

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 23 April 2021
South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership
Review 2020/21

Portfolio:	Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio Holder
Report from:	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Report Author:	Alec Proffitt, Policy Officer, Barrow Borough Council
Wards:	All
Forward Plan:	Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on current projects and future developments for the South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Cumbria is one of the safest counties in England in which to live, work and visit. South Lakeland remains one of the two safest Districts within Cumbria. Members will have a greater understanding of the work of the partnership and how the current priorities are being tackled within South Lakeland and Barrow.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny:-

- (1) **Receive and endorse the report, noting the contribution made through the CSP to the SLDC Council Plan target: “working with partners to reduce domestic violence, alcohol related crime, substance misuse, child sexual exploitation and anti-social behaviour.”**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 The South Cumbria CSP is an amalgamation of South Lakeland and Barrow CSP’s and was formally agreed on 25 January 2017. Cumbria is covered by three CSP’S, in the South, West and North of the county. Each CSP covers two District areas.
- 3.2 The CSP aims to reduce crime and provide reassurance to our communities through partnership working between public, private and voluntary sectors. It does this through identifying priorities which are related to crime figure analysis, trends, consultation and the Crime and Community Safety Strategic Assessment for its Partnership Plan. If identified as necessary, sub-groups are then formed to concentrate on specific areas which require further work to be undertaken. Previously, the CSP received funding from the PCC to fund delivery of identified projects through partner organisations, that funding has now stopped.
- 3.3 The CSP Chair is currently Cllr Suzie Pye (SLDC) who was elected in January 2020. *“We are very fortunate to live in one of the safest parts of the country but we cannot be complacent. We face challenges around all of the CSP’s priority areas but the partnership’s plan sets out practical ways of working together to deliver action to make*

a difference in those areas.” The vice chair is currently Police Superintendent Matt Pearman. There are usually four CSP meetings per annum. However due to the impact of COVID -19, there were two meetings held remotely on 27th April 2020 and 18th November 2020.

- 3.4 In the 2019-20 Partnership Plan, the CSP agreed to focus on 5 local priorities: protecting vulnerable people, domestic abuse, substance abuse and drug supply, violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

At the November 2020 meeting, it was agreed to make slight amendments to the plan, these are detailed as follows:-

- Priority: Protecting Vulnerable People

Protecting vulnerable people and domestic abuse aims were combined as one priority. This recognised that Safer Cumbria would be taking the lead on domestic abuse in the future. Additionally, protecting children from abuse was added as a key deliverable.

- Priority: Alcohol and Drug Abuse/ Supply and Violent Crime

Substance abuse / drug supply and Violent Crime aims were combined as one priority.

- Priority: Anti -Social Behaviour

This priority remained the same.

- Priority: Emerging Community Safety Issues

An addition to the Partnership Plan, to ensure the CSP has the flexibility to be responsive and is able to tackle developing situations which require a swift and preventative approach

- Priority: Rural Crime

An addition to the Partnership Plan, to ensure the needs of rural communities are mainstreamed through partnership working.

- 3.5 At the November 2020 CSP meeting, it was agreed future meetings would be attended by CSP statutory bodies only, including South Lakeland District Council, Barrow Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, South Cumbria Police, OPCC , CCG, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, Cumbria Probation Trust and CRC. This would allow a more strategic approach.

- Previously, other agencies have been invited as the CSP had PCC funding to distribute. Now that the PCC no longer funds this, it was necessary to review how the partnership works and to ensure the CSP remains effective.
- All other agencies are encouraged to engage through the Local Focus Hubs which are seen as the operational arm of the CSP. It is vitally important that everyone still has a voice.

- 3.6 How safe is Cumbria? The Crime and Community Safety Strategic Assessment for Cumbria 2019-20 states: *Cumbria is a relatively safe place in which to live, work and visit. In many areas, levels of crime and community safety issues are better than that experienced nationally and / or the North West region.*

South Lakeland residents' top five concerns are:

(1) drug dealing / taking:

(2) anti-social behaviour;

(3) antisocial driving behaviour ;

(4) theft of agricultural machinery and / or livestock;

(5) criminal damage and vandalism.

3.7 The latest crime statistics for South Lakeland (from Cumbria Constabulary) are detailed below. The Police state that there are two significant contributory factors to rising crime. Firstly, the continued increase in confidence from members of the public to report what has happened and secondly, statistics have been impacted by greater compliance by officers with crime recording practices. This is something which has been recognised nationally by the Office of National Statistics.

3.8 South Lakeland crime overview – 3 year review

It should be noted that crime recording changes in 2018 had an impact on how crime incidents were classified. Therefore it is not possible to compare data over three consecutive years for all crime.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	% change 1 year
All Recorded Crime		5260	5647	7.4
Burglary (Residential)		191	366	91.6
Burglary (Business & Community)		180	221	22.8
Violence against the person		1875	2221	18.5
Controlling/coercive behaviour	18	36	35	-2.8
Stalking and harassment		410	629	53.4
Domestic violence incidents	898	1021	994	-2.6
Domestic violence (repeat victims)	344	322	370	14.9
Sexual Offences		290	226	-22.1
Antisocial behaviour		1248	932	-25.3
Youth antisocial behaviour		347	352	1.4
Drug Offences (trafficking & possession)	130	178	159	-10.7
Alcohol –related (all crime)	829	962	792	-17.7
Violence against person (alcohol)	506	605	515	-14.9
Sexual offences (alcohol-related)	43	49	46	-6.1
Theft of a motor vehicle	54	55	59	7.3
Theft from a motor vehicle	114	111	154	38.7
Business crime	882	907	828	-5.8
Criminal damage	633	703	640	-9.0
Fire Safety	193	234	227	-3.0
Road Casualties	415	321	353	10.0

Data from the Cumbria Crime and Community Strategic Assessment 2019-20.

