

Community Services Select Committee

30th June 2010

Community Safety FSR Update

Report by Executive Director Communities and Director Operations - Community Services

Executive Summary

This report is in response to a request from the previous Community Services Select Committee. It seeks to provide further details on the Fundamental Service Review work that the WSCC Community Safety Unit will be undertaking. This involves working with internal County Council partners as part of their FSR programme and the wider West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership review.

This divides into three headings:

- WSCC Fundamental Service Review – Community Safety
- WSCC Fundamental Service Review – Internal County Council Partners
- West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership (WSSCSP) and local Community Safety Partnership's Review

Recommendations

- (1) For the Committee to note:
 - 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.
- (2) For the Committee in its role as the overview and scrutiny committee for Crime and Disorder Matters to consider the focus and timing of any future scrutiny.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The WSCC Community Safety Unit works in partnership with, Sussex Police, Local District and Borough Councils, Police Authority, Fire Service, Probation and Health and all have a statutory responsibility through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and reduce re-offending across West Sussex. These responsible authorities make up the West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership alongside the Sussex Criminal Justice Board, the Courts and other invited partners.
- 1.2 The partnership works on an intelligence-led, problem-solving and outcome orientated approach. Priorities are identified through strategic assessment local

knowledge and public consultation. Local communities are involved in shaping these. Annually the partnership has a statutory responsibility to undertake strategic assessment and then produce a local action plan. It therefore has been necessary for the partnership to evolve the way it works and become flexible to meet changing needs.

- 1.3 This report will outline some of the work already completed by Community Safety with partners, which has provided positive outcomes and enabled efficiency savings. It will also indicate further possible opportunities through ongoing FSR work and other partnership reviews.

WSCC Fundamental Service Review – Community Safety

Work Already Achieved

- 1.4 Over the last three years the Community Safety Unit has carried out a number of reviews in the way it works with partners and within the community to deliver an effective and efficient service that meets current priorities. This work has achieved the following outcomes:
- Savings of two posts have already been made.
 - Changes have taken place within the structure of the Community Safety Unit in the way works with partners into 4 strands, which cover Sexual and Domestic Violence, Partnerships, Safer Communities and Children and Young People.
 - Key services have been integrated into core business of other service areas. For example the, Bullying Caseworkers have become part of core business for Connexions, and a County Bullying Advice line is now delivered through the contact centre to support parents and carers.
 - WORTH Services have restructured to ensure frontline services are maintained to support victims of Domestic Violence and their families with funding reduced by £200,000.
 - The Hate Incident Support Service is another example of where a review was undertaken and the outcome was the provision of a new service, including casework through Victim Support. This resulted in internal savings through staff reductions.

Work Currently Underway

- 1.5 Current work will need to be reviewed in light of Government announcements on grant and other funding. As the situation becomes clearer the impact of the likely reductions in funding will be assessed and a further report can be brought before the committee.
- 1.6 Through this round of the FSR the Community Safety Unit has a requirement to identify £169k saving's on its core WSCC budget by 2011 and work is currently underway to establish how this can be achieved. There are a number of opportunities that have arisen or will be arising during the programme of work that will be utilised to deliver these savings. These include:

- A number of existing three-year funding agreements will be coming up for renegotiation during the financial year. For example 'Safer Schools' (Police Officer/PCSO in the school).
- The Unit is undertaking a financial review on how its core budget is allocated to internal WSCC partners. It is anticipated that the target figure of £169K will mostly come from a range of reductions in internal funding arrangements.
- The Community Safety Unit are actively involved with reviewing ways of working and associated budgets as a part of the WSSCSP review to reduce costs for all partners.

WSCC Fundamental Service Review – Internal County Council Partners

1.7 Community Safety priorities are closely linked to work delivered through the core business of many internal partners within the County Council, who are also undertaking major FSR projects with similar targets and timelines. It is therefore prudent for the Unit to work with them during their review period to manage the impact on Community Safety priorities, reviewing working arrangements and ultimately financial contributions. Key areas of this work are now underway in the following areas:

- The assignment of the Community Safety Unit's lead for Young People to the Youth Service/Youth Offending Service. To lead on the integrated approach to Targeted Youth Support and Families. The post holder will also be able to directly influence changes, ensuring the Community Safety agenda is built into new and developing work strands for the long term. This move has also saved the Youth Service 1 Hay Grade "Full Time Equivalent" (FTE).
- A lead officer has also been assigned to work with Adults, Children and Social Care to promote closer working with these departments to help them develop new working practices and delivery methods that meet the needs of the service-users more effectively. This is primarily targeted at sexual and domestic violence but not exclusively.

1.8 As the work continues with internal partners through the review processes, a number of opportunities are already emerging that Community Safety will be looking at during its programme of work. These include:

- Links to the 'Supporting People Review' to commission services and find new ways to manage the delivery of the Reducing Re-Offending and the Sexual & Domestic Violence agenda as it affects Communities and individuals. Community Safety are leading on these 2 reviews.
- Look at making WORTH Services and WSCC Community Safety Unit the hub for specialist support for practitioners to manage enquiries, information training and face-to-face support around Sexual and Domestic Violence as it affects individuals and families.
- Promote closer working between internal departments where there is a common agenda such as Fire Safety, Safeguarding, Bullying, Equalities and Diversity and the promotion of services working on Hate Crime,

Drugs and Alcohol, Adult and Child protection, Domestic and Sexual Violence and Social Care.

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

- 1.9 Work programmes are reviewed regularly against the priorities highlighted by Government, the Partnership and internal assessment. However, it is acknowledged that central Government financial support to the partnership is projected to decrease further in future years. In response WSSCSP have agreed to undertake a robust programme of work to look at its priorities, the allocation of funds/resources and specific reviews of common areas e.g. anti-social behaviour review. The aim is to identify new ways of working that benefit all partners. Options include, co-location, pooled budgets, reducing the number of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), and seeking every opportunity to reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible. The Partnership will aim to continue to provide outcomes for the community of West Sussex in an effective and efficient way under the current economic climate.
- 1.10 As a result of previous and current funding pressures, WSSCSP is currently assessing spending across a range of partnerships to enable the Partnership to make informed decisions on future activities and direction.
- 1.11 There is an in-depth review of Anti-Social Behaviour currently underway. Other reviews are planned throughout the year.

2. Consultation for Decision Reports

- 2.1 No consultation required.

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.
- 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 external partner's budgets 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, will have an impact.
- 4.2 There is a risk that stopping successful programmes such as removing graffiti or abandoned vehicles may have an adverse affect on communities and the quality of our neighbourhoods. These possibilities are being considered by some districts and boroughs.

5. **Crime and Disorder Act Implications**

5.1 The Community Safety Units work with its partners to identify options for change with the least risk will be an ongoing process.

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