

Scrutiny Committee

DATE 2018

Safer Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership

Progress Report



Lead Member: Councillor Jacqui Mort

Lead Officer: Jennifer Mullin

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

In 2017/18 the partnership has achieved its main objectives and identified areas for review and different ways of working. With the shared commitment to improve community safety outcomes, the partners in the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that South Ribble remains a safe place to be. The partnership delivers well in view of the limited resources afforded to it.

South Ribble is a relatively safe place in which to live, work, play and visit. In many areas of South Ribble crime and community safety issues are better than the national and, or, the North West regional averages.

b) Areas of Significant Progress/Achievement

- Operation Genga; a local organised crime partnership board which includes South Ribble Council and other agencies. This is to ensure that all available information and powers are effectively used in order to disrupt organised crime.
- Lancashire Prevent Delivery Group; the Lancashire twelve districts work together to meet the prevent duty section 26 of the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015.
- Hate Crime; The agreement and implementation of the Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2020 will inform future collaborative working of public and other organisations in order to positively respond to the reporting of hate crime and hate incidents.
- Letter of recognition from Chief Superintendent Chris Bithell, to the Community Safety Officer. Their recommendation resulted in a course of action by means of a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) for a high risk domestic violence perpetrator during Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. This order has been successful with no breaches by the prolific offender in over two years, ensuring the safety of his ex-partner and the community and significantly reduced offending behavior.
- An individual award of recognition for the Community Safety Officer, Partnerships Police Inspector Alison Barf-Lewis and Detective Sergeant Keith Duckworth. This was in recognition of their contribution to the collaboration and creative use of tools and powers as part of Operation Genga, which resulted in the execution of a warrant with successful outcomes which are still under investigation.

Chief Superintendent Jo Edwards quoted "Serious and organised crime is a growing and complex landscape. Working with partner agencies, we're able to adapt to change, predict new trends and ultimately make it difficult for organised crime to operate. Genga is forward-thinking in its approach and we're proud of its journey and the national recognition it is receiving."

c) Areas for Further Action/Monitoring

- All responsible authorities to embrace equal responsibility, foresight and commitment to effectually utilise the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) grant available to the partnership.
- All responsible authorities to proactively contribute to the development and delivery of the community safety partnership action plan.
- It is clear from the current trends, which mirror the national picture, that the Community Safety Partnership is facing a significantly challenging climate in which to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

3. Progress against Key Actions/Projects

3.1 Crime Figures

South Ribble has seen a mixed picture in many of the Partnership priority crime types, in the first three quarters of 2017/18 compared to the same period last year.

The 'all crime' figure for **April 2017- January 2018** has shown an increase for the South Ribble CSP area of 20.4% (Chorley CSP +19.3%) compared to the previous year.

- Alcohol related crime +0.9%
- Anti-social behaviour -6%
- Domestic abuse +22.6%
- All burglary +34%
- All theft +19%

Some of the increases in reported crime, particularly domestic abuse, can be put down to an increased willingness of victims to come forward to report offences to the Police; due to national publicity and an increased confidence in victim support services. There have also been improvements in the way Police flag domestic abuse crimes, which will have accounted for some of this increase.

Offending behaviour is often linked to poor physical and mental health and wellbeing. Mental Health and its subsequent impact on crime is considered to be significant, with links established to persistent offending. Data regarding the proportion of offenders with mental health problems in South Ribble is not available and the extent of the potential problem is not fully understood.

Domestic Abuse

3.2 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A MARAC listing high risk cases of domestic abuse is held each month. The multi-agency meeting facilitates the sharing of up to date information. Actions are put in place in order to safeguard the victims, children and other vulnerable members of the household.

The most up to date figures for the Chorley & South Ribble MARAC as of 20/02/18 shows that between October 2016 and September 2017:

- 346 Cases were discussed
- 454 Children in the household
- 8% Declared having a disability

- 8% Males

3.3 The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) Service

The OPCC is the contracting authority responsible for procuring the victims services. The OPCC procured the IDVA service delivery to form Lancashire Victim Services as of 1 April 2017.

The council provides a financial contribution to the service provision of IDVA support for victims of domestic abuse assessed to be either medium or high risk.

3.4 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)

The SDVC continues to operate each Wednesday from Preston Magistrates Court for South Ribble cases. A SDVC forms part of a co-ordinated response to tackling domestic abuse.

3.5 The Sanctuary Scheme

The Sanctuary scheme works in partnership with the registered social landlords and provides target hardening as an option for victims of domestic abuse to feel safer in their own homes. The service is coordinated by the SRBC housing options team who manage the referrals from partner agencies. The safety installations are provided by Preston Care and Repair.