3.9 Potential impact of COVID-19

Initial findings reported by the Crime and Strategic Assessment Cumbria 2019-20 suggest that overall crime levels are likely to reduce as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The underlying reason for this is likely to be reduced opportunities for certain offences, with people working from home and people spending more time at home during lockdown periods and the closure of the night-time economy. However, the emerging themes (drug and alcohol misuse, mental health, domestic violence) may have a lasting and significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of communities.

3.10 In the past 12 months South Cumbria CSP has:

- Continued to develop a joined up and collaborative problem solving approach.
- Continued to work closely with the Local Focus Hubs in Barrow and South Lakeland for a multi-agency approach to local, tactical issues. Support is available for issues relating to alcohol and drug addiction, domestic violence, mental health and various emerging issues.
- Amended priorities and partnership members to ensure the partnership remains effective.

3.11 The following projects were funded, and actions undertaken, to tackle CSP priorities

Anti-social behaviour and substance abuse:

- £6451.20 funded award to Drop Zone Youth Projects to deliver outreach and detached provision in and around Barrow Town Centre. Partners agreed to work together to promote health and wellbeing, raise aspirations and improve life chances for people living in the area.

Substance abuse and drug supply:

- £2000 awarded to Cumbria Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service (CDAS) to deliver on-line drug/alcohol awareness training for those who may be using or affected by substances.
- £6000 awarded to The Well to give support to people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction through therapy, counselling, peer mentoring, employment training and social activities.

Protecting vulnerable people and domestic abuse:

- £1790 awarded to Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association to install video doorbells to protect "high risk" victims of crime and Domestic Abuse.
- £1000 awarded to Birchill Trust towards their feeling Safe, Standing Strong project. Aimed at Year 9 pupils this would involve a general assembly followed by a series of workshops for the most vulnerable pupils identified by the school.

It is noted that as there will be no further funding for projects, the fund balance is at £416.34.

- Barrow Community Cohesion Group

The Task and Finish Group was set up to tackle community cohesion challenges and looking at how to focus on hate crimes and child exploitation. The perception was public confidence in the police was low. This raised concerns about lack of reporting. Issues around reporting hate crime, a lack of reporting, public not sure how to report, low confidence in reporting and general under reporting.

3.12 Other activities supported by South Cumbria CSP:

- **Safer Cumbria and South Cumbria CSP.**
- The wider Safer Cumbria structure includes regular meetings between CSP chairs, the chairs of other Safer Cumbria crime theme task groups (domestic violence, alcohol, reoffending and sexual violence) and an officer from the PCC's staff. This has proved beneficial to CSP chairs and coordinators allowing for an exchange of ideas, and providing opportunities for cross CSP and thematic working.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's)**

The key purpose of undertaking a DHR is to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person is killed as a result of domestic violence and abuse. In order for these lessons to be learned as widely and thoroughly as possible, professionals need to be able to understand fully what happened in each homicide, and most importantly, what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future. Overall responsibility to call a DHR panel and to report on findings to the Home Office is with the Community Safety Partnership Chair. Safer Cumbria have produced a comprehensive DHR guidance document showing clear responsibilities for the DHR process. Each review will inevitably incur financial costs and in 2013 an agreement was reached by the Cumbrian CSPs to establish a pooled fund which would be used to finance DHRs. The pooled fund is held by Cumbria County Council who are responsible for invoicing partners and agreeing payments with the CSP coordinators.

Cumbria wide initiatives supported by the CSP:

- **Prevent** is a national programme to combat terrorism using the 4 P's: pursue, prevent, protect and prepare. Information and updates have been provided at CSP meetings and work is continuing with key partners around this agenda.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 N/A

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options suggested to members. This report provides information on a statutory body, but is not subject to a decision.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 This report links to the Council Plan target: "working with partners to reduce domestic violence, alcohol related crime, substance misuse, child sexual exploitation and antisocial behaviour.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 BBC act as accountable body for the partnership and hold and administer all funding as directed by the CSP.

Amount (Per annum to March 2021)	Purpose	Organisation
£15000	Contribution to costs of CSP co-ordinator in administering the CSP and delivering on projects.	BBC

Human Resources

7.2 BCC now provides the coordination of the CSP and administrative support. This is funded through the OPCC. No other specific BCC issues have been identified.

Legal

7.3 This report relates to statutory responsibilities detailed in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Policing and Crime Act 2009 (Section 108)

7.3.1 There remains a statutory requirement for CSPs to produce a Strategic Assessment, currently undertaken by the Cumbria Intelligence Observatory and an annual Partnership Plan.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 A social, economic and environmental assessment has not been carried out.

Have you completed and Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please confirm that it is attached to the report in the appendices.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Equality and Diversity

7.7 An equality and diversity assessment has not been carried out. This report does not relate to a proposal or require a decision.

Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please confirm that it is attached to the report in the appendices.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons.	<i>See above 7.7</i>	

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
There are no significant risks associated with updating this committee on the work of South Lakeland CSP	Not applicable	Not applicable

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	South Lakeland and Barrow CSP Partnership Plan

Background Documents Available

None.

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	08/04/2021	09/04/2021
Section 151 Officer	08/04/2021	09/04/2021
Monitoring Officer	08/04/2021	09/04/2021
CMT	05/04/2021	08/04/2021

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	08/04/2021
Human Resources Lead Specialist	08/04/2021
Communications Team	08/04/2021
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	08/04/2021
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A