

REPORT TO: CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - GWYNEDD LOCAL AUTHORITY/ANGLESEY LOCAL AUTHORITY

DATE: GWYNEDD 24/02/15. ANGLESEY 12/03/15

REPORT BY: CATHERINE E ROBERTS

SUBJECT: ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide Members with an overview of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) activities over the past year.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Community Safety Partnership is required to formally report to this committee on an annual basis to provide an overview of activities undertaken over the previous twelve months. This ensures that the Partnership meets its obligations under sections 19 and 20 of the Police & Criminal Justice Act 2006. The legislation came into effect in Wales on 1 October 2009 through the Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

The committee duty is to scrutinise the work of the Partnership, and not that of the individual members.

2.02 **Local Authorities** have a statutory duty under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and the subsequent amendments by the 2002 and the 2006 Police and Justice Act, to work in partnership with the **Police, Health service, Probation and Fire/rescue service** to address the local community safety agenda. Collectively they make up the Community Safety Partnership. The Partnership has a duty to tackle –

- Crime and Disorder
- Substance Misuse
- Reduce re-offending
- Undertake a strategic assessment to identify priorities (now undertaken on a regional basis)
- Have plans in place to tackle these priority issues (a plan now exists on a regional and local basis)

2.03 There has been a partnership in existence in both Anglesey and Gwynedd since 1999. To support their work, the Partnership is served by a core team of local authority and Police officers. The support teams both within the Local Authorities and the Police have decreased in capacity, and now work on a two County basis. There is a possibility that the Local Authority support team will reduce further because of the current financial cuts.

3.00 **PARTNERSHIP RESTRUCTURE**

3.01 The two County partnership structure has now been in place for two years, sitting under the two County Local Service Board (LSB). The LSB determined it's priorities in December 2014, none of which are specific areas of work for the CSP. Since the last report, the regional (North Wales) Safer Communities Board (SCB) has also determined a new remit and governance structure. The Board is now an advisory committee and has agreed the below as it's main tasks –

a. To commission services funded through specific regional grants
b. Strategic accountability of the North Wales Area Planning Board
c. Establishing a common and consistent framework for strategic, tactical and operational delivery at regional, sub regional and local levels through the production of an annual strategic assessment and community safety plan (to be mirrored by a similar approach for youth justice).
d. Identifying shared and/or common priorities in the fields of community safety and youth justice
e. Acting as a formal representative voice to influence the Welsh Government, Home Office and local Policing Body.

3.02 Over the past year great progress has also been made in the way Community Safety Partnerships in North Wales have worked together. The establishment of the North Wales Safer Communities Board (SCB) in July 2012 has been the most significant regional development. This Board represents a partnership between all the statutory authorities across the region (as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998), along with the voluntary sector, Welsh Government, and the Police Commissioner.

3.03 Since the last report submitted to this committee, there have been a number of developments in relation to the Area Planning Board (APB) which is the new regional Board responsible for the commissioning of substance Misuse Services for North Wales. The main changes are –

- The development of a regional Board, which is required to discharge

the statutory function of CSP's on a regional level, the APB has already been established, and there is now no local SMAT (Substance Misuse Action Team) in Gwynedd or Anglesey, as in past years.

- The development of a regional substance misuse commissioning strategy for North Wales is now completed.
- The transition of the substance misuse fund into a regional grant has been completed, with Wrexham being the regional Banker. There is no longer a local Substance Misuse Coordinator in each County, but rather a team of - regional Manager, and three regional coordinators (two County based), plus a finance officer.

4.00 CONSIDERATIONS

4.01 It is evident that partnership working improves how agencies tackle crime and disorder. Rates of recorded crime continued to fall. Below is a summary of some of the key findings:

There are fewer recorded crimes in Anglesey and Gwynedd now than 4 years ago

There are fewer recorded crimes in Anglesey and Gwynedd now than in 2011.

When comparing figures from January – December 2011 to the same period in 2014;

In Anglesey there were 628 fewer crimes reported (-19%) and in Gwynedd there were 1493 fewer crimes reported (-20%).

