

INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2021

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - PARTNERSHIPS

TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2020-2023 (2021 ANNUAL REFRESH) AND TAMWORTH POLICE UPDATE

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To consider the draft annual refresh of the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan and receive a Police and Partnership update

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee

- 1. Consider the Tamworth Community Safety Plan 2021 Refresh for publication and endorsement by Cabinet**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tamworth Community Safety plan 2020-2023 is a three year rolling plan which outlines how partners are going to collectively tackle community safety issues in the Tamworth borough. The 2021 refresh highlights what has been achieved against the outcomes set in the previous year and to outline priorities moving forward identified in the Community Safety Strategic assessment

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the lives of everyone. The virus and measures to control rates of infection (such as the national lockdowns, systems to limit social contact, and the temporary closure of education settings) have had a significant impact on many; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education and employment.

The pandemic has also had an impact on the operation and delivery of front-line services including use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and limiting non-essential face to face contact with the public and service users, and with other professionals.

The combined impact of reduced contact with the public, significant limitations on

travel and social contact, the closure and strict restrictions in public spaces and recreational spaces, is that services have seen unprecedented shifts in demand.

As a result, the data in this year's annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment refresh report, is highly irregular, and that observations and analysis should be considered in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life. Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards

It is felt, however, that all priorities are relevant and proportionate as the borough continues to emerge from the pandemic and all require a robust multi-agency response in order to have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

The draft 2021 Community Safety refresh plan is attached as Appendix 1 and requires endorsement by Cabinet prior to publication on Tamworth Borough Council webpage.

Tamworth Borough Council is the lead partner, but the plan is agreed by all key statutory and voluntary partners and Partnership continues to work together to reduce crime and ASB to improve public perception, wellbeing and community safety in Tamworth.

2020 Achievements and Challenges

- The Covid response has seen an unprecedented and positive partnership approach to vulnerable people in our communities
- There has been a rise in referrals for Domestic Abuse to support agencies which will remain a high priority
- Significant reduction in ASB, countered by a rise in demand on noise complaint and neighbour disputes as a result of lockdown
- There is concern around the impact on mental health as a result of the pandemic
- There has been a fall in serious violence and crime overall

2021-2022 Priorities

Using partnership data and the updated Tamworth Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020, the following key partnership priorities have been identified:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**
- **Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment**
- **Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft**
- **Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism (NEW)**
- **County Lines**
- **Public Place and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)**
- **Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health)**

The Community Safety Plan will be continue to be overseen by the Tamworth Partnership Coordination Group, with oversight from the Tamworth Strategic Partnership.

All work streams will have a robust work plan which is being developed following the COVID-19 emergency with a number of underlying principles to ensure that we embed our approach to delivery of the plan:-

- Prevention wherever possible
- Early intervention
- Targeting prolific offenders
- Targeting resources to hotspot areas
- Supporting victims
- Increasing public confidence

Through early intervention the CSP will prevent issues escalating, reducing harm to individuals and ensuring that they receive help and support as early as possible.

Scrutiny will remain with the IS&G committee on matters of community safety.

Locality Deal Funding

The Staffordshire Commissioners Office has committed £64,143.75 for projects in 2021/22 aligned to priorities and the Partnership has begun to identify relevant projects for endorsement by the Staffordshire Commissioners Office by May 2021.

Contextual Safeguarding – Modern Slavery

The Committee have recently requested an update on the Partnership approach to Modern Slavery which is included within the Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding priority.

Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation. Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

The Partnership approach is as follows:

- The publication of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (Tamworth Borough Council [Safeguarding | Tamworth Borough Council](#))
- Staff training to identify threat and risks including partners duty as a First Responder
- Inclusion of Modern Slavery within safeguarding policies
- Attendance at County tactical meetings with Staffordshire Police to identify hotspot areas and emerging trends
- Joint Partnership operations at targeted premises where appropriate
- Information on the Council's webpages on modern slavery and the National Referral Mechanism [National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Tamworth Neighbourhood Policing Team Update (Chief Inspector Paul Talbot)

Key themes within the plan include serious and organised criminality and the work that has been done in Tamworth and across Staffordshire will continue to be done to develop the partnership response to this.

Key issues during 2020:

- Covid compliance issues and Police approach
- Reduction in reported ASB
- Reduction in all crimes between March 2020 and February 2021
- Tackling domestic abuse

The Police will remain the lead on County Lines, Car burglary and vehicle theft and Public Space Violence and will work with partners to address concerns with plan for early intervention and policing strategies

CI Paul Talbot will provide Scrutiny with a verbal update and answer questions.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None – the CS Plan is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Plan will be delivered within existing partnership officer, neighbourhood's team, environmental team and other statutory partner resource.

Funding sources are primarily through the Locality Deal Fund

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

All legal risks covered by legislation and agreed process

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

To be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Partnership Coordination Group and by annual assessment

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour were to be tackled. It recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships.

A comprehensive Community Safety Strategic Assessment is undertaken in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent every three years and an annual update is undertaken in the remaining two years. Additionally this process is undertaken in each district / borough Authority.

Data from a wide range of sources was analysed to show how the CSP compares with other areas for the priority crime types and how volumes and rates have

changed over time and how they vary by ward. Information from research was used to describe any notable risk factors and victim and offender characteristics as well as approaches to partnership working.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft CS Plan 2020-23 (2021 REFRESH)

Appendix 2– 2020 Community Strategic Assessment REFRESH