

**SUBMISSION TO COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH
(OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE**

Date: 21st January 2013

Agenda Item: 5

Contact Officer: Helen Spearey & Jenni Coleman

Telephone: 01543 308700 & 308005

**SUBMISSION BY CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To brief Members on the highlights of the 2012 Community Safety Strategic Assessment; attached at **Appendix A**.
- 1.2 To update Members on progress since the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November 2012.
- 1.3 To advise Members on the current situation regarding the emerging Police and Crime Plan for Staffordshire.

2. The Strategic Assessment 2012

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) including District Councils to formulate and implement strategies to reduce local crime and disorder every three years. This was updated as part of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and from August 2007 CSPs were required to produce a Strategic Assessment that is reviewed annually. Staffordshire Observatory has produced all eight assessments for Staffordshire since 2009 with the aim of reviewing our current priorities and to consider any new or emerging trends.
- 2.2 The key findings of the 2012 Community Safety Strategic Assessment are:
 - During 2011/12 there was a 6% reduction in recorded crime compared to the previous year and a 25% reduction since 2007/8.
 - During 2011/12 there was a 20% reduction in recorded anti-social behaviour compared to the previous year and a 50% reduction over the past five years.
 - 49% of all crime and 50% of all reported ASB occurs in the hotspot locations which are Chasetown, Curborough, Chadsmead, Fazeley, Leomansley and Stowe.
 - Lichfield District is getting safer however one in ten residents feel that crime and anti-social behaviour are increasing.
 - Alcohol is clearly a significant risk factor in crime and disorder issues, violent crime and ASB increasing the likelihood of offending behaviour and increasing vulnerability.

- In 2011 males were 40% more likely to be injured as a driver or rider of a vehicle, and females 50% more likely to be injured as a passenger.
- Overall violent crime is down but domestic violence remains a primary concern.
- Re-offending rates are highest for those committing serious acquisitive crimes (burglary of dwellings, theft of/from motor vehicles and robbery) and shoplifting, and whilst re-offending rates are falling, shoplifting offences and burglary of other buildings (e.g. sheds) have increased.

2.3 The findings of the Strategic Assessment forms part of the Safer Community Partnership's problem solving approach which ensures the District is and remains a safe place to live. The Assessment is also used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Plan (updated annually and approved by the District Board) which sets out our expectations for what we will deliver over the next three years.

2.4 Responsibility for delivering the priorities identified within the Strategic Assessment through the Partnership Plan rests with the Responsible Authorities which are the Police, Fire Service, Health Service, Probation and District and County Council. All the relevant agencies are members of the Lichfield District Board. Delivery of the Partnership Plan is achieved through well established operational groups, together with task and finish groups set up as and when required. The Working and Performance Group oversees the process and reports to the District Board

2.5 The Lichfield District strategic priorities for 2013/14 are as follows:

- Neighbourhood Management: provide a locality focus on priority neighbourhoods particularly in relation to reducing violent crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, including those that are alcohol related.
- Reduce crime: reduce re-offending in particular linked to serious acquisitive crime, and reduce alcohol related violent crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and the associated environmental impacts.
- Protect the vulnerable: including victims of domestic abuse, sexual offences and road safety.

3. Police and Crime Commissioner update

3.1 Following the elections held on 15th November the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took up their posts on the 22nd November. There was a low turnout across Staffordshire and Stoke (11.63%) which followed a similar pattern across the rest of England and Wales. The successful candidate was Matthew Ellis who received 52% (51,237) of the votes Joy Garner received 48% (47,589); these were the only two candidates for Staffordshire and Stoke.

3.3 Mr Ellis pledged to prioritise:

- Using technology to free up police time
- Moving resources to preventing crime not just detecting
- Better treatment for victims of crime
- Dealing with hardened prolific offenders
- Irresponsible Licensees, anti-social drinking and behaviour
- Fast and transparent justice with greater use of restorative measures.

3.4 Prior to taking up his new post on Wednesday 21st November Mr Ellis swore the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, referred to as the Oath of Impartiality, witnessed by Doug Hood of the Central, South-West Staffordshire Bench.