This has been contributed to by the following specific reductions;

- 97 less violence against a person offences , an 11% reduction.
- 55 fewer non domestic burglaries, 25% reduction.
- 118 fewer incidents of theft and handling, 15% reduction
- 66 fewer drug related incidents, 32% reduction

4.02 The Community Safety Partnership's Strategic Plan is now a regional plan, the North Wales plan is currently in draft form – priority areas are shown in the table below

4.03 North Wales Strategic assessment priorities, for the next 12 months

- Rape (predicted to rise)
- Serious Sexual Offences(predicted to remain stable or rise)
- Child sexual exploitation(reporting predicted to rise)
- Burglary Dwelling(Continues to decrease)
- Cyber crime (predicted to rise)

- Domestic Abuse(continues to rise)
- Modern slavery(emerging threat)
- Organised Crime Groups, drugs (remain unchanged)
- Anti Social Behaviour(continues to decrease)
- Vehicle crime(continues to decline)
- Shoplifting(Consistent)
- Other thefts(Consistent)
- Criminal damage(Small decreases)
- Arson(continues to decrease)

The document noted the following strategic conclusions as regards the causes/contributing factors in relation to offending

- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Mental Health vulnerabilities for victims and offenders
- Victim vulnerability and increased offender capability created by advancement in technology (from low level fraud to child sexual exploitation CSE)
- Hidden crimes (crimes which go unreported, such as CSE, slavery, rape and domestic abuse)

4.05 North Wales plan priority areas - (currently under review and update)

Priority	Outcomes	Performance Indicators
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	<p>People are more confident, and aware, to report domestic abuse and sexual violence offences</p> <p>Young people are aware of the nature and implications of sexual violence, and where to access support</p> <p>Deal effectively first time with high risk cases of domestic abuse through successful MARAC intervention</p>	<p>Number of domestic violence incidents reported to North Wales Police</p> <p>Number of sexual offences reported to North Wales Police</p> <p>Well informed young people in relation to sexual violence (monitored via post intervention surveys)</p> <p>Number of cases referred more than once to MARAC</p>
Acquisitive Crime	Identify locally emerging trends in relation to acquisitive crime and develop targeted and appropriate responses to	Number of reported offences of acquisitive crime

	those trends Jointly address those who cause the greatest harm in our communities	Number of offences committed by repeat offenders in relation to acquisitive crimes
Anti-Social Behaviour	Support high risk and repeat victims of antisocial behaviour Providing appropriate interventions to locally identified anti-social behaviour problems in our communities	Number of repeat high risk victims of Anti Social Behaviour Number of reported anti-social behavior incidents
Substance Misuse	Improving availability and quality of education, prevention and treatment services and related support, with the emphasis on the relationship between alcohol, drugs and crime	Meeting the Welsh Government's Key Performance Indicators on substance misuse services

5.00 **2014/15 ACTIVITIES**

During the past 2 years, the Partnership has been subjected to a significant amount of restructuring, both on a regional and local basis. All the grant funds received by the CSP have been subjected to changes. The supporting resources have been reduced, and some regional restructuring processes are still to be completed. However, The CSP is committed to undertaking the most effective and manageable activity in order to meet statutory obligations. Listed below are the main activities.

5.01 **Regional Activities and Progress**

The North Wales Safer Communities Board has now been established Local members and Local Authority Directors represent Local Authorities on the Board, the following has been agreed -

- i. Approval of a North Wales Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment for 2015/16
- ii. Agreement and approval to produce a regional Community Safety Strategic Plan, which has been refreshed according to the new strategic assessment
- iii. Strategic oversight of the Substance Misuse Area Planning Board,

which now rests with the SCB, but is also looked at locally within the CSP.

- iv. Co-ordinated response to the Welsh Government's 10,000 Safer Lives Initiative –which relates to domestic abuse, continues
- v. Consistency of approach to regionally commissioned grants, namely the Youth Crime Prevention Fund and Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund –both of which are now regional grants
- vi. Membership and participation of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), which enables the required relationship between CSP's and PCC's.
- vii. Recommendation of a Commissioning Framework for the PCC, which also sits within the SCB on a regional basis

All actions have been completed, or are progressing to plan.

