

Community Services Select Committee

10th November 2010

**Update on Community Safety FSR and West Sussex Strategic
Community Safety Partnership Review**

**Report by Executive Director Communities and
Director Communities and Infrastructure**

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on progress of the Fundamental Service Review work being undertaken by West Sussex County Council Community Safety Unit and the West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership review. It highlights the changing landscape of partnership working including changes in national policy and the potential impact on the work of partnerships as budget's are reduced in partner organisations

This falls under four headings:

- Impact of emerging agendas and legislation – national and local
- Progress of WSCC Fundamental Service Review – Community Safety and impact of other FSR programmes.
- West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership (WSSCSP) and local Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) Review & Priorities
- Recommendations from Community Services Select Committee in February 2010.

Recommendation

For the Committee to consider and comment on:

- The progress made by Community Safety in its Fundamental Service Review.
- The potential impact on the work of partnerships in the event of budget reductions in any of the partner organisations.
- The need for all agencies to work more effectively and efficiently together to ensure a continued level of service for the public.
- To support the WSSCSP Priorities identified in 1.7

1. Background

- 1.1 It is recognised that local communities still see crime and fear of crime as a priority. However, with the decreasing financial input to the public sector, the partnership is now looking at re-shaping future delivery to ensure local need is met under these pressures. This will require new approaches, including greater community participation.

- 1.2 The document will draw from local perspectives such as the Community Safety FSR work; the links between other FSR programmes being undertaken by internal West Sussex County Council partners and the work being undertaken by WSSCSP for a sustainable future. It will also refer to national programmes such as the government's 'Big Society' and the consultation on elected commissioners for the police, pinpointing emerging agendas and legislation that potentially could re-shape public service delivery in relation to Community Safety.

Emerging Agendas and Legislation - National & Local

- 1.3 The Community Safety Unit with WSSCSP are looking at the impact of the announcements over recent months and how these will reshape future services including the likely effect on crime levels. These include:
- The discontinuation of the Policing Pledge and the Single Confidence Target, and how this will effect locally established structures around reducing the fear of crime.
 - The announcement about ASBO'S (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders) regarding re-focusing the response to anti social behaviour, away from criminalising, towards rehabilitation and restorative punishment.
 - The overhaul of the benefits structure and the social impact this would have, including the capping of some benefits, such as Child Benefit, housing and benefits for people with alcohol and substance misuse issues. The impact this will have on the most vulnerable and the rise of crime figures.
 - The changes in the way the NHS budget will be distributed and maintaining the continuity in partnership working around key services, including support for victims of domestic violence, with the establishment of the new consortia.
 - How the partnership can work with the 'Big Society' concept and the developing model of Community Directed Support (CDS). The community safety agenda is already led by local need. However, the partnership will be playing a more active role in supporting communities to solve local problems and empowering communities to build more social responsibility.
 - The consultation White Paper on 'Policing in the 21st century'. This outlines proposals to change the approach of the police service, introducing locally elected Police Commissioners and the impact of a single elected commissioner for Sussex, who will have strategic, operational responsibility and accountability for significant elements of community safety.
 - Review how the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement will impact on public sector services. With the prospect of reduced budgets impacting all seven statutory partners, WSSCSP are looking at alternative ways of delivering services including more use of the voluntary sector and volunteering to ensure issues of the greatest concern for local people and communities are tackled.
 - A programme of work to ensure that Community Safety and the partnership is in a position to respond to and implement the rolling programme of

reform announced within the Home Office Draft Structural Reform Plan published July 2010.

WSCC Fundamental Service Review – Community Safety and impact of other FSR programmes

1.4 The Community Safety Unit has identified a number of areas through which it will achieve its required 10% FSR savings of £169k savings from its core budget by March 2011. This includes:

- Reducing WSCC contributions to Community Safety Partnerships,
- Removal of Fire Service District Commanders Community Safety Fund,
- Ceasing small Capital Grants for street lighting
- Deletion of post in the Community Safety Unit.

