

Safer Somerset Partnership update Report

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Update members on developments, confirm ongoing support and note the potential for a future requirement to provide funding to cover our share of the statutory duties of the Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP).

2. Forward Plan

- 2.1 This report did not appear on the forward plan as the decision for ongoing funding and level of support was not anticipated but is required to inform the 2016/17 budgets.

3. Public Interest

- 3.1 The SSP is recognised by the Somerset Police Crime Commissioner as the top level organisation dealing with local Community Safety issues. The SSP has been operating since 2011 after the merger of the five district based Community Safety Partnerships. District Councils have a statutory responsibility to work with partners to protect their local communities from Crime, Disorder and Anti-social Behaviour. Although there is no statutory requirement to join a Community Safety Partnership, membership of SSP does enable SSDC to discharge its statutory duty to be seen to be working in partnership to reduce crime disorder and anti-social behaviour. Although it receives no funding from central government, the SSP holds several statutory responsibilities in its own right, including the carrying out of Strategic Assessments, producing a Strategic Plan and completing Domestic Homicide Reviews when notified of a death as a result of domestic violence or suicide.
- 3.2 The SSP has three distinct levels of operation; the Chief Executive Officer group is responsible for the overall strategy, funding and top level negotiation. The Tactical group is the 'engine room' of middle managers that are responsible for the delivery plans and the monitoring of progress. The third level is seen as all of the organisations, teams and community groups involved in delivering a service that contributes to the SSP's overall objectives.
- 3.3 The SSP receives no direct allocation of funding for its operations and the delivery of projects. Historically, funding from central government to support the partnership structures, delivery and statutory responsibilities was allocated to Somerset County Council. However, when the funding stopped being ring-fenced by the government, SCC removed the funding for the Community Safety Partnership. Subsequently this funding has been allocated to the Police Crime Commissioner who uses it to support projects, but will not support statutory functions. With no access to core funding, the SSP has been maintaining these statutory responsibilities and other value added initiatives. A good example is the work done by the partnership to plan for the implementation of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. SSP ran a combination of workshops and training sessions which have been well supported

by partners. A small amount of residual partnership funding (£27,500) is held and administered by SSDC on behalf of the SSP.

3.4 The SSP continues to operate in a changing climate with new legislation, budgetary constraints and statutory duties which are unpredictable. To this end the SSP is looking at its operations, identifying priorities and moving forward with its responsibilities.

4. Recommendation(s)

4.1 That the District Executive:-

- a) agree to continue fully supporting the activities of the Safer Somerset Partnership;
- b) agree to help fund the partnership statutory activities and set an upper limit of funds (£3,000) to be made available for finance year 2016/17 with addition of £3,000 to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 on the agreement that all of the SSP responsible authorities fund a similar amount;
- c) note and comment on the detail of the report.

5. Background

5.1 The Safer Somerset Partnership was formed by the merger of the five Districts based Community Safety Partnerships (formerly known as Crime and Disorder Partnerships) that were developed as a statutory requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The SSP is helpful in satisfying the relevant partner's statutory obligations under section 5-7 of the Act. The Act and subsequent legislation identifies responsible authorities that are obliged to work together to protect the community from Crime, Disorder and Ant-social behaviour.

5.2 In Somerset there are ten responsible authorities:

- Avon & Somerset Constabulary
- South Somerset District Council
- Mendip District Council
- Sedgemoor District Council
- Taunton Dean Borough Council
- West Somerset District Council
- Somerset County Council
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service (Somerset)
- Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Somerset)

5.3 The responsible authorities choose to work together as the SSP to protect their local communities from crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. At the same time, there is also an emphasis on helping people feel safer as the fear of crime can be disproportionate to the actual risks and can impact significantly on the health and wellbeing of residents.

6. The SSP is structured around three distinct levels:

6.1 GOLD – Chief Executive Officers group with responsibility for the strategic direction, statutory duties, plans, reviews, reports, risk, quality and finance. The membership

of this group is made up of the principal officers from each of the organisations and an elected member from the local authorities. The current Chairman, Nigel Taylor, elected member representative from Mendip District Council, will be standing down and a new chairperson will be elected at the next meeting in June of this year.

