

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

SHADOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021

Report Title	North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-22
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Appendix A – North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-22

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report asks Members to consider and adopt the North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-22 (the plan).

2. Executive Summary

- 21 North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory partnership. Its membership comprises several 'responsible' partners and a wider membership involving the voluntary sector, housing providers and other bodies with a key role to play in making the local area safer and healthier.
- 22 The CSP is required to set out the priorities it will focus on to make the local area safer, in a published plan.
- 23 The CSP's plan is short-term for now while the transformation into the new North Northamptonshire Council takes effect and new working relationships are established. Looking ahead, a more medium to long-term plan will follow.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Shadow Executive Committee:

- a) Consider and adopt the North Northamptonshire Community Safety Plan 2021-22.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations –

- *To ensure the future North Northamptonshire Council's statutory duty to be a 'responsible' partner organisation in the local community safety partnership is endorsed.*
- *The plan as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is adopted by the local authority as a responsible partner organisation.*

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Community safety partnerships (CSP) are statutory partnerships as defined and required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments (the Act).
- 4.2 In 2019, the four district-based community safety partnerships of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough merged to form North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The merger has reduced the burden on partner organisations having to support several CSPs, all of which were doing similar work and activities. The merger also provides a CSP arrangement that aligns with the new unitary authority.
- 4.3 On 1 April 2021, North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) will become one of the 'responsible' partner organisations within the CSP. The other responsible organisations are Northants Police, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, Northants Fire and Rescue Service, NHS and the probation services. These organisations form the North Northants CSP Board.
- 4.4 The Act requires a CSP to set out what it aims to achieve to make the local area safer for its residents, businesses and visitors. Historically, CSP plans are informed by an annual strategic assessment produced from analysing multiple crime datasets and information from things like consultations etc. Generally, a CSP's priorities do not radically change from one year to the next; however, it is important that local issues of significance are considered as part of the wider planning. The police produce an annual corporate strategic assessment, which in the future a redacted version will help inform the CSP's plans and strategies.
- 4.5 In the last 12-18 months, and with the creation of the Northamptonshire Community Safety Board (CS Board), a set of county-wide community safety priorities has emerged. They are:-
- Serious and organised crime (SOC).
 - Domestic violence and sexual abuse.
 - Hate crime.
 - Anti-social behaviour.

Each of these priorities has a strategy, approved by the CS Board and formally adopted by each current sovereign council. A large proportion of the community safety activity in North Northants directly aligns with or makes major

contributions to those county-wide strategies.

- 4.6 The plan allows the CSP's planned activities to continue while new working relationships are developed for the medium and long-term. The plan is therefore deliberately short-term and focuses on work to help achieve the county-wide priorities. It is envisaged that a more medium-term CSP plan will emerge over the next 12-18 months.
- 4.7 The Foreword section in the plan is from the CSP's present chair, who is the chief executive of East Northamptonshire Council. The CSP Board is expected to appoint a new chair at its next meeting, although yet to be arranged it will be after 1 April. However, as the plan reflects the current position, the Foreword has been retained.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 During the last five years or so, an increase in serious and organised crime has emerged. Although isolated incidents, Northamptonshire has seen crime where life-threatening injuries or death have occurred from the use of knives and firearms. Exploitation and extreme violence are very much the 'tools of the trade' for all gangs as they compete with rivals for lucrative class A drug markets. Vulnerable people, especially children and adolescents are targets for gangs to exploit.
- 5.2 Enforcement alone will not solve the problems, which is why the county-wide tackling gang-related violence strategy focuses significantly on prevention and protection. The CSP is piloting a project in the William Knibb ward in Kettering. It aims to provide drug users with an opportunity to get out of that lifestyle. # Citadel gives drug users a choice between treatment and recovery or carry on involved in drugs and crime, which could end with serious injury or death.
- 5.3 Key partner agencies are on board with # Citadel, including treatment and recovery providers. Further partnership developments are underway with homelessness services, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Kettering General Hospital and probation services. # Citadel is a significant part of the tackling gang violence strategy, especially in shaping the methodologies needed for understanding the local class A drug market.
- 5.4 A new domestic abuse duty on local authorities is expected 1 April 2021. The Government has set up a funding stream to develop areas covered by the duty,

which includes developing pathways for accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. A group of officers from across the county, including housing and community safety are working up detailed proposals for utilising the county's allocation.

