

Agenda item 5

Police and Crime Panel

17 March 2017

Covering Report – Partnership Working in the Community

Summary

1. The Panel will question the PCC on various aspects of local partnership working.

Focus of the agenda item

2. Specific areas of focus by the Panel include items identified by members of the Panel at an informal workshop on 22 Feb 2017. These are:

- (i) Update on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), the Safe & Stronger Communities Group (SSCG) and their relationship to the PCC:
 - a. Progress in relation to the findings from the PCP Task & Finish Group report of March 2016 (*see Evidence Set 1*)
 - b. Suggestions for further development
 - c. Is there still a functioning Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) associated with crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk and how does it relate to the PCC?
- (ii) Partnership Working and Collaboration:
 - a. What intelligence does the PCC / Constabulary get shared from local partnerships? (eg. CSPs, SSCG)
 - b. Is the SSCG function clear?
 - c. Partnership working with Health / Social Care/ Mental Health / Criminal Justice / Probation / Local Authority agencies
 - d. Focus on Prevention
 - e. Continued emphasis on communication / leadership – PCC linkage to the SSCG and the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group
 - f. How effective is inter-agency communication? (eg. Recent flood / tidal surge co-ordination, or Orwell bridge closures)

Recommendations

3. The Panel is recommended to:
 - a) Have regard to all the information in this covering Report and Evidence Sets.
 - b) Ask questions of the PCC, and make any recommendations to the PCC, in relation to the content of this Report.
 - c) Make any resolutions, or identify any further actions required, in relation to the content of this Report and responses to questions made at the meeting.

Background

4. At the 18 Mar 2016 meeting, in consideration of a report on CSPs, the new SSCG and their relationship to the PCC, the Panel resolved to schedule on its Forward Work Plan a further review of that topic in approximately 1 year.
5. The findings / recommendations from the PCP T&F Group report in March 2016 are shown for reference in Evidence Set 1.
6. Brief feedback was sought from the SSCG, CSPs, SCC Community Safety Team and OPCC on how things are working, linkage to the PCC's Police & Crime Plan and their suggestions regarding further development. Responses received in time for publication of this report are shown in Evidence Set 2.
7. The Nov. 2016 update from the SSCG to the Jan. 2017 Health & Wellbeing (H&W) Board is shown for reference in Evidence Set 3.
8. The current websites for the various CSPs are shown in the References, below. *[NB. No specific website could be found for the Ipswich community safety partnership, as at 23/2/17].* Also shown is the link to the SCC community safety website. There is no specific website for the SSCG. There is no specific website for the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group.
9. The Panel agreed on 19/7/16 to look at the important cross-cutting topic of Partnership Working, Collaboration (and Devolution). (Regional) devolution is now no longer on the agenda.
10. Noting that SCC Scrutiny looked at Emergency services (Blue Light) collaboration on 7 Feb 2017, it is proposed that the main focus of the item for the Panel should be on partnership with Health / Social Care/ Mental Health / Criminal Justice / Probation / Local authority agencies, and on Prevention, rather than Blue Light emergency services. Outcomes from the 7/2/17 SCC Scrutiny meeting that looked at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Blue Light Collaboration can be seen in Evidence Set 4.
11. In March 2017 HMIC published their latest Report 'PEEL: Police effectiveness 2016 - An inspection of Suffolk Constabulary'. Suffolk Constabulary's rating from HMIC was 'GOOD'. An extract of the findings in relation to the question '*How effective is the force at preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe?*' is attached as Evidence Set 5. It states: '*The force is effective at problem solving with partner organisations to protect communities and victims. It should ensure that it makes the best use of the powers available to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and that it evaluates its activities consistently to identify what works and shares this learning internally and with partner organisations.*'
12. The priorities of the SSCG and an overview of how this group has been operating over the past year are contained in a recent report to the Jan. 2017 Health and Wellbeing Board. This report was well received by the Board and may be of interest to the Police and Crime Panel. It is attached as Evidence Set 6.