- 6.2 SILVER – This level of the partnership is made up of middle managers from the responsible authorities and others reflecting the services being delivered and current priorities. The Chairman of this group has recently changed to Martin Carnell, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.
- 6.3 BRONZE – Includes all of the agencies, groups and services delivering a service that contributes towards the objectives and priorities of the SSP.
- 6.4 Through these three levels of operation, local issues can be dealt with that could not be satisfactorily resolved by a single agency, and this could include behaviour such as misuse of substances, reoffending burglary and other categories of crime. There is an annual assessment of local crime priorities and consultation with partners and communities on how to deal with these issues.
- 6.5 The Gold group also has regular contact and input from the Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner who is responsible for carrying out the Police Needs Assessment, producing the Policing Plan and delivering against the identified priorities. The SSP is instrumental in ensuring the delivery of this plan.
- 6.6 The SSP was able to carry over a small amount of previously unspent finance (£27,500) as core funding which is currently held by SSDC on behalf of the partnership. The need to undertake Domestic Homicide reviews has placed a significant and unpredictable financial pressure on the partnership. In 2013/14 it was agreed that all responsible members would make a contribution of £1000 with the exception of West Somerset which, due to scale, would contribute £500. The £1000 from SSDC was met from the residual Community Safety budget used to fund the former Mendip and South Somerset Community Safety Partnership. It is not known at this time what financial commitment will be required from partners in 2015/16 but it is envisaged that this will be covered from existing budgets.

7. Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

- 7.1 This is an important piece of legislation, in as much as, it clearly identifies local authorities as having to lead in certain areas of enforcement. Given the geography of Somerset, it could mean that there would be five different sets of rules, forms and procedures to deliver the same service in enforcing the new tools and powers. (District Executive Reports January 2014 and February 2015).
- 7.2 The Safer Somerset Partnership (SSP) has taken the lead across the county with the implementation of these tools and powers. In addition to the six month pilot of the Community Trigger in Mendip, a series of workshops and training sessions were delivered covering each of the tools to explore how they could best fit within the existing resources, delivery structures and help identify ongoing development opportunities.
- 7.3 In addition to the implementation of the Community Trigger, SSP Partners are currently reviewing existing structures to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose and to identify gaps in provision. There is a need to share data to ensure that we act collectively, in the best interest of the victim, deal with perpetrators

effectively and minimise duplication. This will result in closer local working with our partners and regular information exchange about geographical areas and individual victims and perpetrators. It is understood that the existing Avon and Somerset, Tier One, Partnership Information Sharing Protocol will allow partners to share this information if supported by local confidentiality agreements.

8. SSP Operating Model

- 8.1 The Gold Group is currently reviewing the Terms of Reference for the partnership to reflect recent changes and facilitate further development. The Group will continue to act as the enablers and be concerned with the ratification of the strategic direction and quality assurance. Membership will be reviewed to reflect the emerging trends which might involve direct representation from Adult and Children safeguarding services and possibly other specialist services.
- 8.2 The Silver Group will maintain the tactical oversight while problem solving, planning and responding to requests from Gold to devise strategy, review terms of reference etc. In addition, Silver will be responsible for the production and co-ordination of the Domestic Homicide Reviews, Reducing Reoffending and the allocation of Police Crime Commissioners grant funding (see Appendix 1) and monitoring. There is a need to develop structured systems and processes to identify and agree priority locations and themes through data and intelligence analyses. This will inform the further development and roll out of the One Team Approach which has the aim to develop an integrated model of neighbourhood service delivery to reduce demand and prevent crime; disorder and Anti-social behaviour within the community (see Appendix 2 Yeovil One team).
- 8.3 Membership of the Silver group is to be reviewed with a view to extending members to become more inclusive and reflect ongoing priorities.
- 8.4 Bronze groups will include certain thematic interests but over time will develop into area based co-ordinated interventions not dissimilar to the One Teams being developed. Terms of reference will be developed to reflect the changes and create the local flexibility that will be required. The membership of each group will be a local decision depending on the needs of the area and interventions to be delivered.