1.5 Community Safety priorities are closely linked to work delivered through the business of many partners within the County Council. Many are also undertaking major FSR reviews. It is therefore prudent for the Unit to work with them during their review period to try and mainstream the Community Safety agenda into their core business. Key areas of this work are now underway in the following areas:

- **Youth Service Review** – Community Safety has representation on the Youth Service Review Project Board looking at creating an “Integrated Youth Support and Development Service” that combines the functions of the Youth Offending Service, Youth Service and Connexions and reduces their costs by £2 million.
- **Three Supporting People Reviews** – Community Safety’s role as the lead on these reviews is to ensure a joined-up approach to the future commissioning of services and to find new ways to manage delivery of the Reducing Re-Offending, Sexual & Domestic Violence and Young People agendas as it affects communities and individuals.
- **Safeguarding Children and Young People** – Community Safety and WORTH Services are working to deliver specific training on the impact of Domestic and Sexual Violence for newly qualified social workers and how WORTH Services can assist through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), to relieve the pressure on Social Workers by looking at a much earlier intervention before cases become critical safeguarding issues.

West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership (WSSCSP) and local Community Safety Partnership’s (CSPs) Review and Priorities

1.6 WSSCSP is carrying out a number of it’s own reviews to ensure community safety services are able to respond to local need and are sustainable in the future. These reviews include:

- **Review of the commissioning & provision of domestic and sexual violence services** – Working towards a shared partnership vision and joint commissioning.

- **Review to ensure the sustainability of intelligence-led approach through an analytical resource** – working to link up different resources and remove the dependency on grant funding.
- **Future proposals for addressing public confidence and community reassurance** – working towards a more effective and efficient delivery model and communication with elected members as community champions.

1.7 As part of the reviews, WSSCSP are also considering different approaches, such as re-aligning services around need, (Themes), rather than geographical location. The introduction of initiatives such as 'place based' and 'participation budgeting'. These offer new opportunities. Information on these and other elements of the work programme are referred to in the WSSCSP work plan (appendix 1).

1.8 WSSCSP also agreed at their July meeting the priority areas that needed to be focused on for the next 18 months. These are based on strategic assessments local information and consultation. These are;

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Supporting Victims of Hate Incidents/Crime
- Supporting victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence
- Tackling Offending Behaviour (Adults & Young People)
- Alcohol & Substance Misuse

Recommendations from the Crime and Disorder themed meeting of the Community Services Select Committee in February 2010.

A number of recommendations were made in February by the Community Services Select Committee which seeks to improve two way communications, political engagement, raising awareness of the work being undertaken and to ensure effective data sharing processes are in place across the Partnership.

1.9 These recommendations are:

- Two-way communication is further developed between WSSCSP and elected members.
- WSSCSP to consider ways of engaging elected members as community champions at all appropriate levels.
- Elected members are empowered to provide information to their community about the work of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- WSSCSP continues to ensure that data sharing guidance is developed.
- WSSCSP and elected members to consider ways of publicising positive outcomes of the work of the CSPs to the public within communities.

1.10 The work currently being undertaken by WSSCSP in relation to the funding reductions and the opportunity this gives to do things differently ensures the recommendations above can and will be incorporated into the new delivery model that emerges.

2. Consultation for Decision Reports

2.1 N/A

3. Resource Implications and Value for Money

3.1 The known savings from Community Safety due to be realised in the 2011/12 budget as a result of the work is £169K (FSR).

3.2 The impact of savings in other internal County Council partner's budgets would need to be monitored and managed.

3.3 The impact of reductions on the budgets of external partners involved within the partnership and additional external grant funds will have to be monitored and managed.

4. Risk Management Implications

4.1 Community Safety work with internal and external partners will be a continuous process during this time of change to identify risk and manage the implications as they become known. However it is reasonable to assume reducing resources to projects and partners, internal or external, is likely to have an impact.

4.2 There is a known risk that stopping "what works" (such as quickly removing graffiti or abandoned vehicles) will have an adverse affect on communities and the quality of our neighbourhoods. The Committee should be aware these are options being considered in an effort to reduce costs by partners and ourselves.

5. Crime and Disorder Act Implications

5.1 The Community Safety Unit's work with its partners will be an ongoing process during this time of change. Working to identify options for change with the least risk.

5.2 The Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters provide the opportunity for overview and input as the work develops.

6. Human Rights Act Implications

6.1 (not applicable)

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Background Papers

None

Appendices

[Appendix 1](#) - WSSCSP Work Plan –