

Report subject	BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy
Meeting date	28 September 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Pursuant to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the BCP Community Safety Partnership, known as Safer BCP (“the Partnership”) is required to produce and implement a Community Safety Strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, for combatting drug misuse, alcohol and other substances, and for reducing re-offending. As a statutory partner of the CSP, the Council is required to adopt the strategy.</p> <p>This report summarises the Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025, including priorities, strategic principles, approach, objectives, and key performance indicators.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cabinet recommend this strategy for approval by Council. ii) Cabinet authorises the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services to oversee and approve any recommended additional and minor amendments to the Strategy, in conjunction with Safer BCP.
Reason for recommendations	To endorse the Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025 and adopt it as BCP Community Safety Strategy.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Bobbie Dove – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operating Officer
Report Authors	Kelly Ansell - Director of Communities Alva Bailey – Community Safety Strategic Development Lead
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For update and information

Background

1. The Community Safety Partnership Strategy sets out how the Council and partners will work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and advance measures to make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole even safer for people to live, work, and visit.
2. Each year the Partnership conducts a strategic assessment of crime and disorder in the conurbation, as required by legislation. The assessment takes account of crime and disorder volumes and trends, offending and re-offending data, emerging issues of local and national concern, and the priorities of key partner agencies, including those of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset.
3. This is the first Community Safety Strategy developed by the Partnership since it formed in 2019. However, despite restrictions brought about by COVID-19 soon after the Partnership was formed, annual strategic assessments have been consistently completed and annual Community Safety responses and programmes delivered. It should also be noted that the Council has a duty to scrutinise the performance of the partnership, which has been completed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board annually since its inception.
4. The partnership has taken the approach of developing a strategy that centres around three main priority areas that threaten residents' quality of life, youth aspirations, and negatively impact the reputation of BCP as a place where people are safe from violent crime.
5. This strategy is for a three-year period, but annual plans will continue to be developed to reflect the often rapidly changing patterns of crime, threat and risk. The annual Plans will be derived from the ongoing annual strategic assessments and the priorities of Council and Police as lead partners.
6. Previous priorities drawn from strategic assessments have focussed on specific crime types, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, public-place and alcohol-related violence, threats to children and young adults (knife crime, County Lines, sexual exploitation), and anti-social behaviour. This reflected an emphasis on "high-harm" crimes, except for anti-social behaviour and relied on a mainly reactive approach. In considering how to develop this Strategy, the Partnership recognised the need for a whole-system approach that considered risk and protective factors, focussed on prevention, intervention as well as enforcement, and was led by data and insight.
7. The partnership agreed to adopt the Public Health Approach across its work going forward, which seeks to take account of the wider drivers and systems that affect the whole community, as well as specific groups, and then takes a wider multi-agency response for short, medium, and long-term impacts.
8. This approach requires close collaboration with sharing information, joint planning, complementary service delivery, and joint commissioning where possible. The Partnership has committed in the strategy to learn more from areas that are already further ahead in working to a public health approach in informing its work.

Strategic Assessment

9. The Annual Strategic Assessment (2020 to 2021), which is attached at Appendix 1 includes available 2020/21 data up to September 2021. It identifies the prevalence, levels and types of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and

substance misuse across BCP as well as any trends or areas of repeat demand. The strategic assessment was approved by the CSP Executive Board in January 2022 and the content has informed the development of the strategy which is attached as Appendix 2.

Strategic Priorities and Objectives

10. The process of deciding the priorities and principles involved recommendations presented to the CSP Executive in January 2022, followed by a half-day seminar discussion with members of the executive board, where the recommendations were refined. As the strategy developed, draft versions were circulated to board members for consultation and refinement.
11. At the CSP Executive Board meeting on 26 April 2022, the final draft of the strategy was accepted and approved, subject to minor changes to be approved by the Board Chair and Vice Chair. As stated in the executive summary above, the Partnership is required to produce and review a strategy and the Council is required to adopt it. It should also be noted that the Council has a duty to scrutinise the performance of the partnership, which has been completed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board annually since its inception.
12. The strategic priorities agreed by the CSP Executive Board are:
 - I. Tackle violent crime in all its forms**
 - II. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks**
 - III. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse**
13. The strategy outlines a set of strategic objectives for each priority, as well as key indicators to measure performance against the objectives. One key objective is to improve information sharing, as this underpins all aspects of effective multi-agency working. Annual action plans will include additional measures so activities can be measured for their effectiveness.
14. In all respects, the strategic priorities are supported by the evidence provided in the strategic assessment. Undoubtedly, there will be other community safety issues not covered in the priorities, such as burglary, that may be affecting certain sections of the community more than others. The Police will continue to respond accordingly as these issues are within their remit, as will other agencies respond to drivers of crime and vulnerability within their remit.
15. The Community Safety Partnership will provide progress update reports to the Council's Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 and sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP annual Action Plans will formulate the basis of that report.

