

– CCSP Plan 2012/15 –

Executive Summary

Introduction

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act led to the creation Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in each local authority area. This recognised that tackling crime and disorder issues should not be left to the police alone to deal with.

There is now widespread recognition of the role that effective joint working can play. This applies to current crime and disorder issues, as well as their underlying causes which cut across social, economic and environmental agendas. This is a central plank of public service policy that seeks to improve the quality of life for all local communities.

In Norfolk the countywide CSP comprises of District and County Councils, Police, Probation, Youth Offending Team, Drug & Alcohol Action Team, Health, Fire Service, Victim Support and representation from housing Registered Providers.

Crime and Disorder in Norfolk

Norfolk is one of the safest parts of England to live, work and visit. There has been a significant reduction in crime and disorder in recent years. However, we recognise that there is always more that can be done to improve the quality of life in our local communities. In particular, our efforts to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable people in society cannot be relaxed.

Our approach is evidence-based, and follows from a Strategic Assessment of crime and disorder issues in Norfolk. This combines police and partner data with professional knowledge from other stakeholders. The result is the following Priority Outcomes:

- Reduce the incidence of priority crime and anti-social behaviour
- Protect vulnerable people, particularly young people, and people vulnerable to domestic abuse
- Reduce the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and alcohol
- Improve support to offenders to prevent them from re-offending, particularly Prolific & other Priority Offenders (PPOs).

Delivery of Priorities

Each priority is led by an agency which is responsible for championing positive outcomes based on an agreed action plan. The plans are included in the full plan (see Appendix 4).

We are working to ensure that Norfolk's CSP adds value to the crime and disorder agenda, improving engagement of partners and how they contribute to the priority outcomes agreed for the partnership.

Challenges Arising from the Current Economic Environment

There will be challenges. Norfolk's overall population is predicted to increase, particularly in rural areas. Growth of the EU migrant population in urban centres is anticipated. Generally, Norfolk has the oldest age related profile in the UK and this is increasing. Mental health and physical disability levels are also higher than the UK averages and are increasing, particularly in residents aged 65 and over. This all indicates an increase in the demand for services against a backdrop of reducing public sector budgets.

The economic situation will also impact on young people through lack of employment opportunities and the planned reconfiguration of benefits. Substance misuse is known to correlate with unemployment and crime.

The economic situation will have profound implications for public expenditure and services for the foreseeable future, and further compounded by the demographic and social issues that need to be addressed. This highlights the importance of effective partnership working and the sharing of resources to achieve common goals.

Merged Community Safety Partnership for Norfolk

Norfolk's 7 district-based CSPs were merged into a single Norfolk-wide County Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) from 2011. The benefits accruing from a single merged CCSP for Norfolk are as follows:

- Clarity in leadership of the community safety agenda in Norfolk, providing a focus for engagement across all responsible authorities and other key stakeholders.
- This brings a sharper focus to strategic arrangements across the county, aligning partners to best effect.
- Development of improved local delivery arrangements through investment in Operational Partnership Teams (OPTs). This has improved our response to Anti-social Behaviour, and will result in a more consistent approach to partnership working.

Election of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Norfolk's locally elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will replace the Police Authority from November 2012. This will be a fundamental change to the crime & disorder landscape, affecting not only policing but all criminal justice agencies, local government, health services and the voluntary & community sector.

In addition to policing, the PCC will have the ability to commission community safety services. The PCC has a Duty to work with the CCSP to ensure that activity is not duplicated. From April 2013 the CCSP's government grant funding will transfer to the PCC, creating considerable uncertainty for the future of current CCSP projects. This risk will impact on partner agencies and the vulnerable people being supported.

In Norfolk we are well placed to be able to work effectively with the incoming PCC. Rationalisation of the partnership structure around community safety provides a single countywide and force wide partnership conducive to working together for a safer Norfolk.