

Cabinet - 30 June 2020

Full Council - 3 September 2020

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr G Carr-Jones, Housing and Community Safety

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Vivienne Broadhurst, Acting Executive Director
People - Adults

Report Author: Andy Frost

Title: Service Manager for Community Safety (Strategic Lead)

Tel: 01305 224331

Email: andy.frost@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety Plan 2020-23 be recommended to Dorset Council for adoption.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure Dorset Council meets its duties as set out in relevant legislation.

1. Executive Summary

Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with the following partners (responsible authorities) to identify and tackle community safety issues in its area:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service (Dorset)

- Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Probation Services

Partners come together through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP must produce three-year community safety plans that are revised annually. The plans should set out partners' priorities (informed by their latest Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA)) and how they will address them in broad terms.

The Dorset CSP agreed its latest three-year plan at its meeting on 9 March 2020 (appended). The Plan was developed using an analysis of local data and statistics and findings from public consultation.

The Council's Place Scrutiny Committee (which is the Council's formal Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee) considered the process by which the CSP would develop the 2020-2023 plan at its meeting on 30 January 2020.

It is a legal requirement for the Community Safety Plan to be adopted by Dorset Council.

2. Financial Implications

The Dorset CSP does not receive funding, however partners' plans and strategies clarify where they will focus their time and effort and their broad activity to meet priorities.

From time to time, central government makes available one off funding opportunities to support community safety work such as tackling domestic abuse. When possible, partners apply for such funds.

3. Climate implications

It is not anticipated that partners' work to tackle community safety, including through the Community Safety Plan, will have an adverse effect on the environment or climate change.

4. Other Implications

The CSP works closely with other partnership bodies on areas of mutual interest, including safeguarding boards and partnerships. This work includes having joint approaches to learning lessons and good practice in relation to Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was completed whilst drafting the plan. The EqIA highlighted a positive impact on several protected characteristics.

The EqIA is available on the Council's website [HERE](#)

7. Appendices

Appendix – Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

8. Background Papers

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023 – Report to Place Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2020 – available [HERE](#)

9. Background

- 9.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are required to produce three-year Community Safety Plans that are revised annually. The Dorset CSP agreed its 2020-2023 Plan at its meeting on 9 March 2020.
- 9.2 The Plan had been developed by analysing information and data and was informed by the findings of public consultation. Members of the Council's Place Scrutiny Committee considered the process by which the CSP would develop the Plan at their meeting on 30 January 2020.
- 9.3 The Plan sets out the priority community safety issues for the area and how, in broad terms, the Council and its partners will address them.
- 9.4 It is a legal requirement for the plan to be formally adopted by Dorset Council.

10. Partnership Work

- 10.1 CSPs were first established over twenty years ago and during this period partners have developed strong working relationships. Community Safety Plans set the framework for their activity.
- 10.2 Some examples of partners' work driven by previous community safety plans include:
- Developing partners' collective response to tackling domestic abuse including how different services can work better together to support victims, developing pathways for support services, improving multi-agency approaches to supporting high risk victims and running numerous awareness raising campaigns.
 - Conducting reviews into homicides relating to domestic abuse and ensuring the learning from these is used to improve practice and reduce risk and harm.
 - Working together to tackle County Lines (where gangs and organised criminals transport illegal drugs across Police and local authority boundaries) including identifying and supporting young and vulnerable people who may be exploited as part of the process.
 - Running various initiatives to tackle rural crime, an issue that is important to many residents in the Dorset Council area.
 - Tackling neighbourhood issues including anti-social behaviour through locality based multi-agency Partnership Coordinating Groups.

11. Developing the 2020-23 Community Safety Plan

Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA)

- 11.1 CSPs are required to complete an annual PSA. The assessment uses a range of data and information to consider community safety issues and provide suggestions for priority work areas for inclusion in partners' community safety plan.
- 11.2 The purpose of the PSA is to provide an objective evidence base for partners to work from. In Dorset, a scoring tool called 'MoRiLE' (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) is used to inform and guide the annual PSA.
- 11.3 MoRiLE is a national project that was created in 2014 to develop an approach to risk prioritisation that could be used by law enforcement agencies in a structured and consistent way. Many CSPs now use MoRiLE in the production of their PSAs.
- 11.4 MoRiLE uses a matrix of statistics, trends, impacts and forecasts to score issues and organise them in order of priority.

- 11.5 The latest PSA was agreed by the Dorset CSP at its meeting on 9 March 2020. The findings of the PSA have informed the Community Safety Plan 2020-2023.

Consultation and Engagement

- 11.6 Community safety plans should be informed by members of the public's views on community safety issues.
- 11.7 As part of the development of the new Plan, questions relating to how safe people felt in their neighbourhood were included in the Council's last residents survey and more detailed questions were sent to members of the Dorset People Panel.
- 11.8 The findings were used to determine the priorities in the Community Safety Plan. The priorities were then made available for public comment on the Council's website prior to the Plan being agreed by the CSP.

12. Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

- 12.1 The new Community Safety Plan includes the following priorities:
- Domestic Abuse
 - Serious Sexual Offences
 - Rural Crime
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
 - County Lines
 - Fraud
 - Public Place Violence
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
- 12.2 Partners will also monitor and address Hate Crime including in the wider context of community cohesion.
- 12.3 Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners and they have a separate strategy to address this issue. There is also a separate Alcohol & Drugs Strategy that covers the pan-Dorset area.
- 12.4 The new Community Plan sets out in broad terms how partners will address priorities. More detailed delivery plans are being developed to complement the Plan.
- 12.5 The Dorset CSP will consider progress against the plan and deal with any performance management issues at its quarterly meetings. The CSP must

also provide annual reports on progress to the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee.

12.6 The Plan will be refreshed annually based on the findings of the latest PSA.

13. Partnership Work on Domestic Abuse During the Covid 19 Pandemic

13.1 At the start of the lockdown period, partners began holding weekly community safety teleconferences to develop their understanding of issues (for example community tensions such as neighbour disputes and noise complaints, domestic abuse, rural crime issues etc.) and ensure a coordinated response to them. The meetings continue but are now held fortnightly.

13.2 Tackling domestic abuse is one of the key priorities in the new Community Safety Plan and has been a key focus for partners during the lock down period.

13.3 At the start of lockdown, partners in Dorset did not see an increase in domestic abuse issues. As lockdown progressed, there were increasing reports of lower risk issues such as arguments, family tensions and disputes. In more recent weeks, partners have reported increases in domestic abuse and general enquiries to local domestic abuse helplines have increased.

13.4 Partners' work to respond to domestic abuse issues during the pandemic includes:

- Support services for victims of domestic abuse have continued to operate although some have needed to be delivered differently due to government restrictions.
- Services have been able to manage demand including for outreach support and refuge provision though the more recent increase in general enquiries to helplines has created some pressures.
- Council officers have been in daily contact with front line services to understand issues and help develop solutions to problems. These include making sure there is adequate refuge provision.
- Partners have run a public communications campaign since the start of lockdown to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues and make sure people know about the support services available to help. Communication messages have been assessed weekly and adapted to address any emerging issues or trends. Posters have been placed in key locations including GP surgeries and pharmacies.

- A communications campaign has also been run to raise awareness of healthy relationships and support services to help address tensions before they escalate into more serious issues.

13.5 Partners continue to meet regularly to respond to issues and plan for any further increases in domestic abuse following the easing of lockdown measures.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.