

26 March 2015

Business & Town Centres Committee

Community Safety Commissioning Plan

Report of: *Ashley Culverwell, Head of Borough Health, Safety and Localism*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached Community Safety Commissioning Plan sets out how the Council will deliver against the Corporate Priorities for a Safer Borough and align with the Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) work relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime reduction.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Community Safety Commissioning Plan 15-16 attached at Appendix A be approved.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The Community Safety Commissioning Plan was first introduced in 2013. It has been produced in collaboration with our community safety partners, schools and wider partners, and is fully supported by them. The aim is to commission and deliver projects or initiatives which meet the Council's corporate priorities relating to a Safe Borough. It also considers the strategic priorities of the Community Safety Partnership and local issues identified by our partners, including schools.

- 3.2 The Community Safety Commissioning Plan 14/15 achieved some excellent results:

- Two Firebreak courses delivered locally at Ingatestone Fire Station for 24 young people all of whom achieved an Assessment & Qualification Alliance (AQA) award. The course is extremely popular with the young people, parents and schools. The feedback received from all involved is always extremely positive.

- Prison Me No Way projects in two local schools providing a unique opportunity for over 400 young people to take part in high impact workshops on various topics including the chance to experience life in a prison cell. Again excellent feedback from the young people and teachers involved.
- Continued support and funding for the growth of Neighbourhood Watch. In addition to the existing active NHW schemes, a further 9 co-ordinators have been recruited in 2014. The dedicated Brentwood Co-ordinator has also developed a new campaign called Scary Be Wary where information leaflets are in prominent locations in the High Street with safety information as well as positive updates. He is hoping to expand the scheme to Shenfield and Ingatestone this year. As well as promoting neighbourhood watch across the Borough he has also distributed information leaflets/booklet and crime prevention items from purse bells to window alarms.
- The Senior Safety Day was a great success with over 75 older people enjoying an informative and fun filled day. The event was supported by 25 sixth form students from St Martins who helped with making sure the guests were well catered for and entertained. The Mayor opened the event and was able to stay and play an active role in the day's activities along with the High Sherriff.
- Strengthening Families is a nationally and internationally recognised parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk as well as low-risk families. Funding was provided for a 7 week course, working with 9 families. Evaluation of the project found that parents gained confidence and pupils school attendance improved.
- Two Incredible Years projects were funded working with 24 cases. The project aims to promote positive parenting, improve relationships, and reduce critical or physical discipline. 100% of participants said they would recommend the programme and were confident they would achieve their goals.
- Moving On is a new project agreed at Business & Town Centres Committee on 16th December. The project works with young people from 5-11 years of age who have experienced domestic abuse. It explores healthy relationships, conflict resolution emotional literacy and coping mechanisms. It provides a safe environment for the young people to explore their experiences. The project commenced in January and is half way through delivery. Feedback so far has been extremely positive with the course receiving the highest number of referrals.

- Following on from the hugely successful Senior Safety Days, we are now embarking on a set of roadshows that we are taking to various sheltered housing, lunch clubs and senior groups over the next few months. These roadshows have a similar format to the Senior Safety Days, but on a much smaller scale. However, there are still presentations from Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Neighbourhood Watch and Home Instead on issues relating to fire safety, personal safety and scams etc. Following the presentations there is a Q&A session and opportunity for the audience to ask questions and seek advice or support. The first session was delivered in February to nearly 40 residents at Queenswood House. It was very well received with great feedback from the residents and manager. There are more planned over the coming weeks with our biggest event being for Brentwood U3A with an expected audience of almost 140. This has been possible due to the savings made on the Senior Safety Day and collaboration with Thurrock Borough Council.

3.3 Figures for 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014 compared with 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013 show some encouraging results with a reduction in all crime of 508 offences, 12.08%. Anti-Social Behaviour has also seen a reduction of 235 incidents, 11.9%. Recently Brentwood experienced 14 Op Seaford attempts which are where the elderly are targeted to extract cash from them. The encouraging result is that none of the attempts were successful but it highlights the need to continue to raise awareness of such crimes.

3.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes an annual budget provision of £30,000 to support the delivery of the Community Safety Commissioning Plan.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4.1 Under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 the Council is required to work with our partners in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle crime & disorder in the local area.

4.2 The Council plays a pivotal role in the partnership and administers the CSP budget.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To authorise the commissioning and delivery of projects and initiatives which will allow for targeted use of resources to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The attached Commissioning Plan has been put together in collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership, schools and our wider partners and is fully endorsed and supported by them.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The Commissioning Plan sets out how the budget will be allocated for 2015-16. It seeks to commission projects and initiatives that:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour by working closely with our community safety partners and communities
- To promote Brentwood as a safe place to live and celebrate our successes
- To work with vulnerable young people and families at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- To promote crime awareness and vigilance across Brentwood residents
- Reduce dwelling burglaries
- Raise awareness of vital community safety issues affecting the borough and its residents
- Reducing the numbers of victims of crime
- Reducing offending and re-offending
- Increased awareness of Domestic abuse and healthy relationships
- Preventing further victims & perpetrators
- Improved outcomes for young people who experience or witness domestic abuse

- 7.2 It will also deliver against the following measures in the Corporate Plan:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Reduce offending by young people
- Increase community confidence

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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8.1 Implementation of the Commissioning Plan has been budgeted for.

Legal Implications

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8.2 The Commissioning Plan will contribute to effective and objective commissioning and thereby maintain good governance of this important matter.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 The projects proposed within the Commissioning Plan will have controls in place to ensure Health & Safety standards are adhered to, and will comply with the Council's policies in respect of Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding.

9. **Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

- Appendix A - Community Safety Commissioning Plan 2015-16

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