

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 August 2018
Subject:	Tewkesbury Borough Community Safety Partnership
Report of:	Head of Community Services
Corporate Lead:	Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Community
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

Community safety responsibilities have continued to evolve since the original formation of the Tewkesbury Borough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) 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 across the county. 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.

Over the last two years, the Community Safety Partnership has been held in abeyance pending the creation of a countywide partnership. The countywide group would seek to create and implement a common county wide approach, whilst retaining the distinctiveness of each district, recognising that delivery mechanisms may vary across the county in accordance with local need. This countywide partnership is now in place and "Safer Gloucestershire" is considering the countywide community safety priorities. Priorities are gained from an analysis of statistics across the county from a document called the Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment (GCSSNA) which contains countywide data on crime, anti-social behaviour and safeguarding etc.

Locally there is a need to rejuvenate the Tewkesbury Borough Community Safety Partnership and decide what our local priorities are. As some of our local priorities will also be drawn from the GCSSNA and some will likely be specific to Tewkesbury Borough itself, it makes sense to align some of our priorities with the countywide group. In order to start this work a small community safety steering group has been meeting to move this forward.

The purpose of this report is to gain agreement from the Executive Committee as to the suggested way forward with the Tewkesbury Borough Community Safety partnership arrangements.

Recommendation:

That the proposals, set out in Paragraph 4 of the report, for the Tewkesbury Borough Community Safety Partnership be APPROVED.

Reasons for Recommendation:

Tewkesbury Borough Council has a duty to carry out the functions of a Community Safety Partnership as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This decision enables that duty to be met and will enable the CSP to set out a strategy for tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in a coherent and comprehensive way.

Resource Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

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.

It is advisable to consider whether a formal partnership agreement (incorporating the Terms of Reference appended to this report) should be entered into to assist with the operation of the reconstituted CSP.

Risk Management Implications:

None arising directly from 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 the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider.

Environmental Implications:

None arising directly from 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 our 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 there is a 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. In addition, in terms of setting strategic priorities, taking a countywide view makes more sense than each local CSP doing this in isolation, although local CSP should be free to set local priorities.
- 2.2** The overall purpose of Safer Gloucestershire is to develop the strategic vision for community safety so that the residents of Gloucestershire feel safer. It will achieve this through:
- Strong and Effective Leadership
 - Encouraging improved co-ordination and integration of joined up services
 - Identifying the needs and priorities of Gloucestershire residents using countywide and local data sources
- 2.3** Safer Gloucestershire has commissioned a Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment and is in the process of setting the countywide priorities.
- 2.4** The Deputy CEO and Head of Community Services have a place on the Safer Gloucestershire Board.

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 and undertaking reviews is a statutory requirement.
- 3.2** The Home Office published *Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews* in April 2011 and issued a revised version of this guidance in June 2013 and December 2016.
- 3.3** The guidance details that DHRs are to be established to review the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence abuse or neglect by a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or, b) a member of the same household as himself.
- 3.4** Gloucestershire has had a number of DHRs over the years and Tewkesbury Borough has had two full reviews and a third non-statutory review.
- 3.5** These statutory reviews must be carried out by an independent chair and tend to be costly both in terms of finance and time. Evidence shows a high level of variation in the way DHR's are undertaken, chaired and, importantly, monitored in relation to ensuring completion in a timely fashion.
- 3.6** The districts and boroughs in Gloucestershire have agreed that this work should be centralised and coordinated by Safer Gloucestershire to ensure that reviews are carried out in a timely manner and that there is adequate and timely sharing of learning coming from these reviews. The cost of DHRs is also shared countywide under the new arrangements.

4.0 TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP)

- 4.1 Locally, the CSP remains suspended meaning that arrangements for managing community safety do not necessarily reflect the countywide approach, nor the best way locally to implement community safety arrangements. 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.
- 4.3 The steering group includes the Lead Member and members of staff from some of the Council's key community safety partners including Gloucestershire Police Constabulary, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and Severn Vale Housing.
- 4.4 The steering group has agreed Terms of Reference and these are attached at Appendix 1 for information - they will be formally adopted at the first meeting of the new CSP.
- 4.5 The Terms of Reference set out the aims of the CSP, the membership and the arrangements for governing the partnership and also sets out how the partnership will report back to Members.
- 4.6 Pending agreement of this report it is proposed to have the CSP reconstituted by October 2018. The first piece of work will be to consider the priorities for the partnership and an action plan will be developed to commence in April 2019, setting out those priorities and how the partnership will tackle them.
- 4.7 Priorities will be based on an intelligence model which will be developed following the rejuvenation of the CSP.

5.0 WIDER COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 Both Safer Gloucestershire and the Tewkesbury Borough CSP will be keen to engage with all Councillors and are therefore proposing a number of annual events to keep Councillors updated on the progress of the community safety plans, as well as highlighting the achievements and outcomes of the previous years work and discussing the priorities for the forthcoming year.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A report outlining the proposed approach was presented to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2018.

8.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- 8.1 None

9.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

- 9.1 None

10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

- 10.1 None arising directly from this report.

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

11.1 None arising directly from this report.

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

12.1 None arising directly from this report.

13.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

13.1 None arising directly from this report.

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Tewkesbury Borough CSP Draft Terms of Reference