Supporting Information (attached)

- (i) **Evidence Set 1** – PCP Task & Finish Group report findings
- (ii) **Evidence Set 2** – Feedback from Community Safety Team, CSPs and SSCG
- (iii) **Evidence Set 3** – SSCG Meeting report to H&W Board, 26 Jan 2017
- (iv) **Evidence Set 4** – Extract from SCC Scrutiny Update to Cabinet, 21 Feb 2017
- (v) **Evidence Set 5** – Extract from HMIC Report, March 2017
- (vi) **Evidence Set 6** – SSCG Overview report to H&W Board, 26 Jan 2017

Background Information (available online)

- (i) March 2016 Police and Crime Panel meeting:
[http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=18/Mar/2016&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20\(Joint%20Committee\)](http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=18/Mar/2016&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20(Joint%20Committee))
- (ii) Jan 2017 Health & Wellbeing Board meeting:
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=26/Jan/2017&c=Suffolk%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Board>
- (iii) CSP related websites:
 - a) The Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Community Safety Partnerships:
<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-safety/community-safety-partnerships/>
 - b) West Suffolk – Community safety:
http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/crime_and_safety/communitysafety.cfm
 - c) Ipswich
<https://democracy.ipswich.gov.uk/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=216>
 - d) SCC – Crime and public safety: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/crime-and-public-safety/>
- (iv) SCC Scrutiny Committee, 7 Feb 2017, ‘Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Improving services through collaboration’:
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=07/Feb/2017&c=Scrutiny%20Committee>
- (v) SCC Scrutiny Update to Cabinet 21 Feb 2017:
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=0900271181f3b805>
- (vi) HMIC Report ‘PEEL: Police effectiveness 2016 - An inspection of Suffolk Constabulary’: <https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/peel-police-effectiveness-2016-suffolk/>
[NB. The Summary section of the HMIC Report is reproduced for ease of reference within Agenda Item 8, Information Bulletin]

Contact Details

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The Findings / Recommendations from the PCP T&F Group Report in March 2016

Key Findings and Suggestions

- i) There are generally good relationships and informal engagement in particular at an operational level between Councils, the Police, health organisations, the voluntary sector and the PCC's Office, with regard to community safety and crime & disorder reduction in Suffolk. Where there appears to be a gap is with regard to the proactive, collaborative shaping, 'joining up' and delivery of strategic plans and key priorities.
- ii) CSPs, the SSCG and the PCC should be mindful of and seek to apply the policy guidance set out by the Home Office in May 2015. (see Appendix 4 below)
- iii) In Suffolk there are effectively three CSPs (West, Ipswich and East [comprising SCDC and WDC]) with different 'models' of operation. The West and East are the most strategic and proactive; Ipswich is largely inactive; None is currently well aligned with the approach set out in the Home office guidance.
- iv) The CSPs continue to have a legal / statutory role regarding the strategic partnership working of the various 'responsible authorities' in their local area to address crime and disorder and community safety matters. There is an opportunity for all the CSPs, in particular Ipswich, to embrace and utilise this strategic influencing opportunity more effectively across the members of the partnership and in engaging with the PCC.
- v) The funding of the CSPs to undertake their statutory role is not the responsibility of the PCC. The PCC's fund for the awarding of crime and disorder reduction grants to various organisations is not the money that is meant to be used to finance the CSPs to undertake their statutory role. Moreover, the CSPs continue to have an opportunity to influence the appropriateness of PCC grant awards to various organisations.
- vi) There is an opportunity for the PCC to more proactively seek the input and engagement of the CSPs.
- vii) The West CSP is large, covering four of the borough/district council areas in Suffolk, from Mildenhall to Eye and Sudbury to Shotley. It is questionable whether some of the local geographically focused areas of need might be missed with such a large area.
- viii) There are mixed views and perceptions about the role of the SSCG, which is not a statutory body, in particular whether it is fulfilling a policy / strategy function or an operational 'enabling delivery' function. There is an opportunity and need for the SSCG to be clearer about this, in particular in relation to the Home Office guidance regarding CSPs, and the SSCG's relationship with statutory bodies such as the PCC, the CSPs and the LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board).
- ix) In general there is a need for the various parties to improve their clarity and timeliness of communication with each other and outwards to the public, sharing and publicising their strategic plans and making effective and regular use of websites.

Feedback on the Findings / Recommendations from the PCP T&F Group Report

Brief feedback was sought from the SSCG, CSPs, SCC Community Safety Team and OPCC on “*Your view on progress in relation to the findings and suggestions that were made, how things are working currently, linkage of the CSPs/SSCG/Community Safety to the PCC’s Police & Crime Plan, and any suggestions regarding further development of these partnerships?*”

Specifically:

- Q1 – How would you describe the current partnership working amongst the CSPs, the SSCG, the Community Safety team and the PCC?
- Q2 – What do you feel would further improve the partnership working amongst these bodies?

The following responses were received as at 8/3/17:

From the SCC Community Safety Team (Sara Blake):

Q1 – How would you describe the current partnership working amongst the CSPs, the SSCG, the Community Safety team and the PCC?

