

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 September 2017



|                                  |   |                     |    |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|----|
| <b>Title</b>                     | Review of Community Safety  |                     |    |
| <b>Purpose of the report</b>     | To note   |                     |    |
| <b>Report Author</b>             | Keith McGroary  |                     |    |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>            | Councillor Nick Gething   | <b>Confidential</b> | No |
| <b>Corporate Priority</b>        | Clean and Safe Environment  |                     |    |
| <b>Recommendations</b>           | To note the report of the Community Safety Manager on the review of community safety. |                     |    |
| <b>Reason for Recommendation</b> | Not applicable  |                     |    |

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 5 years ago Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) throughout the country ceased to receive a grant from the government to support interventions and activities to help reduce the instances of crime and anti-social behaviour within local communities. CSP's may have been one of the early casualties of the austerity measures brought about by the response to the downturn in the world economy.
- 1.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner now holds the funding previously allocated to support CSP's and this is allocated to the general police budget. The Police and Crime Commissioner understands the value of local partnerships, where various agencies work together with a common goal of reducing crime and disorder. To this end he has made funding available subject to application and meeting the key priorities of his Office.
- 1.3 Spelthorne have been pro-active with regards to raising funding to help deliver Community Safety; over the last 7 years, as budgets dwindled, we have approached local businesses in the Borough for financial contributions. A2D Housing has been a significant supporter of the Partnership, together with BP and Spelthorne Council. Surrey County Council have made £3,000 available for local projects subject to approval. This year as last year, the Police and Crime Commissioner has contributed £5,000 to support the Junior Citizen event.
- 1.4 In 2015 the Community Safety Team (CST) was re-structured in order to provide greater flexibility and resilience; costs were also saved by reducing 2

full-time posts into part-time roles at 30 hours a week for each of the 2 officers. In August 2017 the Community Safety Manager who had 50% of his role dedicated to community safety and 50% to economic development saw the community safety element of his responsibilities deleted. A new post is under consideration which will provide for a manager who will have responsibility for community safety, the Joint Enforcement Team (JET) and other Neighbourhood Services duties.

- 1.5 Over the last 18 months Surrey Police have re-structured their own staff; this has resulted in a reduction of dedicated Police / PCSO neighbourhood officers who respond to the 'lower level' neighbourhood issues; and an increase in the number of response officers available to respond to more urgent calls for assistance.
- 1.6 The Neighbourhood Team now consists of 4 police officers and 10 PCSO's supported by a large team of omni competent response officers who are available 24/7. Regular communications now take place with the Neighbourhood Team, the Community Safety Team and JET. A regular Tasking and Coordinating meeting takes place every 6 weeks where geographical problems around ASB / fly-tipping etcetera, are highlighted and actions allocated to deal with those emerging or historical problems.
- 1.7 In order to address the significant number of reports regarding fly-tipping and low-level ASB, the Partnership has purchased 2 portable CCTV cameras which can be placed at any location in the Borough. When deployed, signage is erected to inform people in that location that there is CCTV in the area. Further joint work has taken place in order to strengthen the ability of the Partnership to contribute towards the disruption of serious organised crime. The Surrey Chief Constable has identified Spelthorne as the leading Borough within this new area of partnership working.
- 1.8 Surrey Police carried out a public confidence survey which was completed in August 2017. This showed a confidence level of 94% - a 16.1% increase on the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016/17. This was higher than in both Runnymede and Elmbridge Boroughs.

## **2. Community Safety Activities**

- 2.1 Over the last 12 months, the Community Safety Team and partner agencies, have organised and delivered, the Junior Citizen Scheme to 1,100 children; almost every child aged 10 years old in the Borough. This Scheme helps prepare 1,100 of our children in their last year of junior school with threats from water, fire, stranger danger, road safety and more.
- 2.2 The Senior Citizen event was delivered to more than 50 elderly local people at the Greeno Centre.
- 2.3 The Community Safety Team has dealt with a large number of neighbourhood disputes and anti-social behaviour incidents reported directly to them via the public. The Team has been successful in securing funds of over £5k from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support Junior Citizen and Older Person's Day.

- 2.4 The Team has organised 3 Partnership Action Days with various agencies, chaired 8 Community Incident Action Group meetings and 8 Joint Enforcement Team Tasking and Coordinating meetings. These key groups coordinate activity on a multi-agency basis to help deal with hot-spot locations and the key offenders who affect the community through their behaviour, as well as support for repeat victims.
- 2.5 A new Water Safety Strategy has been developed in partnership with Elmbridge and Runnymede Councils to help reduce the danger of drowning in the river Thames. A pilot to help deal with High Impact Complex Drinkers (HICD) has also been launched. The target audience are those drinking high levels of alcohol causing a negative impact on the community and who refuse to engage with support; whereas in the past efforts to support would have ceased if initially refused by the client, the HICD scheme is far more assertive and will persist with support..
- 2.6 The Team has acquired portable CCTV equipment which has been deployed at a number of locations and has already had some success with a number of prosecutions pending. A Borough wide policy and procedure for CCTV usage has been developed which has ensured that SBC are compliant with the forthcoming European Data Protection Regulations. Further activity is taking place with regards to the conversion of the fibre-optic / broadband connections to the Runnymede monitored CCTV cameras, to a wireless network.

### **3. Performance**

- 3.1 Details of performance are included within this report as appendices. In summary, last year there was an increase of 8.1% in reported crime; a rise from 5,874 offences to 6,352 offences between April 2016 and March 2017 compared to the same period in 2015-2016.
- 3.2 Violent crime has risen by 1.3% or by a total of 10 offences compared to the previous financial year.
- 3.3 Last year vehicle crime saw an increase of 22%. In the financial year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 there was a reduction of 0.8% or 4 fewer crimes related to vehicles. Given the increases that have occurred in other areas of crime, vehicle crime does not appear as a priority within the current community safety strategy.
- 3.4 Burglary within our residents' homes has seen an increase from 263 in the previous year to 339 in the last financial year which represents an increase of 28.9%.
- 3.5 Incidents of anti-social behaviour across the Borough have dropped by 521 reports from April 2016 – March 2017 compared to the same period in 2015-2016. Every ward experienced a reduction in ASB incidents, with the exception of Staines-upon-Thames which saw a 19% increase. Surrey Police focused on Stanwell and Sunbury as the key hot-spot locations; reductions of 34.1% and 27.7% respectively.

### **4. Financial Considerations**

- 4.1 At the start of the 2017 financial year, the budget for Community Safety Partnership stood at £109.5k with an identified commitment of £52k. Spelthorne Council agreed not to reclaim the costs of officers employed as

Community Safety Officers; the cost of these salaries amounted to £43,600. However, the financial contribution to the Partnership has reduced from £27k to £10k each year.

- 4.2 Funding opportunities through the Police and Crime Commissioner are limited, but Spelthorne was successful as previously mentioned in obtaining £5k towards the delivery of the Junior Citizen scheme. A2D have kindly agreed to contribute £5k a year for the next 3 years to the Community Safety Partnership.

**Background papers:**

**Appendices: Appendix A: Financial Year Performance 1 (002)**

**Appendix B: Crime Stats April 16 to April 17**

**Appendix C: ASB 2016-17**

**Appendix D: Law Enforcement Report June 2017**