Local Activities and Progress

5.02

At a local level some of the key milestones have been as follows:

- i. Restructured the CSP support structures, moving to a two County structure. This may be subject to further change as a result of the LA financial cuts.
- ii. Leading the development of a regional Community Safety Plan, and local action plan, this is annual and ongoing. This year the CSP will consider following a Results based accountability process (RBA)
- iii. Review of all former CSP sub groups, in order to assess if our reduced resources are being used in the most effective way, has now been completed
- iv. Co-ordinating the regional response to the 10,000 Safer Lives initiative –which relates to domestic abuse developments, continues on a local level
- v. Obtaining formal approval of funding for the following grants: Community Safety Fund, Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund, Domestic Abuse Services Grant and the Youth Crime prevention Fund. To date the main challenge has been the loss of some financial contributions towards the Domestic Abuse agenda, which has resulted in some services we commission having to be reduced. The Domestic Homicide review which was undertaken in Gwynedd from March 2012, was finally published in July 2014. In October 2014 we held a workshop for colleagues across the region, to share experience and good practice based on our experience.
- vi. Established a two County group to take forward the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) function, this has now been completed.
- vii. The Domestic Abuse Multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) in both Counties has recently undergone a formal review by CAADA (National Accreditors) we are awaiting the response, and

will formulate a response plan to take forward the recommendations. The Partnership has also had to make the decision to cease the use of redeployable cameras, due to lack of funds to deploy, and the age and reliability of the cameras. The Police are looking to apply a different intervention for Antisocial Behaviour.

- viii. Supporting a local substance misuse service user support group in Anglesey and Gwynedd (AGRO), we have managed to maintain funding for this local group via the regional structure for a further year.
- ix. Moved to a 'process system control' method of monitoring priority areas, so that Partnerships are able to operate in a strategic manner
- x. Have put in place a domestic abuse workplace policy in Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Authorities

All actions have been completed, or are progressing to plan.

5.03 Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- i. The Chief Constable has initiated a 'stocktake' of CSP's, which is currently under way. We need to participate and respond to the outcomes of that review.
- ii. We will need to respond to the possible further cuts in resources within the Local Authority Community safety support team, and conclude what activity will be possible within the reduced capacity
- iii. We have been informed by the Welsh Government, that the Domestic Abuse fund will continue for a further 12 month, but will thereafter become a regional fund. Currently this funds Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVA'S) via third sector organisations, and also the Local Authority strategic coordinator. We will have to respond to these changes as they develop.
- iv. Continued support and input into the work of the North Wales Safer Communities Board, and respond effectively to the changes that may yet come to fruition in terms of Partnership structures
- v. Continued support and input into the North Wales Community Safety Plan
- vi. Work effectively within the new regional structures, to both safeguard local need when required, and identify opportunities on a regional basis when appropriate
- vii. Facilitate and respond to the next three year review of the local domestic abuse MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference, for victims) structures in both Counties, which began in December
- viii. Implementing the regional work programme for the 10,000 Safer Lives initiatives
- ix. Work with the APB restructuring process, to ensure that we are able to meet both regional and local needs within the new support

- structure, and manage effectively the changes to existing posts
- x. Review links with Licensing and Trading standard services, to ensure effective processes for test purchasing etc
 - xi. Respond to the outcome of the Welsh Government review on domestic abuse services in Wales
 - xii. Work with the Police Commissioners office to review and progress the work of the Anti Social Coordinator(s) work, which is funded from the Commissioners fund.
 - xiii. Contributing to the LSB Integrated plan, and deliver update reports as required
 - xiv. Develop regional expenditure plans for the Youth Crime Prevention Fund, which has also become a regional fund, to ensure best use of available resources locally
 - xv. Participating in the Integrated Offender Management Strategy Group for North Wales

6.00 HIGHLIGHTS

There is a possibility that the Local Authority support team will reduce further because of the current financial cuts.

Since the last report submitted to this committee, there have been a number of developments in relation to the Area Planning Board (APB) which is the new regional Board responsible for the commissioning of substance Misuse Services for North Wales.

The North Wales Safer Communities Board has now been established. Local members and Local Authority Directors, represent Local Authorities on the Board,

Agreement and approval to produce a regional Community Safety Strategic Plan, which has been refreshed according to the new strategic assessment

The Domestic Abuse Multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) in both Counties has recently undergone a formal review by CAADA (National Accreditors) we are awaiting the response, and will formulate a response plan to take forward the recommendations

7.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.01 To note the contents of the report.