- 3.5 At the first Police and Crime Panel meeting on Monday 17th December the proposal put forward by Mr Ellis for Cllr Sue Arnold to become his Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was approved. Further information is available at www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk.
- 3.8 In May 2012, Full Council gave approval in principle to the proposed terms of reference for the Police and Crime Panel and appointed the Cabinet Member for Community and Organisational Development to represent Lichfield District Council at PCP meetings.
- 3.9 At a shadow meeting of the PCP held on 30th July, Mr Frank Chapman, Staffordshire County Council, was elected Chairman and Cllr Greatorex was elected Vice-Chairman.

4. Police and Crime Plan

- 4.1 Legislation requires the PCC to produce a 'Police and Crime Plan' that sets out their priorities for policing and reducing crime and disorder across the whole force area and how policing resources will be allocated. In developing the Plan the PCC must consult the chief constable, who acts as their principle adviser on policing matters. They must also obtain views on the Plan from local people and the victims of crime in the area. The PCC also has a reciprocal duty to pay due regard to the priorities of partner agencies and these should be reflected in the Plan. It will also need to have regard to the Home Secretary's annual 'Strategic Policing Requirement' - an assessment of the national threats that local police services must address. PCC Plans will need to set out how local policing arrangements contribute towards addressing these threats.
- 4.2 The Plan has to be published by the end of the financial year (ie. by 31st March 2013) and is envisaged to run to the end of the financial year of the next elections, which potentially could be for the next five years covering the period until March 2017. The Plan can be updated at any time, subject to the Police and Crime Panel seeing the document prior to publication or variation. Ideally it will be reviewed annually to enable any changes to be taken into account following the Strategic Assessment process carried out by Community Safety Partnerships.
- 4.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act placed a mutual duty on PCCs and the Responsible Authorities in the Community Safety Partnerships to co-operate to reduce crime, disorder and re-offending. The Act expands on this duty by requiring PCC's Police and Crime Plan to 'have regard to' the priorities of each CSP and likewise the CSP must have regard to the priorities established by the PCC in their Police and Crime Plan.
- 4.4 The draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 is to be discussed at the Police and Crime Panel meeting to be held on 28th January 2013, and again on the 4th February where the final version will be agreed. At the time of writing, the draft Plan has not yet been issued but is expected shortly; if it becomes available, it will be forwarded to Members in advance of the meeting as part of the overall consultation process.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 For many years, CSPs have received community safety funding either directly from the Home Office or indirectly through the County Council; this has been used to support the activities of the CSP in Lichfield District. In 2012-13, Lichfield District Safer Community Partnership was allocated £22,408 from the Safer and Stronger Fund, with a further £15,914 (ring-fenced) as a contribution towards the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor. The £22,408 was used to further the objectives and outcomes set out in the Partnership Plan as follows:

- £6,500 towards the Positive Futures project in Burntwood.
 - £2,000 contribution towards a local Trading Standards Community Safety Officer.
 - £2,500 towards legal and preventative measures for anti-social behaviour.
 - £11,408 to support projects throughout the year targeting partnership priorities.
- 5.2 In the first financial year (2013-14), the PCC will have two separate funding pots (i) a community safety fund (to achieve community safety outcomes) and (ii) a main policing budget. The overall level of funding under this temporary arrangement will be communicated to partners as soon as possible after the Autumn Statement in December.
- 5.3 At the time of writing, the PCC has not yet communicated his intentions in terms of future investment into the CSPs and consequently, in developing the Council's budget for 2013/14, it has been assumed that the grant funding hitherto received will cease.
- 5.4 For 2014 to 2015, there will be no ring-fencing; the PCC can spend their entire grant funding on the police force, or conversely move resources into the community safety arena.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are asked for their comments on the Strategic Assessment 2012.
- 6.2 Members are asked for any comments on the draft Police and Crime Plan (to be circulated) to inform Cllr Greatorex when debating the Plan at the next Police and Crime Panel meeting.

Background Documents:

- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill
- Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People
- Police and Crime Panels: Guidance on role and composition
- Police and Crime Commissioners: A Guide for Councils
- Police and Crime Commissioners Bulletins
- LGA: Community safety partnerships: A guide for police and crime commissioners