

7. Mid Sussex Partnership Annual Report

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
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Wards Affected: ALL
Key Decision: No
Report to: Scrutiny Committee for Community, Housing and Planning
21 March 2018

Purpose of Report

1. This is the annual report of the Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP). It seeks to inform Members of progress in this area of work.

Summary

2. Partnership working between key agencies in Mid Sussex remains strong overall, with many key partners engaged in the MSP, either through the Board or operational sub groups, ensuring that it fulfils its statutory function. An overview of the work of the MSP is outlined in the report. Despite a changing partnership environment and a reduction in funding, the MSP Board continues to focus on the most pressing issues requiring high level, multi-agency work. The MSP is currently carrying out a more detailed review to make sure that future work remains focused and relevant for all partners in light of these ongoing changes, building on previous years. This includes; the improvement in data and intelligence to drive where resources are targeted and the continued improvement in the management and value for money of all delivered projects which contribute to the achievement of the Council's objectives.

3. Recommendations

The Committee are recommended to:

- i) **Consider the report;**
- ii) **To endorse the inclusion of the work enablement update within the annual MSP report for the next financial year.**

Background

4. Local Strategic Partnership (LSPs) were introduced nationally over a decade ago to be the 'umbrella' local partnership for an area, helping public, private and voluntary organisations work together to improve the quality of life for their communities. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were introduced in the late 1990s and are a statutory requirement to ensure that crime and anti-social behaviour are tackled and reduced in partnership in a given local authority area.
5. The MSP is the District's LSP, CSP and Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The current structure is the result of a review of partnership arrangements in 2012. This revised partnership arrangement allows the MSP to consider a wider range of strategic issues and better identify opportunities for joint working to address them, for example supporting the most vulnerable families in the District.

6. The Leader of Mid Sussex District Council is the chair of the MSP. Accountable to the MSP Board are a number of operational groups/partnerships which help address the priorities set by the MSP Board. These are listed below with a brief description of their remit:
- Better Young Lives Forum (BYL) – brings together professionals working with and for young people in the District. The aim of the group is to develop solutions to shared issues and to improve the level of services available to young people in Mid Sussex.
 - Operational Health Group – brings together organisations working to provide an overview of health and wellbeing issues and to provide advice and guidance to the Mid Sussex Partnership.
 - Strategic Joint Action Group (SJAG) – a multi-agency task group which focuses on delivering the priorities for the MSP, community safety issues, managing funded projects, scrutinising data and allocating resources for projects based on needs and/or identified gaps.
 - Sustainability Network – this informal network showcases the breadth and depth of work being carried out across the district on a quarterly basis and supports members to showcase their activities and explore potential for collaboration.

Scrutinising the Partnership

7. As the democratically elected body for the area covered by the MSP, the Council provides scrutiny for the activities of the Partnership. There is also a statutory function conferred under the Police and Justice Act 2006 for the Council to carry out scrutiny of the District's Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which as stated earlier forms part of the MSP.
8. Scrutiny by this Committee allows the Council to judge the work and the value for money the MSP represents and to decide if involvement in the Partnership helps meet the Council's overall objectives. It also allows the Council to discharge its scrutiny duties as set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Review of Partnership Activities 2017/18

9. Community safety continues to be a significant focus of the MSP. In April each year the Partnership agrees priority areas for the following financial year and plans activities around these. This section of the report outlines the work carried out around these agreed priorities.
10. The MSP's priorities for 2017/18, as set out in the Annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA), were agreed at the MSP meeting in May 2017. They are as follows:

Domestic Abuse - focussing on victim centred approaches and increasing reporting

11. Recent figures show that the number of domestic abuse crimes reported to the Police has increased by 24.4% compared to the same period last year; 822 crimes were reported in the period January to December 2017 compared to 661 for 2016 and 553 for 2015. An increase in reported crimes is seen as a positive as there is an ongoing drive to support people to report domestic abuse and access support on a crime that often goes unreported.

