



Committee report

COMMITTEE	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	12 NOVEMBER 2019
TITLE	ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – 2018/19 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT
REPORT OF	AMANDA GREGORY, CHAIR OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (ON BEHALF OF THE PARTNERSHIP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership (CSP) consists of several organisations working together to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and ensure people feel safe. The partnership consists of five statutory authorities; the Isle of Wight Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Community Rehabilitation Company/ Hampshire Probation and the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group. Other organisations also contribute to the partnership including housing providers, Adult and Children’s Services, Public Health, Mental Health Services, Domestic Abuse Support providers, Town and Parish Councils and the Voluntary Sector.
2. It is a requirement that the partnership produces an annual strategic assessment to:
 - provide a summary of research and analysis on crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse
 - highlight significant community safety issues
 - include information about key trends and emerging issues
 - recommend priorities for the CSP
 - inform the strategic plan, and
 - identify gaps in knowledge which need to be understood and action taken.

In addition, the Community Safety Partnership has a statutory responsibility for:

 - Delivering the Prevent duty (counter terrorism)
 - Reducing Re-offending.
3. It is important for partners to understand the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse on the Isle of Wight, to enable them to ensure the right priorities are identified and to target resources effectively.
4. The aim of the assessment is to provide partners with statistical analysis and information about crime, its changes and patterns over time and, where possible, an explanation as to why these changes have occurred.

5. The 2018/19 Strategic Assessment (Appendix 1) will be used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Plan and help identify key strategic priorities in order to combat crime and disorder more effectively.
6. Both the strategic assessment and strategic plan are public documents and will be published on the IWC Community safety webpages www.iwight.com/communitysafety
7. The Police & Justice Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee to review & scrutinise decisions made in connection with the discharge of the Local Authorities crime and disorder functions; and to make reports or recommendations to the Local authority with respect to discharge of those functions. The Council has delegated the crime and disorder scrutiny function to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
8. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 requires the committee with this function to “meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve-month period.
9. This requirement forms part of the Government’s commitment to strengthen the accountability of local CSP’s and enhances the role of local councillors and local communities in preventing and reducing crime.
10. The purpose of this report is to present the Community Safety Partnership strategic assessment for scrutiny.
11. It is recommended that the committee:
 - Considers the report and scrutinises the Strategic Assessment 2018/19
 - Acknowledges the progress of the 2018/2020 partnership plan (Appendix 2)
 - Confirms it is satisfied that the partnership is fulfilling its statutory duty

BACKGROUND

12. Community Safety Partnerships are statutory partnerships working together to tackle crime and disorder established by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. The responsible authorities within the local partnership are;
 - Isle of Wight Council
 - Hampshire Constabulary
 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
 - Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service
 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company
13. Legislation places a duty on the responsible authorities to share evidenced-based data to undertake an annual strategic assessment and publish a Community Safety Partnership Plan.

14. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the 2017/18 strategic assessment in November 2018. The committee asked the CSP to produce a progress report on activities mid-way through the year, particularly on areas where the Island data was above average with comparator groups. This progress report was heard at the scrutiny committee on 11 June 2019. It was resolved:
 - (i) That the progress achieved up to the end of May 2019 on the Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2018-20 be noted.
 - (ii) That the committee confirmed it was satisfied that the Community Safety Partnership fulfilled its statutory duty.
15. The community safety partnership believes that crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and reducing the fear of crime can only be tackled effectively through a multi-agency partnership. The purpose of the strategic assessment is to analyse the trends to identify priorities and formulate a partnership plan to reduce and prevent crime and to promote confidence and safety in our communities.

UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT

16. To set the priorities and the partnership plan, a Strategic Assessment is completed. This is a process that analyses known data about crime and disorder and highlights the risks, hot spots and impacts to our community and how we compare to our nearest statistical neighbours.
17. As part of producing the strategic assessment the CSP has a duty to consult with the local community. An online survey was carried out during the spring of 2018. The results included: 85.7% felt safe in their local community (17.9% extremely safe, 50.7% quite safe and 17.1% moderately safe). This is an increase on 2017 results.
18. The strategic assessment compares data with areas with similar characteristics (most similar group), national data and other local authority areas within the Hampshire Constabulary force. The overall crime rate for the IOW has reduced (improved) since 2017/2018 and is now 72.4 per 1000 population. This is statistically lower than 12 of the Community Safety comparator groups and the England and Wales national average (89.5 per 1000).
19. Police recorded crime for the Isle of Wight indicates that 12 crime types have reduced or remained the same and seven have increased. Reported vehicle offences and residential burglary have seen the largest decrease along with criminal damage and public order offences. Anti-social behaviour (ASB), youth on youth crime, hate crime and crimes against children have all seen a reduction on the previous year. Missing children episodes recorded by the police have also seen a decrease as well as first time entrants to the youth justice system.
20. Data shows us that crime types with the largest percentage increase from 2017/18 tend to be the crimes with small numbers, therefore any rise is seen more sharply. This includes arson, theft from the person, robbery of personal property and rape. Areas which remain the largest in terms of percentage of all crime include criminal damage and public order offences (these have actually recorded a slight decrease), violence without injury which remains the largest percentage of all crime and violence with injury; which mirrors the national profile. Most serious violence shows a slight increase but knife crime and weapon offences have decreased.

21. The strategic assessment includes a review of progress relating to the partnership plan 2018-2020. See appendix 1, point 1.4 for further details
22. The partnership has a statutory responsibility for agreeing and overseeing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs); There were no domestic homicide reviews in 2018/19, however a historical case was referred and a review is currently underway.

FINANCE/ RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

23. From 2013/14 the Home Office funds previously allocated to Community Safety Partnerships were incorporated into the budgets of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), who provides opportunities to bid for funds to meet local priorities.
24. As part of the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy 2018 the PCC have confirmed funding for 2019/20 as part of their Violence Reduce Unit (VRU) programme. The IOW Council has received a small portion of funding which has been allocated to projects aimed at preventing youth violence. It is likely, but not confirmed that VRU funding will be received for the 2020/2021 financial year.
25. There is no statutory requirement for partners to fund the community safety partnership, however the statutory partners are aware future Strategic Assessments will likely need a financial contribution due to the analytical resource needed to complete this extensive piece of work.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

26. The partnership is required to produce a strategic assessment and an annual strategic plan.
27. Statutory partners are also required to commit resources to support the delivery of the plan; although there is no specific detail on what resources or financial commitment within the statute.
28. The Police and Justice Act of 2006 that (at section 19) requires the Local Authority to have a committee with the power:
 - To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions;
 - To make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.
29. Under the Isle of Wight Council constitution, the Scrutiny Committee fulfils this function.
30. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 requires the committee with this function to “meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve-month period.

SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

31. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Police and Justice Act 2006) provides that: ‘...it shall be the duty of each authority ... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent, crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and substance misuse in its area’.
32. By endorsing the priorities and delivery plan the organisations within the partnership are contributing to meeting section 17 of the crime and disorder act, reducing crime and disorder and promoting community safety on the Island.

SUMMARY OF RISK ASSESSMENT

33. There is a risk to the Council that if statutory scrutiny functions are not undertaken the Council could face criticism and reputational damage should the Community Safety Partnership not meet its statutory duties.
34. By ensuring there is at least an annual review of the CSP arrangements and that members are fully briefed on their role, this risk will be mitigated.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

35. The community safety strategic assessment relates to several corporate priorities of the Isle of Wight Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner Police and Crime plan, as well as other partner priorities and action plans.
36. Our Island Our Vision - Isle of Wight Council Corporate Plan 2019-2022 has the following commitments:
 - Create opportunities for all
 - Deliver Economic Growth and prosperity
 - Preserve our environment
 - Protect our community
 - Plan for future needs
 - Provide sound financial management
37. Police Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 21
 - Championing community needs
 - Partnerships
 - Enabling operationally effective policing
 - Reduced reoffending
38. Other plans/reports/strategies/ groups include:
 - Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children’s Partnership annual report
 - Isle of Wight Safeguarding Adult’s Board annual report
 - Various safeguarding board sub groups such as Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR), Substance Misuse partnership
 - Domestic Abuse Forum Strategy
 - Integrated Offender Management
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- Isle of Wight CSP Prevent Board
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Prevent Board
- Home Office 2018 Counter Terrorism CONTEST. 3 Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

39. It is recommended that the committee:
- Considers the report and scrutinises the Strategic Assessment 2018/19
 - Acknowledges the progress of the 2018/2020 partnership plan
 - Confirms it is satisfied that the partnership is fulfilling its statutory duty

APPENDICES ATTACHED

40. [Appendix 1](#) – Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2018/19
41. [Appendix 2](#) – Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2018/20

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