



Scrutiny Report

Committee	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date	9 NOVEMBER 2021
Title	ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2020/2021
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, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire & IOW Probation Service and the NHS Hampshire, Southampton and 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 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 2020/21 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.
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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 2020/21
 - 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
 - NHS Hampshire, Southampton & Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Hampshire & IOW Probation Service
 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 2019/20 strategic assessment in January 2021, it was resolved that:
 - (i) The updated Strategic Plan for 2020/22 was acknowledged.
 - (ii) The Committee confirmed that it was satisfied that the Partnership was fulfilling its statutory duty.

It was recommended that:

 - (iii) Further details relating to both the reoffending data and the recording of additional information relating to anti-social behaviour incidents, as reported on in the Strategic Assessment for 2019/20, would be obtained for the Committee.
 - (iv) The Partnership would ensure that it engaged with town and parishes on its activities.
 15. The community safety partnership believes that crime, disorder, anti-social 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.
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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 how we compare to our nearest statistical neighbours and national averages.
17. It is important to acknowledge the impact of Covid-19 and pandemic related restrictions on crime and anti-social behaviour. This impact is covered at varying points throughout the assessment and in summary the lockdowns have reduced the opportunity for crimes such as burglary, shoplifting and violence with injury. It has however increase opportunities for other crime types such as fraud.
18. 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 64.5 per 1,000 reducing from 70.4 per 1,000 in 2019/20 and is lower in comparison to the England average of 77.6 per 1,000. The IOW rate is statistically significantly lower than all but two of the Community Safety comparator group and has the fourth lowest rate.
19. Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour have seen a slight increase of 61 incidents compared to last year, 2,438 total reported incidents. This still remains a substantial decrease on 2018/19 figures of 493 fewer reported incidents.
20. 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 2021 shows the vast majority of those surveyed on the Isle of Wight 84%, felt safe in their community, higher than the Hampshire average which stands at 75%.
21. Local data from the Police and Crime Commissioner InterACT dashboard for the period April 2020 to March 2021 indicates that the total number of recorded crimes for the Isle of Wight was 9,221 a reduction of 679 crimes from the previous year. On the Island, shoplifting has reduced by 58%, theft from the person by 45%, non-residential burglary by 41%, a 9% reduction in sexual offences and violence with injury has reduced by 18%. Stalking and Harassment continues to see an increase due in part to a change in Home Office counting rules in 2018/19 which now sees this as a discreet offence. Although drug offences have seen the greatest rise, this offence still only forms around 5% of all reported crime on the Isle of Wight
22. The partnership has a statutory responsibility for agreeing and overseeing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). There were no DHRs undertaken in 2020/21.

FINANCE/ RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

23. 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.
 24. As part of the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy 2018 the PCC confirmed funding for 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 not confirmed whether VRU funding will be received for the 2022/2023 financial year.
 25. There is no statutory requirement for partners to fund the CSP, although the statutory partners are aware future Strategic Assessments may need a financial contribution due to
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the analytical resource required to complete this extensive piece of work. The commissioning of any Domestic Homicide Reviews also requires partners to contribute to the funding of this work.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

26. The partnership is required to produce a strategic assessment and 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 & Crime Commissioner, as well as other partner priorities and action plans.

The draft Isle of Wight Corporate Plan 2021-2025 has the following core values:

- Being community focused: wherever possible putting the needs of our residents first
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- Working together: engaging realistically with partners to make the most of integrated working, helping communities to help themselves and being a strong council team that delivers on these values
 - Being effective and efficient: being the best we can in how we organise and deliver our services, using all our limited resources wisely and carefully, getting on with things where we can.
 - Being fair and transparent: Making decisions based on data and evidence and in an open and accountable way.
36. The Police & Crime Commissioner More Police, Safer Streets Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 (currently being developed and consulted on, October 21) is considering including related themes such as tackling anti-social behaviour and violent crime and improving outcomes for victims.
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 the IOW Exploitation Delivery Group, Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)
 - Integrated Offender Management
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Isle of Wight CSP 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 2020/2021
 - Confirms it is satisfied that the partnership is fulfilling its statutory duty

APPENDICES ATTACHED

39. Appendix 1 – Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2020/2021
Appendix 2 – Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2020/2022

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