55 Funding for domestic abuse services remains a major issue, with considerations and decisions taken annually through budget-setting processes. This presents challenges for support agencies, with funding support often confirmed at a point when statutory redundancy processes with affected staff are underway.

56 The CS Board recently considered proposals for partners' financial allocations to the following community safety functions:-

- Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (management of high risk violent and sexual offenders).
- Inter-personal Violence (IPV) partners' pooled fund.
- E-Cins (cloud-based case management IT system).
- Domestic Homicide Reviews.

The main purpose of this was to give funding organisations, including the two new unitary councils more medium-term financial projections for their base budgets. It also aims to encourage a move away from single year decision-making. CS Board is mindful that funding settlements for the two unitary councils are confirmed on an annual basis, which limits what commitments they can give over multiple financial years.

57 Tackling anti-social behaviour, hate crime and domestic abuse are long-established priority areas for both the former district-based CSPs and now the North Northants CSP. Comprehensive case management processes and multi-agency partnership working arrangements are all in place across the agencies. The county-wide strategies support further development of the services for victims, and opportunities to establish more medium-term funding arrangements for them.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 The CSP does not hold a budget or hold funding to carry out activities. Up to now, the sovereign district and boroughs have acted as fund holding bodies for any pooled funds, grants or other financial resources. Sovereign councils have each maintained community safety budgets for CSP activity, alongside their mainstream responsibilities such as CCTV, warden and enforcement services and partner contributions to those functions detailed in para. 5.6 above.

6.1.2 For North Northamptonshire Council, the aggregated community safety expenditure from all four sovereign councils was used to inform the 2021/22 draft budget.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 As indicated earlier in this report, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended designates the local authority as a responsible partner in the CSP for the area it serves.

6.2.2 Other legislation applies to certain functions the CSP functions and these are:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – reviewing community triggers
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims act 2004 – conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The principal risk with CSPs is the reliance on partners' commitments to support the delivery of the CSP's plan. Changes in priorities, structure and resources can impact on an individual partner's ability to remain committed to the work and activities planned.

6.3.2 To mitigate against this, the CSP structure aims to ensure the CSP Board has oversight across the partnership's work. The Board is made up of senior representatives from all the responsible partners.

6.3.3 The plan recognises that the structure is likely to change as the new working relationships are established. It is critical that all the responsible partners engage fully with this work.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 Development of the plan has involved the wider membership of the CSP. This membership includes voluntary and community sector organisations and housing providers.

6.4.2 Following the merger of the four district-based CSPs, locally established forums and groups came over to the North Northants CSP. This now presents an opportunity to review the way the CSP engages with the communities of North Northants, including town and parish councils.

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

6.5.1 Overview and Scrutiny have not considered any matters regarding the CSP plan.

6.6 Environmental Impact

6.6.1 Crime and disorder impacts on people's impressions of a local area. The CSP plan will help improve the environmental quality of areas where people live, town centres and recreation spaces.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 The # Citadel pilot project, referred to earlier in this report is taking place in a locality in Kettering. As well as giving those involved in drugs opportunities to change their lifestyles, the project will contribute to making the local area a much better place for residents to live and visitors to enjoy.

6.8 Equalities

6.8.1 The plan will help reduce crime and disorder across North Northamptonshire for everyone. An Equalities Impact Assessment identifies positive impacts for people in protected groups, particularly in tackling hate crime and protecting children and vulnerable adults.

7. Background Papers

7.1 The following published information is relevant to the CSP, the plan and this report:-

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015
- Prevent Strategy_
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf
- Northamptonshire Police & Crime Plan_
<https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/police-and-crime-plan/>
- Northamptonshire Adults' Safeguarding Board_
<https://www.northamptonshiresab.org.uk/Pages/policies-and-procedures.aspx>
- Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership
<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/>