9. Proposed Outcomes and Priorities

- 9.1 It is proposed (but yet to be ratified fully by the Gold Group) that the outcomes will be streamlined into two distinct areas being:
- A). Identify and prevent vulnerability in our communities.
 - B). Reduce service demand
- 9.2 The five areas below are being considered as the priority areas:
- 1). Improving links to other partnerships
 - 2). Mental health
 - 3). Interpersonal violence
 - 4). Tackling anti-social behavior
 - 5). Focusing on children and young people through prevention

10. Involvement of South Somerset District Council

10.1 South Somerset District Council is represented at GOLD group by the Assistant Director (Communities) and Elected Member with responsibility for Community Safety. Silver Group is serviced by the Community Safety Co-ordinator.

10.2 Core funding is currently held by South Somerset District Council on behalf of SSP and is in the process of collecting funds from the partners for the 2015/16 contribution.

11. SSP Financial Implications

11.1 SSP has access to £29,750 funding in 2014/15 and an estimated commitment of £20,000.

11.2 The requested contribution from each partner for 2015/16 has been £1,000 (£500 West Somerset) and it is estimated that the funding requirement for each member authority for 2016/17 will be in the region of £3,000. It is difficult to gauge how much will be required as it is impossible to plan how many Domestic Homicides there might be and the complexity of the review that will be required.

11.3 Given this year’s allocated expenditure of £20,000 with a remaining balance of £9,750 to 2015/16, it can be seen that if similar expenditure is required and no additional income secured, the SSP will be in debt.

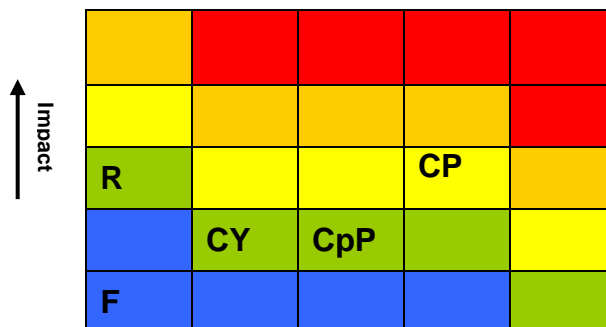
11.4 A maximum commitment from each of the ten partners of £3,000 will be required for the finance year 2016/17 if the budget is to break even.

11.5 It should be noted that this allocation only covers the commitment to do DHRs and does not cover any administrative support for the partnership which is provided by the elected Chairperson at no cost to the SSP. Mendip currently provide this service but will change on the appointment of the new Chairperson who will be elected at the next meeting. The cost of producing the strategic assessment has previously been met from partnership funds with support from Police resources that are no longer available. Consideration is being given to the next strategic assessment which will utilise and tap into existing analytical structures and cost no more than £1,000.

12. SSDC Financial Implications

12.1 The financial implication for SSDC is expected to be a maximum of £3,000 payment to cover 2016/17 and Members are requested to approve the addition of £3,000 to the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016/17.

13. Risk Matrix



Likelihood
→

Key

| Categories | Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy) |
|---------------------------|---|
| R = Reputation | Red = High impact and high probability |
| CpP = Corporate Plan | Orange = Major impact and major probability |
| Priorities | Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability |
| CP = Community Priorities | Green = Minor impact and minor probability |
| CY = Capacity | Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability |
| F = Financial | |

14. Corporate Priority Implications

14.1 Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people and that the strategic priorities for policing and crime reduction in South Somerset reflect local needs.

15. Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

15.1 There are no Climate Change implications directly related to this report.

16. Equality and Diversity Implications

16.1 There is no Equality and Diversity implications directly related to this report.

17. Background Papers

17.1 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – District Executive reports January 2014 and February 2015.