

**Notes of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee**  
**Crime and Disorder Working Group**  
**15<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

- Present:** Councillors: Kate Rowbottom (Chairman), David Coldwell, Duncan England, Frances Haigh, Jim Sanson
- Apologies:** Councillor Christine Costin  
Deputy District Commander Richard Davy, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- Also present:** Councillor George Cockman
- Officers:** Trevor Beadle, Head of Community and Culture  
Greg Charman, Community Safety Manager  
Neil Worth, Community Safety Officer
- By invitation:** Chief Inspector Howard Hodges, Sussex Police  
Emily King, Better Communities Manager, West Sussex County Council

1. **TO APPROVE AS CORRECT THE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

The notes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were approved as a correct record.

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor England and Rowbottom declared an interest in issues affecting vulnerable people and people with disabilities.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were no announcements.

4. **PROTOCOL FOR THE SCRUTINY OF CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS**

The Working Group noted the protocol which outlined the key provisions of the relevant legislation, the terms of reference of the Working Group, the duty to meet at least once a year, the role of scrutinising the CSP Plan and performance reports, the ability to give notice to responsible authorities to

require their representatives to attend Working Group meetings or to provide information required for scrutiny.

5. **EXTRACT FROM THE SUSSEX POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PERFORMANCE REPORT, AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Working Group noted an extract from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner / Sussex Police Performance Report for August/September 2014 which provided a summary of crime rates for violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary, vehicle crime, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and hate crime.

6. **CRIME STATISTICS FOR HORSHAM DISTRICT AS AT OCTOBER 2014**

The Working Group noted the monthly crime statistics for Horsham District for each category of crime since December 2010, along with the associated pie chart and graphs for each classification of crime from November 2013 to October 2014.

7. **REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE IN RELATION TO THE ACTION PLANS 2013/14 AND 2014/15 TO DATE FOR THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The Working Group had previously reviewed the updates on the CSP Action Plans for 2013/14. It had received the five Action Plans for 2014/15 which detailed progress at the half year point using red, amber and green coding. Updates on the action plans 2014/15 for anti-social behaviour and for tackling the impact of drugs and alcohol were tabled.

Chief Inspector Hodges informed Members of the Sussex Police Target Operating Model which was being prepared to consider the shape of policing over the next five years; the report would be issued in January 2015. Savings had been made and more would be required, and the police would have to consider what services it could provide and which might be better provided by partners and other organisations. Members acknowledged the need to build community resilience and for more community participation.

The Better Communities Manager (West Sussex County Council) reminded Members about the Safer West Sussex Partnership which brought together Community Safety Partnerships along with other key agencies. It provided a coordinated approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in West Sussex.

Reducing Burglary Action Plan (lead partner: Sussex Police)

The Working Group had previously noted the progress on the burglary action plan 2013/14; none of the actions had been coded red. The action plan for tackling burglary did not continue with a formal CSP action plan in 2014/15.

Reducing violence against the person including domestic abuse (lead partner: Sussex Police)

Chief Inspector Hodges reported that there had been a significant increase in reported violent crime in Horsham and West Sussex. He said this reflected an improved integrity in the recording of crime figures.

The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner performance report stated that violence against the person had shown increases across all of the Sussex police divisions. It had increased by 3705 crimes in Sussex for the first six months (April to September 2014), a rise of 41.3% compared to the same period in 2013. The risk of violence with injury, however, remained low; Sussex was the 15<sup>th</sup> safest force nationally with 4.9 offences of violence with injury per 1000 residents.

Reducing the level of risk to repeat and vulnerable victims (lead partner: West Sussex County Council)

The Working Group had expressed concern that this action plan no longer featured as a CSP action plan for 2014/15. The Working Group had commented on a number of actions in 2013/14 which were coded as red; they had not been undertaken because of a lack of resources. The actions related to the support of vulnerable groups and tackling age-related hate crime.

The Better Communities Manager (West Sussex County Council) stated that the absence of a current formal CSP action plan did not reflect any lack of attention to this issue which remained a priority. WSCC's Hate Incident Report service facilitated the reporting of racist, homophobic, transphobic or disablism incidents via Victim Support Sussex. Tackling hate crime was led by Sussex Police Sergeant Peter Allan; he and relevant CSP officers attended the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board meetings. The Prevent agenda and the monitoring of community tension were also important elements of this work.

HDC Community Safety was supporting an Arts Council project, SprungDigi, which worked with local people with disabilities to get them better connected to digital technology; the programme would include a

topic on personal safety and the use of a smartphone app to help them to locate a safe place if they felt at risk.

CSP members had, in November 2014, attended the quarterly Blue Oasis club night with over 100 local people with disabilities attending; each attendee had been given a personal safety guide and had been encouraged to report ASB incidents.

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan  
(lead partner: Horsham District Council)

Chief Inspector Hodges stated that there had been increased reporting of anti-social behaviour as people felt more confident in making such reports. He referred to the ASB Action Group and the positive publicity for its work.

The Head of Community and Culture explained that the ASB team was based at Horsham Police Station. The team's work had been altered in recent years to deal with the Think Family project in addition to ASB work. That was now being reviewed as part of the budget process and consideration would be given to redirecting the team's principal focus to tackling ASB.