12. There has been an increase in the number of referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) over the last year with 86 referrals for the first three quarters of 2017 (1 April – 30 December), compared to 70 referrals for 2016 and 69 in 2015. The MARAC is the meeting that deals with high risk domestic abuse cases.
13. For the third year in a row the Mid Sussex Partnership have funded the Freedom Programme. This is a programme designed for women who have been a victim of domestic abuse, either currently or previously, and runs over 12 weeks. Safe in Sussex have delivered three cycles of the Freedom Programme supporting women experiencing domestic abuse and one will deliver one cycle of the Recovery Toolkit to empower women to overcome the psychological trauma of domestic abuse.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime - focussing on vulnerable victims and early intervention with young perpetrators

14. There has been an increase of +11.6% (+200) of incidents of reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Sussex Police in 2017 compared to 2016. Last year there had been a reduction of -18.9% some 521 incidents of reported anti-social behaviour (ASB). ASB reported to the Police is recorded in three categories; nuisance, environmental and personal. Both personal (-20.2%; -38 reported incidents) and environmental (-36.6%; -52 reported incidents) ASB has reduced in 2017 compared to 2016. There has been an increase in nuisance ASB reported incidents of +290 (+20.9%) in 2017 compared to 2016.
15. From the 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017 the Mid Sussex ASB Officer has worked on 40 (98) individual cases of anti-social behaviour in partnership with a range of other agencies. This is a decrease in 58 (+11) cases compared to the previous year. The majority of these cases have been disputes between neighbours or related to youth anti-social behaviour. As well as 40 individual cases there were 162 one off calls from 1 January to 31 December 2017 made to the Service that were resolved at the point of contact or were redirected to the correct department or agency. There has been an increase of 7 calls (+4.5%) compared to the previous year where there were 155 one off calls.
16. Low level mental health needs have been identified as a factor in a number of neighbour disputes and/or cases where resident are experiencing low level anti-social behaviour. This vulnerability and support need has been raised across the partnership and will be a factor when making commissioning and funding decisions for the Mid Sussex Partnership.
17. Reports of hate crime remain low across Mid Sussex; there have been 76 reported hate crimes since the 1 April 2017 compared to 71 in 2016 (+5; +7%) (49 race related hate crimes, 10 sexuality related hate crimes, 8 disability hate crimes and 5 religious hate crimes). There were 98 reported hate crimes from the 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 compared to 86 for the previous year (+10; +11.6%).

Early Help - focussing on family key working and targeted intervention

Key Working

18. The Government's Troubled Family Initiative was launched in 2012. 'Think Family' is the name given to the County-wide response to the Government's Troubled Families Initiative. This programme's aim is to 'turn around' the lives of families for Mid Sussex, and for West Sussex as a whole. West Sussex County Council has a number of key Workers who work across Mid Sussex working with families most in need. From 1 April 2016 to 31 December 2017 301 families have been supported in Mid Sussex (+41, +15.8% on the same period last year). The identified needs of the families have seen children needing help (35.8%) and health (31.4%) being the highest identified needs. With an equal spread across domestic abuse (10.8%) education (9.7%) and worklessness (9.1%), with crime being the lowest (3.2%).
19. In support of the wider Troubled Families initiative the MSP set up the Early Intervention Project (EIP) in 2011. The project aims to prevent families from impacting on their communities and putting pressure on the public purse. The project employs a key worker, who provides practical, emotional and parenting support to the families they work with.
20. Interventions typically last between six months and a year. The target for the project is to work with 10 families per year. Since the 1 January 2016 to the 31 December 2017 18 families have received intensive support, the main issues for the families were:
 - Children needing help
 - Health – diagnosis and mental health issues;
 - Education – risk of school exclusion
 - Domestic violence
 - Housing issues.

