

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	10 December 2018
Title:	Hampshire County Strategy Group for Community Safety
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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1. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Note the establishment of the Hampshire County Strategy Group for Community Safety and the current work programme.
- 1.2 Note the work undertaken to develop the Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and the establishment of strategic priorities for partnership working and increased operational impact to affect them, including;
 - The threat of serious organised crime, especially related to the exploitation of children including 'County Lines' gangs
 - Increased vulnerability through Information and Communications Technology and media channels
 - The interconnectedness and impact of mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse and adverse childhood experiences
 - The continuing threat of radical extremism
 - The importance of understanding the changing demographics of our communities and using this to understand vulnerability and to promote inclusion and community cohesion
 - Retaining the capacity of voluntary support services for vulnerable people
 - Providing opportunities for all children to engage in positive activities and to aspire to achieve
 - More effective collaboration and alignment of scarce resources to focus on vulnerability and repeat victimisation
- 1.3 Establish an annual cycle of reporting to Cabinet, in agreement with the relevant Lead Members, to provide assurance that Community Safety and statutory requirements are fully met.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Hampshire County Strategy Group for Community Safety (CSG) forms part of the statutory governance arrangements relating to the community safety responsibilities of the County Council and its partners. Chaired by the Director of Adults' Health and Care, the CSG has established a programme of work addressing key responsibilities contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This includes the completion of a multi-agency Strategic Assessment of community safety and the publication of a County Agreement for community safety.
- 2.2 The purpose of this paper is to outline the current position regarding the CSG and its progress in delivering its statutory functions.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1 Established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the purpose of the CSG is to provide strategic leadership across a range of community safety themes for work undertaken by partners who are also subject to responsibilities under the legislation.
- 3.2 The CSG is responsible for undertaking a Strategic Assessment of community safety for Hampshire (County Council area) and for developing a County Agreement. The purpose of the **Strategic Assessment** is to gather evidence upon which to agree strategic priorities relating to current and emerging risks, threats and vulnerabilities. This will be the basis for the preparation of the Hampshire **County Agreement** for Community Safety which sets out how partnership activity is co-ordinated at the county-level to address the strategic priorities. The County Agreement will complement strategies at the district level.
- 3.3 CSG membership includes representation from a wide range of partner organisations as follows:

Hampshire County Council:

- Adults Health and Care (HCC corporate lead and chair)
- Childrens and Education Services
- Public Health
- Trading Standards
- Supporting Families
- Emergency Planning
- Youth Offending
- Mental Health

Partner organisations:

- District and Borough Councils
- Hampshire Partnership Clinical Commissioning Group
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

- Hampshire Constabulary
- National Probation Service
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company
- HM Prison Service
- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Hampshire Civilian Military Partnership
- Communities First Wessex
- Hampshire Community Engagement Forum
- Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board
- Hampshire Safeguarding Adult Board
- Hampshire Prevent Partnership Board

4. Work Programme

4.1 A work programme has been agreed by the CSG for 2018/19 which focuses on producing two key deliverables by March 2019. These are the **Strategic Assessment** and the **County Agreement**.

4.2 The outline work programme for the remainder of 2018-19 is as follows:

October 2018: Consideration of the Strategic Assessment and agreement of methodology for preparing County Agreement

January 2019: Consider draft County Agreement

March 2019: Agreement of the final County Agreement

5. Hampshire Strategic Assessment for Community Safety

5.1 The scope and methodology for completion of the Strategic Assessment was agreed in July 2018. This contains a series of core questions based initially on crime and disorder outcomes but set in the context of wider community safety outcomes and vulnerabilities.

