

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 February 2018
Subject:	Community Safety Partnership Update
Report of:	Peter Tonge, Head of Community Services
Corporate Lead:	Robert Weaver, Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Councillor K J Berry, Lead Member for Community
Number of Appendices:	Two

Executive Summary:

Community safety responsibilities have continued to evolve since the original formation of the Tewkesbury Community Safety Partnership almost 20 years ago. Successive changes to public services have resulted in less in-house capacity and a move away from localised services in other community safety partner agencies.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, in agreement with the Council Chief Executives, carried out a review of community safety across Gloucestershire. The review recognised that each of the Council's Community Safety Partnerships worked in different ways and there was little coordination between them. The review also noted that, whilst legal responsibility for community safety matters sits within each Community Safety Partnership, a coordinating group would be beneficial to provide some oversight and direction.

This report provides an update on community safety in Gloucestershire and the proposed local arrangements.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the update on community safety in Gloucestershire and the proposed local arrangements.

Reasons for Recommendation:

It was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2017 that updates would be provided as the County Community Safety Partnership progressed.

Resource Implications:

The figure of approximately £5,000 to facilitate the Countywide approach to domestic homicide reviews will be funded from within existing budgets.

Legal Implications:

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. They are made up of representatives from 'responsible authorities' which are the local authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue, probation and health. Community Safety remains a responsibility of second tier councils.

Risk Management Implications:

None for this report.

Performance Management Follow-up:

An annual report on the work of Safer Gloucestershire and the local Community Safety Partnership will be produced for this Committee to consider.

Environmental Implications:

None for this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND

1.1 Community safety is about feeling safe, whether at home, in the street or at work. It relates to quality of life and being able to pursue and obtain the fullest benefits from your domestic, social and economic lives without fear or hindrance from harm, crime and disorder.

1.2 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. They are made up of representatives from 'responsible authorities' which are the local authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue, probation and health.

1.3 Locally the CSP was suspended pending the outcome of the Countywide review. Now that review is complete we need to consider our arrangements locally.

2.0 SAFER GLOUCESTERSHIRE

2.1 The review into community safety in Gloucestershire concluded that, whilst the responsibility for dealing with community safety and coordinating the local CSP sits with second tier authorities, it would be beneficial to have a Countywide view of the work that is being undertaken.

2.2 In terms of setting strategic priorities, it was agreed taking a Countywide view made more sense than each local CSP, although local CSPs should be free to set local priorities.

2.3 Safer Gloucestershire has commissioned a Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment in order to identify the Countywide priorities.

2.4 The review also recognised that there is significant duplication in meeting attendance, particularly for the statutory authorities, in attending six different CSPs and various Sub-Committees of the partnerships.

2.5 The Terms of Reference for Safer Gloucestershire and the Safer Gloucestershire structure are attached to this report for information. Members will note from the structure how Safer Gloucestershire sits amongst a variety of other boards or groups and one of the aims of Safer Gloucestershire is to coordinate these in order to reduce the number of

groups currently operating.

3.0 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

- 3.1** Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 (3) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011.
- 3.2** Members will be aware that there is an ongoing DHR within the borough which is drawing to a conclusion.
- 3.3** Currently, CSPs are established in each district of Gloucestershire, resulting in DHRs sitting with each individual district rather than within a Countywide process. The district CSPs are also responsible for funding the DHR, with the support of the OPCC, who fund 50% of all DHRs in the county
- 3.4** DHR's have been discussed at Safer Gloucestershire and there is a general agreement that a Countywide approach to dealing with DHR would be more efficient and a better method of sharing the learning that results from the DHR investigation.
- 3.5** Each local authority will pay a small amount (approximately £5,000) to facilitate the new DHR arrangements and will benefit from a central pool of administrative resource from within the partnership.

4.0 LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1** Locally the Community Safety Partnership remains suspended meaning that the arrangements for managing community safety are being done on an ad-hoc basis. This is not sustainable and the Head of Community Services has been tasked with rectifying this situation.
- 4.2** With the agreement of the Lead Member for Community, a steering group has been established to investigate how community safety can be delivered within the borough. The steering group includes members of staff from the Council's key community safety partners including Gloucestershire Police Constabulary, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and Severn Vale Housing.
- 4.3** Progress to date is that the group has drafted Terms of Reference for the new community safety arrangements and agreed that these should be aligned with the Terms of Reference for Safer Gloucestershire. Agreement was also gained that the partnership should also be aligned to the Council's locality programme, as most of the key partners that sit on the locality partnership would also sit on the Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.4** A further meeting is due to take place shortly to agree the Terms of Reference and establish membership of the new Community Safety Partnership which will have representation from all the statutory partners and the Lead Member for Community.
- 4.5** The priorities for the new Community Safety Partnership will be aligned to those of Safer Gloucestershire whilst also reflecting any local priorities.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1** None

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1** Set out within the report

7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

7.1 Tewkesbury Borough Council Emergency Response Guide

8.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

8.1 None

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

9.1 None

10.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

10.1 None

11.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

11.1 None

12.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

12.1 None

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Safer Gloucestershire Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 - Safer Gloucestershire structure