Projects

21. Following on from the work of the now disbanded Think Family Neighbourhood Board the Strategic Joint Action Group monitors all the currently funded projects for the Mid Sussex Partnership and identifies new projects based on identified needs. Funding was allocated to this work by MSDC and Clarion Futures Communities.
22. Projects delivered in 2017-18 include:
 - Behaviour support for young people in education;
 - A football project in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill run by Albion in the Community;
 - The Freedom Programme which ran three 12 week courses supporting victims of domestic abuse;
 - A football project in East Grinstead run by Crawley Kicks;
 - Story Bags; a reading project led by Bentswood Community Partnership;
 - Two community Mental Health support projects;
 - Volunteer training;
 - Support with healthy cooking delivered by the Tasty Team;
 - Funding to support the YMCA project mentoring young people not in education, employment or training (work enablement).

23. Over the last 24 months the SJAG have been improving the project management approach to those projects funded to make sure the projects target those most in need, establish where there are identified gaps, deliver against agreed outcomes and provide the best value for money.
24. Following on from the above development, a new project to support families most in need in Mid Sussex is currently been implemented. The project will increase families' free access to services they may have to pay for or make their referral a priority to reduce waiting times for families in crisis. This approach will allow funds to be utilised to pay providers per referral rather than for individual projects. Thereby providing the most effective targeted intervention and providing the biggest 'value for money spent' return.
25. The funding to support the YMCA Project 'mentoring young people not in education, employment or training' comes from the historical work enablement funding stream. Previously WSCC and MSDC contributed to work enablement projects. The WSCC element of this has ceased. The residual £20k contribution continues from MSDC and is currently used to commission the YMCA project managed through the MSP. Since this is one of a number of projects funded by the MSP, it is proposed that from next year, rather than a separate report to Scrutiny Committee, this element is included in the MSP annual report. For this year the information is contained in the separate report to the March Scrutiny Committee for Community, Housing and Planning.

Burglary - quality focused investigations, identifying burglary series, warning and informing our communities to stay safe

26. There has been 608 burglary crimes between 1 January 2016 - 31 December 2017, this is an increase of 56 crimes (+10.1%) compared to the same period in 2016.
27. Burglary is a divisional and force priority for Sussex Police, this means all burglary is reviewed by the investigations team and scoped by analysts to identify "series" (a number of crimes linked to an offender or offenders). Should a burglary series be identified, a PIER (Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement, and Reassurance) meeting is held to ensure that all avenues to tackle this issue are discussed and implemented if appropriate. These meetings involve various departments within the Police.

Public Place Violence Against The Person - focussing on hotspot locations (including licensed premises)

28. There has been an increase of 91 (8.1%) public place violence against the person crimes in 2017 compared to 2016. The hotspot areas were primarily the three town centres in Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and East Grinstead. The times of offences were mainly Friday and Saturday evening and night time, linked to the night time economy.
29. Sussex Police's response to rises in public place violence against the person is to provide additional targeted patrols until 0300hrs by the Policing Teams and the Division Licensing Team. On Friday and Saturday nights paying specific attention to certain licensed premises in the locality of the hotspot areas. West Division Licensing Team focus on assessing the management of licensed premises and have taken robust action to ensure compliance with their obligations.
30. Voluntary groups (Street Pastors) were also active providing a visible presence during the relevant times, supporting vulnerable (intoxicated) individuals by providing advice and practical items such as water, sweets and flip flops.

Crime Prevention and Risk Management - focusing on the most vulnerable (including child sexual exploitation, prevent, community tension monitoring and sexual offences)

31. The Strategic Joint Action Group has been working together on awareness raising and methods of communication when looking at crime prevention advice and how as a partnership we support the most vulnerable. There are ongoing initiatives which promote crime prevention by all partners. Also there is the neighbourhood alert website and an email alert system to communicate key messages as crime trends emerge and provide crime prevention advice.
32. Child sexual exploitation work is developing both pan West Sussex and in Mid Sussex. The work has been focusing on early identification and on premises where there may be increased risks. The Police Safeguarding and Investigations Unit (SIU), together with the Missing Persons Team, lead on the fight against child sexual exploitation, engaging with young people who have or who may become victims of crime. The partnership is jointly looking at community tensions, monitoring and reviewing incidents which may lead to an increase in community tensions and manage any issues identified. The Partnership focus going forward is to encourage residents and professionals to report any issues and/or concerns about things that are out of the ordinary to the relevant agency, as the community is the 'eyes and ears' when looking at identifying potential risks.

