~ this critical training raises awareness amongst taxi drivers of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Exploitation (CE). Evidence shows that taxis are often used to transport girls and boys between hotels, pubs and other places where they are exploited. Taxi drivers are in a unique position to notice and spot such situations and pass their concerns on to the police - potentially saving a child from being a victim of CSE.

3.3.3 The partnerships also commissions a number of projects, such as the accredited educational programme delivered by Intuitive Thinking Skills, that promotes alcohol and drug abstinence. In the first year 67 learners (99%) completed the course. Of those that were tracked 86% reported a positive change to their substance use. And 60% of those tracked who had been in receipt of a prescription for the heroin replacement methadone, were prescription free.

### **3.4 Funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner**

- 3.4.1 With the introduction of Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in 2012, grant funding for CSPs was transferred from the Home Office to PCCs. Grant funding provides the foundation of resource on which partnerships function and it is imperative, not only for responsible authorities to fulfill their statutory duties, but also to deliver other priorities identified in the partnership plan.
- 3.4.2 Since 2012, Adur & Worthing CSPs have received £47,580 each, resulting in a pooled budget of £95,160 from the PCC. The funding level has remained static with no inflationary or need based rises. The level of grant funding for each CSP was previously based on Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), which highlight levels of deprivation. Both Adur & Worthing had a considerable number of wards that were deprived and therefore received, along with Arun and Crawley, one of the highest proportions of funding across West Sussex.
- 3.4.3 This core grant has allowed the partnership to invest in long term projects and initiatives that address crime and disorder. For example recruiting street outreach workers, to work with our street community, providing harm minimisation help and advice, supporting behaviour change and advocating for those in significant need, such as enabling vulnerable individuals to access accommodation and remain in accommodation. The partnership has recognised the benefits and necessity of long term investment and as a

consequence has ensured the continuation of key programmes of work, through prudent financial management.

- 3.4.3 In July 2017 the PCC launched a fundamental funding review of the grants given to CSPs across Sussex. The recommendations of the review set out a new funding model, based on a weighting of 40% against projected population data for localities and 60% against crime performance over the previous 4 years. This model allocates a level of funding for each CSP that would be in place for a two year period and then reviewed. In addition, it recommends that a minimum of 20% should be top sliced from the allocation to local partnerships and retained by the PCC's office for pan Sussex commissioning. It should be noted that the total grant available across Sussex remained unchanged.
- 3.4.5 The new funding model is set to be phased in, with 2018/19 considered a transition year, where local partnerships will receive the same allocation of funds as previous years. The implications of this review for Adur & Worthing's Community Safety Partnerships will be significant, with a 55% cut in funding across both areas. A request for a breakdown of the funding allocations between Adur & Worthing from the Commissioner's Office has been made, but this has not been provided to date. However our current understanding is that the partnerships will see a pooled budget of £95,160 reduced to £42,872.95 in 2019/20 and 2020/2021.
- 3.4.6 The partnership have always operated from a model of building capacity, behaviour change and developing long term resilience. This will be severely undermined by this change in funding levels.
- 3.4.7 The partnerships, at the joint meeting of their Executive Board in May 2018, considered a future funding options appraisal. It was agreed that all posts would be extended until the end of March 2020, in order to retain skills and expertise within the workforce. However, in order to achieve this reserves will be used. A further impact assessment of taking this decision is being drafted. It is clear that funding from the PCC has to date provided stability on which CSPs rely. Therefore this decision will have a considerable impact on the ability of the partnerships to deliver its programmes of work.
- 3.4.8 Adur and Worthing CSPs however have been successful in attracting external funding to subsidise the grant given by the PCC, and will continue to explore external funding opportunities going forward. In 2017/18 the partnerships were successful in raising an additional £170,000 of funding to support two projects. 1. The MEAM approach (see 3.3.3) and 2. A project based in Arun,

servicing our districts, which provides refuge accommodation for women who have been subject to domestic abuse and have complex needs.

3.4.9 In June 2018 the Councils secured £271,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) through the Rough Sleepers Initiative Fund. Led by the Housing team, this bid was supported by the Communities and Wellbeing team as well as external partners such as Worthing Churches Homelessness Project. Part of the funding will allow the MEAM and street outreach work to be extended, as well as fund additional co-ordination work to support our rough sleepers. Although the leadership of this work sits within housing, it is a demonstration of how the partnerships collaborate to support wider community and community safety objectives.

#### **4. Engagement and Communication**

4.1 The Partnerships uses a variety of communication tools to engage with local residents and stakeholders, including Informal consultation with our communities at events, Neighbourhood Community Panels and road shows. We also host an annual Behind Closed Doors conference, the most recent being in June this year.

4.2 More recently the partnerships, working with the Councils' Communities & Wellbeing Team have been trialling a new initiative "Up my street, where a multi-agency group have spent time in defined areas talking with residents to understand their issues and concerns. Initial outputs are expected shortly.

4.3 The partnerships have dedicated Twitter and Facebook accounts. Social media is used to inform as well as reaching a wider audience within our communities.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 The Council currently receives a grant of £95,160. This is expected to reduce to £42,870 in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The Council will need to consider how to meet a reduction in funding of £52,280. The current budget forecast has not factored in any growth associated with this reduction.

5.2 This report does not ask Members to consider any specific investment at this time. However, it should be noted that all partnership posts (3.5 FTE) are hosted by the Councils and sit within the Communities Directorate. These posts deliver the priorities of the partnership, but also contribute significantly to meeting the Councils' statutory duties under the legislation.



5.3 The priority of these posts will be considered as part of a general service review for the Communities & Wellbeing Team, where the resilience and resourcing of the team will be assessed alongside other needs and requirements.

5.4 If any of the posts are deleted as a result of the funding withdrawal, the Councils will be liable for any departure costs.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 The Councils' have a number of statutory duties as identified in 3.1.4 & 3.2 of the report. There are no other legal implications that need to be considered as part of this report.

### **Background Papers**

- [Crime & Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014](#)
- [Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015](#)
- [Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Structure](#)
- [PCC Community Safety Partnership Funding Review 2017](#)

### **Officer Contact Details:-**

Rhian Francis

Communities & Wellbeing Manager ~ Operations

01903 221133

[rhian.francis@adur-worthing.gov.uk](mailto:rhian.francis@adur-worthing.gov.uk)

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

There is a likelihood that without ongoing investment in delivering the partnership plan and allocating resources recorded levels of crime & disorder would increase.

### **1. Economic**

1.1 Building safe communities that our communities want to live, work and socialise is fundamental in ensuring a economically prosperous place. An increase in crime & disorder would significantly affect the retention and attraction of businesses investment in our place.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

2.1.1 The work of the CSPs significantly impacts on the quality of life of our communities. The CSPs work in partnership to deliver projects and initiatives that address key crime & disorder issues and improve outcomes for our place.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

The CSPs aim to improve outcomes for all by putting into place a range of projects/ initiatives and practices to address crime and disorder. The CSPs recognise that those who are victims of crime or are vulnerable may need additional support to participate.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

2.3.1 The partnerships deliver and commission a number of projects and initiatives that contributes to the reduction of crime and disorder.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

2.4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **3. Environmental**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4. Governance**

4.1 The Council's are a statutory member of the CSPs and therefore this partnership sits outside the governance of the Councils.