

Scrutiny Committee

9 December 2014

Safer Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership

Progress Report



Lead Member: Councillor Mullineaux

Lead Officer: Mark Gaffney

Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership - Progress Report

1. Background

This report provides members of the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress of the partnership and also progress against the key actions.

2. Progress

a) Overall Position

The partnership is making good progress and achieving good levels of performance.

b) Areas of Significant Progress/Achievement

- Reduced levels of crime for 2013/14.
- MATACs continue to contribute significantly to local issues.
- Success of Operation Bright Sparx.
- The implementation of the the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 reforms including the Community Triggers.
- Budget commitments by the Council to sustain the IDVA and other Domestic Abuse services.
- Regular ongoing meetings scheduled with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Executive and Senior Police Officers.
- The smooth transition of the new divisional Police structure 'South' incorporating South Ribble, Chorley Preston and West Lancashire.
- High levels of resident confidence in a safe borough.

c) Areas for Further Action/Monitoring

- Reduced external funding for Community Safety activity.

3. Progress against Key Actions/Projects

3.1 Reduction in Crime Figures

The end of year overall crime figure for 2013/14 showed a reduction of – 9.3% compared to the previous year which also showed a reduction of -.13% for 2012/13. However, at the mid-year point in current year the overall crime figure has shown a small increase of 4.6%.

The overall crime figure has reduced significantly over the previous seven years.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

3.2 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A MARAC covering South Ribble and Chorley is held every month with statutory and voluntary agencies to discuss the support and assistance for very high risk victims of DA. Between April and September 2014 there were 149 cases considered covering both boroughs.

3.3 The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) Service

The IDVA service offers crisis intervention to DA victims who are at very high risk of serious harm or murder and to support victims throughout the duration of their case, acting as an advocate/advisor on both criminal and civil court processes, agency responsibilities and playing a crucial and pivotal role on the MARAC.

On behalf of community safety partners who have contributed funding, Lancashire County Council has and is still commissioning wider DA services across the county. The Council has contributed to this funding.

These newly commissioned services have been designed to meet the needs of women, children and young people, and men who live with domestic abuse, who are at high or medium risk.

As a result, the IDVA service has further enhanced service delivery to work with victims of DA who are considered as at a medium level risk of harm. The IDVA service has also set up a drop in service at Chorley & South Ribble Hospital and has a designated office within the Accident and Emergency Department on Friday mornings.

Lancashire County Council is now currently commissioning a countywide domestic abuse prevention service (perpetrator support). The aim of the service is to provide specialist preventative support which will:

- 1. Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse;*
- 2. Increase perpetrator and offender knowledge regarding the negative impact domestic abuse has on victims and CYP (Children and Young People);*
- 3. Reduce repeat incidents and reoffending;*
- 4. Rehabilitate service users and offenders;*
- 5. Safeguard victims and children and young people;*
- 6. Protect families and the public from domestic abuse.*

With the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) last year, referrals to the MARAC and IDVA have increased significantly as partner agencies working more closely together are better able to identify individuals who are at risk of harm.

There have been 312 referrals to the IDVA service in South Ribble and Chorley in-between April and September 2014.

3.4 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)

The SDVC now operates from Chorley Magistrates court on a Wednesday morning and Preston Magistrates Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. A Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) forms part of a combined approach to tackling DA.

3.5 The Sanctuary Scheme

The Sanctuary scheme aims to offer another option for victims of DA who would otherwise have to move house and leave everything and everyone behind at a time when they need their support networks the most. This is done by providing additional security to their property to help them feel safer and reduce the need for them to uproot their family and move away. The service is delivered across both South Ribble and Chorley.

Crime Reduction

3.6 MATACS (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating)

MATACs support the Councils approach to neighbourhood working/management and aim to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour issues at a local level. They focus on information sharing and the tackling of local issues, problematic households/individuals and problem solving. The MATACs are made up of officers from a range of partners who can all contribute towards community safety and dealing with local crime and nuisance.

MATACs operate in the following areas:

- Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and surrounding areas.
- Kingsfold and Penwortham.
- Leyland including Wade Hall, Broadfield and Town Centre area.

3.7 Operations

Several operations are held during the year to target anti-social behaviour and other seasonal issues. These include Operation Summer Nights (summer related theft, burglary, anti-social behaviour) and Operation Bright Sparx (Halloween and Bonfire Night anti-social behaviour) which have already been successfully implemented earlier in the year. Operation Shepherd (Christmas related theft, burglary, anti-social behaviour) is now due to be implemented.

3.8 Multi Agency Vehicle Check Operations

These operations are held during the year and are supported by a number of agencies which often include teams from the Council, Police and VOSA (Vehicle & Operator Services Agency) to address issues such as un-roadworthy vehicles, nuisance and anti-social driving, benefit fraud, drink driving and scrap theft.

An operation was carried out earlier in the year and more are to be planned as part of Operation Shepherd.

4.0 Funding Position

External funding to support the Community Safety Partnership has reduced significantly and in 2014/15 has only attracted £10,000 in grant funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner.

For 2014/15 Cabinet agreed £9k funding for IDVA and wider Domestic Abuse services and £44k to part fund four PCSOs (Police and Community Support Officers).

5.0 Safer Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership Annual Conference

The Community Safety Partnership held its first annual conference in October. The conference included a range of speakers covering topics which included Police and Crime Commissioner Priorities, Partnership Performance, Lancashire Community Safety

Strategy – Risks and Threats and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014. A workshop was also held to help set the CSP priorities for 2015/16.

The conference has replaced the previous schedule of four routine meeting per annum and is a new and more inclusive approach designed to increase partner and member engagement. Special meetings will be held during the year on an as needed basis.

6.0 Changes to Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation

The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced the provision of Community Triggers. The triggers give anti-social behaviour (ASB) victims and communities the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem-solving approach to find a solution. Agencies including councils, the police, clinical commissioning groups and registered providers of social housing will have a duty to undertake a case review should a case meet a locally defined threshold.

A report was presented to Cabinet in September to approve the Lancashire wide Community Triggers within the target date.

7.0 Customer Survey

The Council's corporate survey highlighted 97% of residents with confidence in South Ribble being a safe place to live.

8.0 Conclusion

It is considered that the Community Safety Partnership is making good progress and achieving good levels of performance.