5.2 The assessment highlights emerging threats, risks, key drivers and vulnerabilities facing Hampshire. A first draft of the Strategic Assessment has now been prepared and considered by the CSG at its October meeting. The partnership agreed:

- that the preparation of the strategic assessment was sound and was generally well developed with a good strategic overview, structure and narrative, based on sound sources of evidence.
- The draft had been developed with strong co-operation and contributions from partners and links to other related assessments eg the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Future iterations of the assessment should link with the work being undertaken by the Constabulary on harm indices as well as a volume-based assessment of crime.
- The proposed priorities were relevant and cross cutting and provide the basis for engagement with key thematic partnerships to gain assurance and to identify enablers and priorities for improved collaboration.

5.3 Based on work undertaken on the Assessment to date, the CSG has identified the following strategic and cross cutting priorities for partners to consider across the range of collaborative activity to support community safety:

- The threat of serious organised crime especially related to the exploitation of children, including 'County Lines' gangs
- The Increase in vulnerability through Information and communications technology and media channels
- The interconnectedness and impact of mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse and adverse childhood experiences
- The continuing threat of radical extremism
- The changing demographics of our communities and the importance of promoting inclusion and community cohesion
- The risks facing the capacity of voluntary support services for vulnerable people
- The importance of engaging all children in positive activities and building aspiration
- Alignment of scarce resources to focus on vulnerability and repeat victimisation

5.4 Next steps have been agreed to finalise the Strategic Assessment prior to this being shared with thematic partnerships. The thematic partnerships will be engaged to understand how the priorities will be addressed, tactical and operational resources across agencies aligned and how the opportunities for improved collaboration will impact upon the priorities.

6. Hampshire County Agreement for Community Safety

6.1 The County Agreement will set out the collaborative action between partners at the county level to address the strategic priorities. At its meeting in July the CSG considered approaches to preparing the County Agreement. This involves working with a wide range of partnerships across Hampshire which are concerned with thematic outcomes related to community safety including for example domestic abuse, substance misuse, hate crimes, safeguarding, child exploitation, and the prevention of violent extremism. An important element is to complement the partnership arrangements in each district and borough of Hampshire and, where appropriate to ensure wider collaborative arrangements including with neighbouring cities and supporting the Police and Plan for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

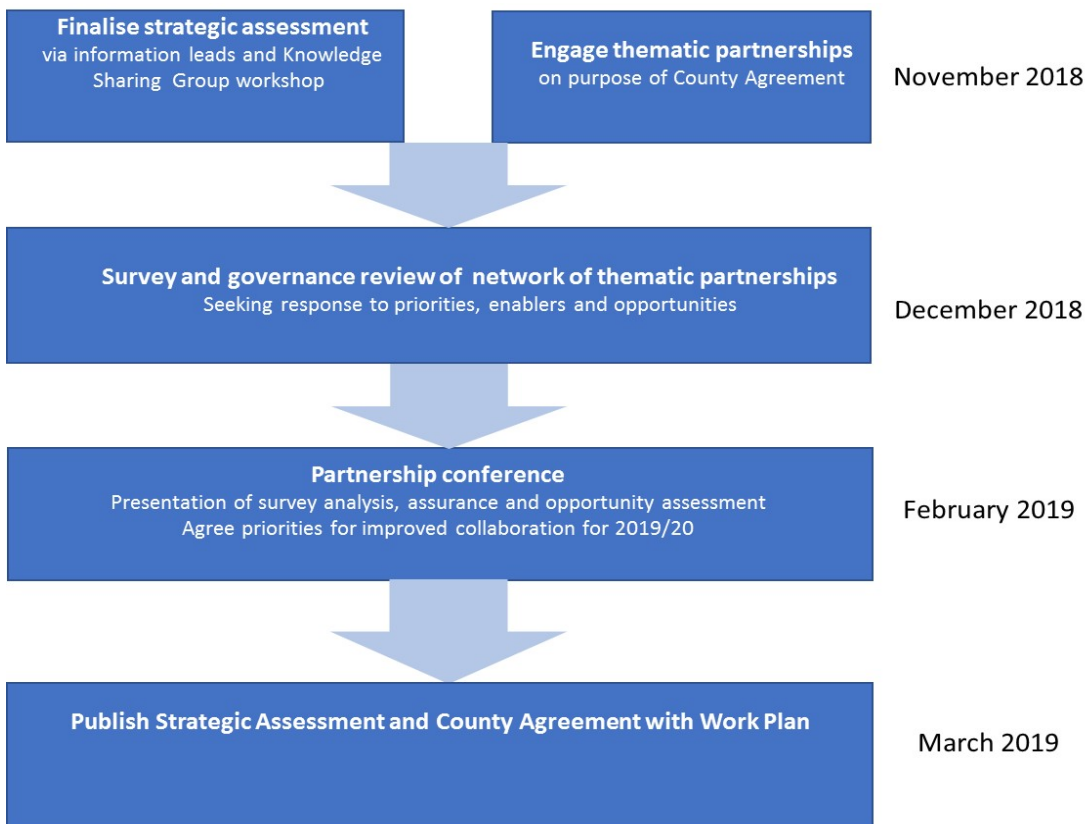
6.2 Through the CSG the following developments have been secured:

