

Scrutiny Report

COMMITTEE	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	12 JANUARY 2021
TITLE	ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2019/20
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 six statutory authorities; the Isle of Wight Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire & IOW Community Rehabilitation Company, Hampshire Probation Service and the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group. Other organisations also contribute to the partnership including Housing Providers, the Voluntary Sector, Adult and Children's Services, Public Health, Mental Health Services, Domestic Abuse Support Providers, Town and Parish Councils and the Youth Offending Team.
2. It is a requirement that the partnership produces an annual strategic assessment to:
 - provide a summary of research and analysis on crime and anti-social behaviour
 - highlight significant community safety issues
 - include information about key trends and emerging issues
 - enable identification of 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 and disorder 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 2019/20 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 webpage 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 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 CSP strategic assessment for scrutiny.
11. It is recommended that the committee:
 - Considers the report and scrutinises the Strategic Assessment 2019/20
 - Acknowledges the updated Strategic Plan 2020/2022 (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
 - National 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 2018/19 strategic assessment in November 2019, it was resolved that:
 - (i) The progress of the 2018/2020 partnership plan was acknowledged.
 - (ii) The committee was satisfied that the partnership is fulfilling its statutory duty.

It was recommended that:

 - (iii) Consideration be given by the Partnership to the content of future strategic assessments in terms of ensuring that data is in a more accessible format.
 - (iv) The Partnership be requested to look at ways of enhancing its working relationship with town and parish councils.
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 which

aids the partnership in identifying priorities. This in turn helps formulate a 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. The strategic assessment compares data with areas with similar characteristics (most similar group), national data and other local authorities within the Hampshire Constabulary force area. The overall crime rate for the IOW has continued to reduce (improve) since 2017/18 and is now at 70.4 per 1,000 reducing from 72.4 per 1,000 in 2018/19 and is lower in comparison to the England average of 88.9 per 1,000, which has increased by around 1% since the previous year. The Island's rate is statistically significantly lower than all but two of the Community Safety comparator group and has the second lowest rate.
18. Incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) have seen a reducing trend over the last three years with 559 fewer reported incidents in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19; reducing from 2,927 to 2,368.
19. Community perception forms part of the strategic assessment and provides a good indication of perceived feelings of safety. 'YouGov', a research data and analytics group who use active sampling and statistical weighting to ensure their results are representative provides data on this topic. Data for March 2020 shows the vast majority on the Isle of Wight (88%) felt safe in their community, higher than the Hampshire average (73%).
20. Police recorded crime for the Isle of Wight indicates that 12 crime types have reduced or remained the same and 9 have increased. Areas that have seen the greatest numerical reduction locally include violence with injury, criminal damage and other theft offences and incidents. Crime types which have seen the greatest numerical increase locally include violence without injury and public order offences. Violence without injury remains the largest percentage of all recorded crimes locally and is a very broad category encompassing areas such as stalking, common assault (no injury) and breach of restraining order, to name but a few. In terms of cross-cutting themes youth on youth crime and most serious violence have seen a decrease in reported crimes compared to last year whilst domestic abuse flagged crimes have seen an increase.
21. The partnership has a statutory responsibility for agreeing and overseeing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). There were no DHRs in 2019/20, however a historical case was submitted to the Home Office for review which is still being finalised.

FINANCE/ RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

22. From 2013/14 the Home Office funds previously allocated to CSP were incorporated into the budgets of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), who provides opportunities to bid for funds to meet local priorities.
23. As part of the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy 2018 the PCC have confirmed funding for 2019/20 & 2020/21 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 'to date', that VRU funding will be received for the 2021/2022 financial year.

24. There is no statutory requirement for partners to fund the CSP, although the statutory partners are aware future Strategic Assessments will likely need a financial contribution due to the analytical resource required to complete this extensive piece of work.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The partnership is required to produce a strategic assessment and strategic plan.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. Under the Isle of Wight Council constitution, the Scrutiny Committee fulfils this function.
29. 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

30. 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’.
31. 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

32. 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.
33. 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

34. The community safety strategic assessment relates to several corporate priorities of the Isle of Wight Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan, as well as other partner priorities and action plans.
35. 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
36. Police & Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan 2020 – 22
- Anti-social behaviour
 - Vulnerable at risk
 - Abuse in the home
 - Drug-related harm
 - Acquisitive crime
 - Fraud
 - Online exploitation
 - Public order
 - Public sentiment
 - Enforcement during Covid-19.
37. 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 subgroups such as Missing Exploited and Trafficked (MET), Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)
 - 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

38. It is recommended that the committee:
- Considers the report and scrutinises the Strategic Assessment 2019/20
 - Acknowledges the updated Strategic Plan 2020/2022
 - Confirms it is satisfied that the partnership is fulfilling its statutory duty

APPENDICES ATTACHED

39. Appendix 1 – Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2019/20
Appendix 2 – Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2020/2022

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