- The SSCG brings together the local CSP’s, Safeguarding leads and a number of key partners including the constabulary and the OPCC. This has a number of shared priorities that it is focussing on and is a good form to bring to the table any emerging issues. Good engagement and productive forum. We have identified the need for a PVP representative given the nature of the priorities and they have agreed to field someone.
- The CSP’s seem to be re-establishing themselves and becoming more active. This is welcomed. I understand that the chairs and lead officers meet periodically which I think is helpful.
- The Chair of the SSCG and the two safeguarding forums have started to come together with lead officers to share forward work programme to ensure there is no duplication and agree who should cover any identified gaps.

Q2 – What do you feel would further improve the partnership working amongst these bodies?

- We are seeking to take an evidence led approach wherever possible. The SCC Community Safety team has offered to undertake a strategic assessment for all the local CSP’s and we are undertaking ‘deep dives’ as part of the key priorities of the SSCG. However the nature of the issue we are dealing with are by their very nature hidden and this is a challenge.
- At the point of understanding the problem and determining a course of action, it will be necessary to look at how we use collective resources.

From West Suffolk councils (Cllr Robert Everitt, Cllr Robin Millar and Ian Gallin):

Q1 – How would you describe the current partnership working amongst the CSPs, the SSCG, the Community Safety team and the PCC?

The priorities of the SSCG and an overview of how this group has been operating over the past year are contained in a recent report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This report was well received by the Board and may be of interest to the Police and Crime Panel. [See [Health and Wellbeing Board, 26 January 2017](#) agenda item 11.]

In terms of the Western Suffolk CSP, whilst we note the comments made last year that this covers a large geographical area, we do not feel that this has a detrimental impact on its effectiveness. The partnership has momentum and discussing a wide range of topics and meeting its statutory duties, for example the completion of Domestic Homicide Reviews. Senior police officers are now begun to attend CSP meetings which we hope will further strengthened partnership links.

The Chair of the Western Suffolk CSP (Cllr Robert Everitt) has found the CSP Chairs Co-ordination meeting to be useful forum to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Q2 – What do you feel would further improve the partnership working amongst these bodies?

More data and information sharing to support evidence based decision making would improve partnership working still further.

----- End of Evidence Set 2 -----

SSCG Report to H&W Board Jan 2017

Agenda Item 15 Appendix A

Health and Wellbeing report from Strong and Safe Communities Group meeting 16 November 2016, Bury St Edmunds

The following agencies were represented at the meeting.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) (Community Safety and Public Health), West Suffolk councils, Babergh Mid Suffolk councils, Suffolk Police, Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), East Suffolk Councils, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Youth Offending Service (YOS), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Apologies: Waveney CSP, Ipswich CSP, Suffolk Coastal CSP, Waveney CSP, CCG, Adult Safeguarding Board (ASgB)

1. Workstreams:

Domestic Abuse workstream - the interim report and action plan will be shared with stakeholders at the County DA forum on 28/11/2016.

Work will now begin to deliver the action plan along the 4 themes identified.

Commissioning – will look at what is in Suffolk already, who is commissioning and how can quality and consistency be assured, together with making funding go further.

Single front door – a triage model with a single point of contact for frontline staff and victims, for signposting so that there is a better understanding of need. This will enhance data capture, which at present is varied, missed or there is double counting.

Training - reflecting on recent good practice by the Police with the 25 days of action in relation to DA training delivered by Safer Lives.

Awareness raising and campaigns – local forums and CSPs are the focus of this element as it was felt this was best delivered locally

Sexual Exploitation workstream - an initial review of the Suffolk System around sexual exploitation was presented. The review looked at the scope of adult sexual exploitation, who are the stakeholders, what is the scale of the issue, and what further work should be done to understand what adult sexual exploitation looks like in Suffolk.

E safety workstream - the E safety group, (a sub group of the LSCB) have a good handle on this element. A strategy is in place with a good effective action plan which is delivering. At present the focus is on children but this may develop to adults in the future, if the group sits somewhere else so that it can encompass all aspects of cyber crime.

Youth violence and Gangs workstream – It has been proposed to approach UCS (University Campus Suffolk) to take forward a piece of work based on the county lines toolkit and a threat assessment. TCA funding could be used to provide the capacity to carry out this piece of work. This was welcomed by the LSCB.

2. Future of Hate Crime Service in Suffolk

The Police are recruiting for a hate crime and Vulnerabilities coordinator staff post. This post holder will not be dealing with victims directly but will be providing education and training plus support to Police officers.

