

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	14 th February 2013
Report of:	Head of Community Services
Subject/Title:	Safer Cheshire East Partnership – Priorities & Performance
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Les Gilbert

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to brief Members on the work of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to comment on the report.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To inform Scrutiny Members of the priorities and performance of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Ward Members

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate Change - Health

- 6.1 Feeling safe and being safe in our homes, town centres and communities are important factors affecting peoples' general health and wellbeing.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None outside existing budgetary provision for 2013/2014

8.0 Legal implications (authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1 None subject to the views of Scrutiny Members

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Key risk for the Community Safety Partnership and statutory agencies relate to reputational issues should performance be poor and interventions not co-ordinated. Cheshire East is a safe place to live and this attracts people to live and work in the Borough, encouraging growth and prosperity. If the Partnership is unsuccessful in reducing crime and disorder, the perception of Cheshire East would discourage such investment.

10.0 Background

- 10.1 The Safer Cheshire East Partnership was established in April 2009 merging the three former district Council bodies. It is a statutory partnership under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 made up of representatives from the police and police authority, the local council, and the fire, health and probation services (the 'responsible authorities').
- 10.2 The Partnership has historically enjoyed significant grant funding from The Home Office for both capital and revenue investment. This has steadily reduced in recent years and the remaining £147,000 grant will be paid directly to the new Police & Crime Commissioner from April 2013 for his office to commission community safety interventions directly.
- 10.3 It will be important for the Safer Cheshire East Partnership to establish a positive working relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure effective whole system commissioning for the benefit of our residents. Active engagement and partnership working both locally and sub regionally will provide the best opportunity to tackle the root causes of crime which inevitably impact of the health and wellbeing of both perpetrators and victims.
- 10.4 The *Safer Cheshire East Partnership* (SCEP) became aware of the emerging impact / changes from the Police Reform Act before Christmas 2010 and made significant changes to respond to this legislation.

These included;

- Evaluation of Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) arrangements and commissioning activity.
- Streamlined and rationalised existing partnership structures and meetings. Greater emphasis on tactical delivery through 'tasking & co-ordination' and problem solving. (Connecting with LAP's).
- Renewed SCEP priorities in April 2012 through Crime & Disorder Strategic Assessment. (Evidence-base to ensure targeted investment and action).

- Engaged with sub-regional Community Safety & Justice Commission looking at opportunities for delivery on a 'Constabulary footprint', share best practice and simplify governance, administration and performance management arrangements. This work is likely to be reinvigorated through the Commissioner and the 'Public Service Review' work.
- Clarified legacy Home Office Grant funding arrangements (anticipating the transfer to P&CC from April 2013) and managed the reduction in grant since April 2011 to existing activity.
- Prepared a Business Report for the Cheshire East area to showcase our local work, performance and priorities.

SCEP will continue to work with the P&CC by:

- Further review of our existing partnership arrangements and 'fit' with emerging P&CC / P&CP structures, roles and responsibilities.
- Clarifying the impact of grant transfers from April 2013 as Home Office finalises the range of grants to be included
- Formally invite P&CC (or their representative) to sit on SCEP Board
- Ensure P&CC understands Cheshire East communities and priorities for community safety by responding on Police & Crime Plan
- Continue our sub-regional involvement to ensure Cheshire East plays its part in future force-wide initiatives and receives its fair share of resources, investment and improved outcomes.

10.4 Safer Cheshire East Partnership priorities, based on the Strategic Assessment of Crime & Disorder within the Borough are;

- Reducing anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder across Cheshire East
- Reducing the fear of crime and engage with our communities
- Reducing the number of offenders committing more crime
- Keeping our roads safe
- Reducing domestic violence and other violence offences happening within our homes, within our neighbourhoods and within our towns
- Protecting vulnerable people/families and locations across Cheshire East

10.5 A copy of the recent Business Report is attached at Appendix One and provides performance information and details of partnership interventions against these priorities.

Appendix One: Safer Cheshire East Business Report – October 2012

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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