Wellbeing

33. Wellbeing issues and updates are currently fed into the MSP Board since the Operational Health Group has not convened since April 2017. Since 2011/12 the District Council has been commissioned by NHS West Sussex and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to provide a Wellbeing Service with the aim of preventing ill health through the promotion of healthy lifestyles. This is provided through a Wellbeing Hub, which provides signposting and advice, and through a range of locally commissioned services. To deliver these services the Council has a contract with (WSCC) for the period 2016-19.
34. Further information on the Mid Sussex Wellbeing Service is contained in the separate report to the March Scrutiny Committee for Community, Housing and Planning.

Priorities for 2018/19

35. The MSP Board will consider priorities for 2018/19 at its meeting in April 2018. The priorities will be considered following the outcomes of the MSP review and in conjunction with the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment.
36. The MSP is currently completing a detailed review of its function, work and structure which will include both the Board and operational sub groups. The review will make sure that the MSP considers the changes to the partnership environment and funding and delivers the key priorities for the Partnership.
37. Alongside this the Partnership is currently carrying out its annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) which reviews community safety priorities and wider data. The priorities are formulated using a combination of data sets, intelligence and information from projects and initiatives. The detail of the SIA will be used to inform commissioning, funding and workflow decisions for the Mid Sussex Partnership.

The Future of Partnership Working in Mid Sussex

38. The MSP is continually reviewing its structure and work to ensure it delivers its priorities and provides value for money. It can be seen from the work carried out over the last four years that much is being achieved with limited resources. It is felt that the Council's contribution to the Partnership brings positive benefits.
39. Although external funding to the Partnership in some areas has reduced, the commitment of partners to continue to work together is still evident. With the continued challenging financial climate it will be even more important that key partners continue to work together. This ensures that, where new problems or pressures arise, they are dealt with in a co-ordinated way.
40. The MSP delivers the Council's and other responsible authorities statutory duty to work with partners on a number of key issues relating to, community safety, and delivers all the statutory obligations required.

Financial Implications

41. Funding for the MSP historically came from a number of sources, this has now reduced. The MSP currently receives funds from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Clarion Futures Communities and an annual revenue commitment of £50,000 from the Council.
42. The Police and Crime Commissioner has recently reviewed the Community Safety Funding for Sussex. For Mid Sussex funding will stay the same for 2018-19. From April 2019 for two years the funding will be using the revised formula which equates to a reduction of a total of 10% reduction in funding for Mid Sussex. Mid Sussex will receive £31,898.11 rather than £42,294 (-£10,295.89).

Risk Management Implications

43. Whilst there have been organisational changes within MSDC and partner organisations during the past year, at the current time it is felt that Partnership working in the support and delivery of the statutory functions of the MSP is functioning well in the District and; as such has not been identified as a key strategic risk for 2018/19.
44. These organisational changes include changes to function, structure, funding and ways of working and priorities. These will be closely monitored by the Partnership going forward and will continue to be kept under review.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

45. Many of the projects and initiatives referred to above are specifically aimed at helping protected groups as set out in equalities legislation. Where applicable, these projects and initiatives have been subject to equality impact assessments themselves. Data from these projects and initiatives will feed into the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment and will be used to help inform decisions on commissioning of projects going forward.

Background Papers

MSP Annual Report to the Scrutiny Committee for Community, Housing and Planning
7 March 2017