- a good common understanding between the partners on the purpose and value of the County Agreement and the role and value of the governance role of the CSG. This included a very positive engagement from lead district/borough partners.
- a strong consensus that the exercise to develop the County Agreement could help realise significant benefits and make an impact on outcomes.

- a recognition that following a period of organic change within the partnership landscape and with fewer resources, there is significant value in reviewing how collaborative arrangements can address vulnerability, safety and support for victims.
- the direct engagement of senior leads from key thematic partnerships with further consideration to be given to ensure an effective link with the Local Criminal Justice Board.
- support from the Constabulary and its funded development programme with the Home Office to engage independent analysts in a governance review of partnerships.
- The need to support recent commitments by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the 4 local authority Executive Leaders collaboration on emerging threats relating to serious and violent crime.

6.3 Following the October meeting of the CSG the next steps for completing the Strategic Assessment and County Agreement are set out below. The aim is to create an Agreement which

- sets out the collaborative arrangements in place at the County level
- provides assurance that priorities are being addressed
- a priority work plan for those matters which partners believe there is scope to achieve better outcomes through improved collaborative arrangements.



6.4 A copy of the County Agreement will be sent the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

7. Performance

7.1 Whilst there is no statutory accountability for performance to the CSG, the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of the co-ordination arrangements in addressing priorities and in agreeing any areas for development is reflected in the terms of reference. In preparing the County Agreement, the CSG will support and incorporate improvement and development measures to ensure that collaborative arrangements are “fit for purpose” in addressing the strategic priorities and improving community safety outcomes.

7.2 An update on the CSG was presented to the Policy and Resources Select Committee on the 1 November 2018, including a detailed presentation of the work being undertaken by the Multi-Agency Willow Team to protect against child exploitation through the increased threat of organised criminal gangs. This relates to one of the strategic priorities which will feature in the developing County Agreement.

8. Future Direction

8.1 The CSG will deliver its work through an annual programme of four core meetings per year supported by a range of multi-agency arrangements, agreed with all partners. These subsidiary groups and / or workshops which contribute to the deliver of the overall aims and priorities of the CSG will be scheduled and agreed by the CSG.

8.2 Regular updates and briefings will be provided to the Executive Member for Communities, Partnerships and External Affairs on the work of the CSG and progress on the priorities identified in this report.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 17	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2 Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report does not propose any decision therefore an impact assessment has not been undertaken.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 The County Strategy Group is part of the statutory governance arrangements relating to the community safety responsibilities of the County Council and its partners. The purpose is to promote the safety of Hampshire's communities by:

- Developing and sharing a strategic assessment of community safety for the county;
- Ensuring that there are appropriate and effective collaborative arrangements in place at the county-level to address the key priorities;
- Providing strategic leadership in driving collaboration and improved outcomes for local communities;
- Having regard to arrangements at the local district and borough level; and

- Having regard to the Police and Crime Plan for Hampshire and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact has been identified