The tabled action plan update for 2014/15 showed training for CSP frontline staff on ASB focussing on signs, symptoms and how to report ASB and the available support services was coded as red; training sessions were planned for 2015 which were linked to the new ASB legislation. The HDC Cabinet meeting in January 2015 would be invited to adopt the Council's new ASB policy. The Neighbourhood Nuisance Guide, also shown coded red, would be updated by mid-2015 following the adoption of the Council's new ASB policy.

The Street Triage service in East Sussex had been a success; it paired nurses with police officers in dealing with emergency responses to those with mental health issues and diverting them from police custody to a place of safety. Further street triage schemes would be piloted for three months, as from January 2015, in Crawley and Worthing. If successful the scheme could be rolled out to other locations.

West Sussex County Council was working with ARK Horsham to find a location for those in their later 20s who were too old to be supported and housed by the Y Centre in Horsham for young people.

Community engagement and reassurance  
(lead partners: Horsham District Council and Sussex Police)

The Working Group had previously commented on the CSP website which required updating. That website was currently being revamped; a clearer website would be available to view in January 2015. That was only one element of communications with the public to help them to keep safe; Facebook and Twitter accounts had also been set up for the CSP and regular updates were being posted.

Members welcomed the news about the planned improvements to the CSP website. They felt it was necessary for the public to be able to view information without having to wade through layers of webpages and because it would help the public to report any incidents via the CSP website.

The HDC Community Safety Officer reported that, due to resourcing issues in the CSP, the Communications Group had been wound up; seasonal messaging, however, was undertaken by the relevant work group.

The action plan update showed that the promotion of reassurance in the growing night time economy of Horsham town centre by adopting the Purple Flag Award Scheme had been carried over from 2013/14. HDC was taking the lead on this but the action was pending the outcome of Horsham Unlimited's Business Improvement District process which, if successful, was likely to assume ownership of this.

The CSP supported and promoted relevant national campaigns such as the Drink or Drive Campaign, and the National White Ribbon Day campaign against domestic abuse.

Safer Roads (lead partner: West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service)

The Working Group noted the Casualty Reduction Action Plan for 2014/15 and progress to date. Members had also received information from Deputy District Commander Richard Davy (West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service), lead officer for this action plan. That showed the road casualty statistics as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and comparisons with the previous four years. West Sussex had seen a reduction in the number of people killed in road accidents.

The Working Group noted the series of activities undertaken by CSP partners in 2014 to promote road safety, such as National Bike Week, and the Christmas drink or drive campaign.

To reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol to individuals, families and communities (lead partners: WSCC Public Health, Sussex Police, Horsham District Council, and Clinical Commissioning Groups)

The Working Group noted the new action plan for 2014/15 and the tabled update on progress. A local multi-agency group had been established with a drug and alcohol focus to take forward the activities and deliver the action plan; quarterly meetings were scheduled. HDC would take the lead on this in 2014/15.

Two activities were coded red but these were work in progress relating to promotion of the successes associated with the Sussex Police Alcohol Diversion Scheme which enabled fines from alcohol convictions to be reduced if the driver attended a drinking awareness course after arrest, and also the development of a drug and alcohol age mentoring scheme which would be progressed by the new Alcohol Awareness Officer.

Other matters arising from the CSP Action Plans

The Working Group had previously discussed the work of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and had queried whether PCSO workloads may be increasing but without any additional powers, and how the reorganisation of PCSO areas had affected their role and efficiency. A discussion had taken place at the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in relation to PCSOs, their workloads, reorganisation, their non-attendance at some recent parish council meetings, and their perceived visibility in community policing.

Chief Inspector Hodges explained that there was a recruitment freeze until March 2016, that some local PCSOs had become police constables and found employment outside Horsham District which had required an adjustment to the work of the remaining PCSOs who were directed to where the greatest need existed rather than being allocated to a specific geographical area.

Members also discussed the value and benefit of Neighbourhood Wardens who were managed by the HDC Community Safety team.

**8. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL INSIGHTS TEAM ANALYTICAL SUPPORT**

The Working Group, at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014, had been informed by the HDC Community Safety Manager of the reduction in the level of analytical support that West Sussex County Council had once provided and how the Insights Team no longer provided in-depth analysis but would, if requested, provide broad statistics on specified topics.

The Better Communities Manager (West Sussex County Council) explained that the Crime and Disorder Information Exchange service had been funded until 2009. WSCC had maintained the analyst posts after that time but a restructure in 2011 had resulted in the positions being absorbed into the Insights Team. The previous standard of analytical service may no longer exist but adequate data was available.

The HDC Community Safety Manager stated that there had been an initial gap in the service when that restructure took place but officers had quickly adapted to the new data format provided by Sussex Police. Performance in progressing CSP activities had not been affected after that initial period. Chief Inspector Hodges stated that the raw data used by the Insights Team was provided by Sussex Police. The police had also adapted to the new data format.

## **9. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Working Group agreed to meet in March 2015. The meeting would include a demonstration of the upgraded CSP website, and updates on the progress in delivering the 2014/15 action plans.

A Working Group meeting would also be arranged for June 2015.

The meeting finished at 5.47 p.m. having commenced at 4.00 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**