Key Performance Indicators

16. In order to track the progress of the Partnership's delivery against its priorities, the following Key Performance Indicators have been agreed and will form the basis of annual reporting, including to the Corporate O&S Panel;

Priority	KPI;s
Tackle violent crime in all its forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reduction in recorded violent crimes, especially Serious Youth Violence, Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, and weapons-related assaults b) Increase in the number of violence-prevention awareness sessions delivered to young people so they understand what constitutes violence, and are empowered to report violence c) Increase in the number of violent offenders (MSV) brought to justice
Keep young people and adults-at risk safe from exploitation, including online risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to deter offenders, incl. Child Abduction Warning Notices, Community Protection Notices, Recovery Orders, Slavery & trafficking prevention orders, and referrals to the National Referral Mechanism b) Increase in the number of practitioners trained to recognise the signs of exploitation and how to refer for support c) Increase in the use of the Child Exploitation Screening Tool across all levels on intervention with children and young people at risk of exploitation d. Increase in children reporting that they feel safer, and parents / carers reporting greater confidence about available support and access to it
Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase in the number of joint patrols by uniformed officers, such as neighbourhood policing teams and council enforcement officers b) Increase in the number of intervention tools used, such as mediation, restorative justice methods, and tenancy warnings c) Increase in the reporting of personal ASB d) Increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to reduce ASB, incl. Civil injunctions, criminal behaviour orders, community protection notices, and closure powers e) Increase capacity for substance misuse treatment and reduce drug and alcohol-related deaths

Summary of financial implications

17. The revised structure of the CSP requires additional coordination and information analysis to ensure that the Partnership is proactive, effective, and reflective. The Communities Directorate has recently completed a review of the community safety team structure and has rationalised posts to ensure the Council is able to adequately respond to these requirements. This comes at no additional financial cost.
18. Partners outside of the Council are being encouraged to support joint funding towards specific areas of the Partnership's business, such as domestic homicide reviews and information governance.
19. When new community safety initiatives are being commissioned by any of the partners, efforts will be made to commission jointly to spread costs and increase operational coverage. This will take time to embed but the Partnership will encourage this way of working going forward.

Summary of legal implications

20. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) 2011, established partnerships between police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation service, and clinical commissioning group. The purpose of these partnerships is to ensure that all these agencies work together to tackle local crime and disorder. The 1998 Act placed a central duty on these 'responsible authorities' to produce audits of the area's local crime problems and implement strategies to tackle them.
21. Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council (with other partner authorities) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area. In formulating the strategy, the partner authorities must have regard to the police and crime plan for the area.
22. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) gave a power to any person or body to share information with partners for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. This was strengthened by paragraph 5 of Schedule 9 to the Police and Justice Act that introduces a new section 17A of the 1998 Act which is a duty to share certain sets of depersonalised information.

Summary of human resources implications

23. The revised structure of the CSP requires additional coordination and administration. This is largely met by council and police staff. Measures are being pursued to involve staff from other partners, especially in providing data and analytical support.

Summary of sustainability impact

24. The Partnership is developing a strength-based approach which will include residents in developing local solutions to local problems. This, coupled with the Public Health Approach, will improve sustainability through early intervention and building on the strengths in communities.

Summary of public health implications

25. Public health and wellbeing are important by-products of a safer community. The work of the Partnership is to improve public health and community wellbeing by

preventing crime and disorder, effectively tackling them when they occur, improving safety in the community, and reducing victimisation.

Summary of equality implications

26. The Community Safety Strategy considers an analysis of crime reports in the previous period which highlights the areas that need the most attention. However, the Community Safety Strategy for 2022 - 2025 prioritises lower-probability but higher-impact issues including prevention of radicalisation, widespread child sexual and criminal exploitation, youth violence, and domestic violence. If a potentially community-changing event took place (such as terrorism) it might have an indiscriminate impact that cannot be accurately assessed.
27. For some types of issues covered by the Strategy, there are clear categories of victims who are likely to be affected, including adults-at-risk and young (under 25) and vulnerable people being criminally or sexually exploited.
28. In terms of volume crime, young men are at most risk of robbery and the age of victims seems to be decreasing. At the same time, the age of suspects is also predominantly young. Older people are at comparatively low risk of being the victims of crime.
29. Domestic violence continues to be a higher-proportion crime and the victims are predominantly women, although the chronic under reporting from men is acknowledged and something the CSP is seeking to address through its Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy. As well as the continuing efforts to support victims, the Partnership is working to support behaviour change among perpetrators, including educating young people.
30. The Equality Impact Assessment has not noted any disproportionate adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the Strategy.

Summary of risk assessment

31. Data management resources pose the greatest risk to the effective functioning of the Partnership. However, measures are underway to strengthen this area.

Background papers

None

Appendices

- 1 Safer BCP Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020 – 2021
- 2 Safer BCP Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025
- 3 Equality Impact Assessment