This provides an option for victims of domestic abuse who may be settled in the area with good support networks to remain in their own homes rather than having to move the family to another area in order to feel safe.

3.6 Child sex exploitation

Targeting child sexual exploitation (CSE) is national priority and has a high media profile. It is also a priority for Lancashire Constabulary and the Partnership. The overall picture of CSE within South Ribble is identified as single victim / single offender type offending. The police have an active deter team working in the division which manages intelligence, perpetrators and locations. Partnership working is essential especially in the instance of vulnerable/missing children from home.

It is acknowledged that the 'selfie' and 'sexting' culture is increasing the risks faced by children and young people. Children and young people are more easily exposed to pornography with increased use and availability of the internet. This exposure may affect their judgement of what is acceptable and normal behaviour, increasing risk of making them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Crime Reduction

3.7 Multi Agency Meetings

A number of multi-agency meetings and groups are in place to support crime reduction. These include:

MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) supports the Councils approach to neighbourhood working/management and aims to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour issues at a local level. It focuses on information sharing and the tackling of local issues, problematic households/individuals and problem solving. The MATAC is made up of officers from a range of partners who can all contribute towards community safety and dealing with local crime and nuisance.

ASBRAC (Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference) provides a forum in which to share information for high risk victims of anti-social behaviour in order to reduce the risk of harm

Divert provides an early action approach to work intensively with young people whose behaviour is causing a concern in the community. Its purpose is to divert the young people in order to prevent them committing criminality.

Revolution multi-agency pathway weekly meetings and monthly manager meetings are held to discuss the revolution cohorts. The cohorts consist of offender categories such as high risk domestic abuse perpetrators and the problematic offenders of high Impact acquisitive crime. The overriding principal of the revolution approach is to break the cycle of offending by persons who pose the most significant risk to the community

Genga As mentioned above

3.8 Operations

Several operations are held during the year to target anti-social behaviour and other current seasonal issues including the following operations:

- **Hamper** - Plain clothes operation targeting insecure vehicles and buildings and raising awareness of low security and target hardening.
- **Bright Sparx** - High visibility presence over bonfire period.
- **Shepherd** - High visibility presence along with crime prevention advice over Christmas period.
- **Nightsafe** - Additional officers on a Friday and Saturday evenings to give presence at key times.
- **Tesco** – Operation in order to address the ASB drivers

3.9 Police and Crime Commissioner Funded Projects

The CSP funding has enabled:

- **Leyland Project:** Diversionary activities for young individuals who have accessed the Leyland project and whose attitude and behaviours deserved reward. The activities enabled positive activities in a safe environment; accredited learning outcomes; leadership skills; develop confidence; community cohesion between rival estates
- **Hate Crime:** To use Afta Thought training company to deliver innovative, thought-provoking training methods to highlight hate crime issues. Using actors and skilled facilitation Afta Thought brought the 'lived experience' of those who are vulnerable to, or victims of, hate crime to life.
- **Drug driving campaign;** Working in partnership with Runshaw College art students in order to design and promote safer driving messages to be printed on to beer mats and distributed in public houses.

4.0 Funding Position

South Ribble Community Safety Partnership is allocated £10,000 in grant funding. Each of the responsible authorities has shared responsibility to both and access to the money which is held by the OPCC.

- SRBC has committed £24K for contribution of the IDVA service from April 2017 and March 2020.
- A decision was made to withdraw the contribution of £44k towards the Police and Community Support Officers.

5.0 Safer Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership Annual Conference

The Community Safety Partnership Conference was held on 23 January 2018 and was attended by around fifty representatives including staff, councillors and partner agencies. The conference highlighted good examples of partnership working in areas such as child sexual exploitation, Genga, Housing Injunctions, Prevent, and a workshop to kick start next years action plan.

Whilst the work to complete the detail of the Community Safety Action Plan has yet to be finalised, it is envisaged that the strategic priorities for the Community Safety Partnership will continue to be tackling violent crime and reducing anti-social behaviour, as these are the areas which form the greatest risk of harm to the community.

6.0 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

In accordance with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Police have produced a Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). The CTLP outlines the potential risk and known threats that together, represent the current impact of extremism. A Counter Terrorism Strategy Board (Contest) and Prevent Board are established to lead this area of work.

7.0 Customer Survey

Council's corporate survey of 1753 contacts between 1 April 2017 and 31 January 2018, showed 67% of residents with confidence in South Ribble being a safe place to live and 31% unsure.

8.0 Conclusion

It is considered that the Community Safety Partnership is making good progress and achieving good levels of performance. In conclusion the Community Safety Partnership has a robust membership and plan which reflects what the data indicates are the local concerns.