It was noted that there is a gap in the visibility of 3rd party reporting centres, resulting in under reporting at those locations.

Race Hate crime is still the most significant strand.

The Police have set up a working group to look at this, also being aware of the withdrawal of funding for victim support (specifically for an enhanced service for victims of hate crime), closure of the LGBT advisory panel and the withdrawal of migrant workers support. Need to establish what can be done to close any gaps.

Claire Swallow - commented that the PCC office is not averse to funding what is necessary IF this additional to what statutory services have a duty to deliver. VARC's (victim arrest referral centres) are included in the victims code of practice. A victim of hate crime is entitled to enhanced services. The VARC's are contracted to give this service.

A key recommendation is that a robust gap analysis should be undertaken and the recommendations should include working with CSPs. A task and finish group will be set up to undertake this piece of work.

3. Athena Partnership Platform update - Essex Police area trialling the Partnership platform starting Easter next year. Suffolk will follow in the 2nd half of 2017.

The use of ECINs will continue by all partners until then, however in terms of Police partners this does vary across the county. A corporate decision is required and communicated with all police officers and partners. The current ECINs (computer program) contract finishes March 2018.

4. Target Hardening for victims of DA - currently the Safe Partnership delivers a target hardening service to victims of DA in the West of the county. This was funded jointly by the LAs and the PCC 11 months ago and a 12 month evaluation of the project is due at the end of the calendar year. This service is not county wide, although the Fire Service delivers a limited service to victims and are happy to continue until their funding runs out.

DOCOs (Police designing out crime officers) carry out a risk assessment with recommendations for high risk victims of DA. There are concerns that the recommendations are raising expectations of delivery which cannot be met by councils or Registered Social Landlords. After discussion it was agreed that there should be a consistent service across the county. The DOCO role is advisory only and the threshold for referrals should be linked to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) threshold for higher protection.

It was agreed that this needs to be a joint solution.

Dates of next meetings:

19 January 2017

30 March 2017

----- End of Evidence Set 3 -----

Extract from SCC Scrutiny Update to Cabinet 21 Feb 2017

Scrutiny Committee – 7 February 2017

11. The Scrutiny Committee met on [7 February 2017](#) when it considered and made recommendations in respect of the following:

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Improving services through collaboration

12. At Agenda Item 5, the Committee considered work being undertaken by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to develop arrangements with other blue light services and public sector partners. Following consideration of the evidence received, the Committee agreed:

- a) To congratulate officers on the work taking place to develop opportunities for greater collaboration across the blue light services and encourage further efforts.
- b) To recommend that some general principles should be developed to provide a collective strategic vision for the future of blue light collaboration, whilst retaining flexibility to react to local and organisational circumstances.
- c) To recommend that a conversation should take place with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency about what opportunities exist for greater collaboration.
- d) To recommend that a cost benefit analysis should be undertaken of the pilot work taking place on co-responding to help identify how this work might be further developed and funded for the future.
- e) To express concern about the process for gaining national funding for the Cadet programme and to recommend that the outcomes anticipated from the Suffolk's Cadet programme should be clarified.
- f) To recommend that every effort should be made to maximise the potential efficiencies available through greater collaboration on Fleet Management.
- g) To request an information bulletin setting out which Fire Stations are part of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

----- End of Evidence Set 4 -----

HMIC Extract

Summary of findings



Good

Suffolk Constabulary is good at preventing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe.

The force understands the threats facing its communities. Safer neighbourhood teams are at the core of its community engagement and work closely with the public, gathering information and acting on local priorities. However, the force should ensure that taking officers away from working in communities to respond to emergencies is not having a negative effect on this work.

The force is effective at problem solving with partner organisations to protect communities and victims. It should ensure that it makes the best use of the powers available to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and that it evaluates its activities consistently to identify what works and shares this learning internally and with partner organisations.

The safer neighbourhood teams have particular responsibilities for keeping vulnerable people in their neighbourhoods safe, including by working with partner organisations. The force has recently introduced specialist roles and volunteers to ensure effective engagement with those who find it difficult or are less likely to engage with the police.

The force is using a range of approaches very effectively to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and has one of the biggest reductions in anti-social behaviour in the country.

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Areas for improvement

- The force should evaluate and share effective practice routinely, both internally and with partner organisations, to improve its approach continually to the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The force should ensure that local policing teams routinely engage with local communities and undertake structured problem solving alongside partner organisations in order to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.

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----- End of Evidence Set 5 -----