

Safer and Stronger Communities

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

10 November 2017

Purpose of the report

1. To review and report on the activity, performance and achievements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership during 2016/17.

Background

2. The Partnership was established in early 2007 and fulfils the legal requirement for a Community Safety Partnership in South Gloucestershire as established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Police Reform Act 2002. The primary purpose of the Partnership is to co-ordinate and help deliver actions that support the development of safer and stronger communities within South Gloucestershire.
3. The Partnership also acts as the lead on Safer and Stronger Communities work for the South Gloucestershire Partnership.
4. The Partnership Framework, describing its operation in more detail, is attached at Appendix 1.
5. In the 2016/17 municipal year the Partnership's regular meetings took place on the following dates: 1 July 2016; 14 October 2016 and 31 March 2017. Links to the agenda papers for each of these meetings, showing the business covered, is given at Appendix 2. In addition, during December 2016 key information was circulated electronically and queries answered.
6. In 2016/17, the Partnership met all its statutory obligations. In addition to the process requirements already identified in this report and Appendix 1 (i.e. involvement of defined Responsible Authorities; an annual public meeting) these can be summarised as:
 - Conducting a Joint Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder in the Local Area;
 - Agreeing a Partnership Plan to address priority Crime and Disorder issues; and
 - Implementing the Partnership Plan.

Major topics considered by the Strategic Partnership 2016/17

7. An agreed Partnership Plan had laid out the Strategic Partnership's targets for its priority areas in 2016/17, and the Strategic Partnership maintained a rigorous focus on the achievement of these through the year.
8. Performance results for 2015/16 were considered in July 2016, and outcomes for the first 6 months of the year were circulated in December. Final performance results for 2016/17 are reviewed elsewhere in this report.
9. The Strategic Partnership was particularly keen to fully understand the level and pattern of racially motivated incidents / hate crime in the light of national increases in these following a number of national and international events. The latter included the EU Referendum; the murder of Jo Cox MP, and the Presidential elections in the USA.
10. Post-EU Referendum week, there was a 58% increase in recorded hate crime nationally, along with a 16% increase on the previous year over the next 3 months. This pattern was not replicated in South Gloucestershire, where reported incidents did not increase significantly. Analysis of reported incidents shows the most common form of reported hate crime in South Gloucestershire was racially motivated hate crime, with the most targeted group being economic migrants. There was no reported increase in Islamophobic incidents of hate crime in the autumn of 2016.
11. The project to conduct the annual Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder was chaired by Chief Inspector Paul Wiggington of the Police. Proposed priorities for 2017/18 were circulated in December 2016, and these were confirmed at the Strategic Partnership's meeting in March 2017, when a Delivery Plan to address those priorities was also agreed.
12. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy was refreshed during the year. With the agreement of the Police and Crime Commissioner this was merged with the local Police and Crime Plan to create a single strategic document, the Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan. This novel development is intended to deliver greater clarity for partners, and to improve the co-ordination of work to address crime and disorder. The new Plan was formally adopted in March 2017.
13. A theme of the Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan, which also became evident in many of the topics considered by the Strategic Partnership was the need to improve shared knowledge of, and links with, other strategic bodies dealing with aspects of crime and safety. These include, but are not limited to, the two Safeguarding Boards (Adults and Children) and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
14. Work to achieve this started during the year, and will be progressed in 2017/18. Initial steps taken included a development session with the Health and Wellbeing Board, and South Gloucestershire Council's Strategic Safeguarding Service Manager joining the Strategic Partnership's Senior Officer Group.

15. During the year the Police and Crime Commissioner consulted on changes to the Community Safety Grant as this changed to become the new Police and Crime Grant. In its response to the consultation the Strategic Partnership welcomed the longer-term certainty of funding as part of this change. The Police and Crime Grant allocation for 2017/18 was on the basis of a single year only, and it was agreed to award funding on a longer-term basis for future years.
16. All groups funded through the Community Safety Grant were again required to present their performance and results. These presentations gave the Strategic Partnership the opportunity to explore the impact of the services in a very different way to that provided through performance indicator results. This continues to be a valuable exercise, and one the Strategic Partnership is keen to continue in 2017/18.
17. No Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were required to be carried out on behalf of the Strategic Partnership during the year. In July 2016 the Strategic Partnership considered lessons from a review of DHRs commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and noted plans to improve local service delivery in response to these.
18. During the year the Strategic Partnership participated in the development of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan by considering, and making comments in response to, consultation on this Plan.
19. The Strategic Partnership was regularly kept abreast of the progress of work by South Gloucestershire Council to commission services for victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse. It responded positively to the council's decision to maintain the level of funding it provided for these valuable services, and noted that following the procurement exercise new services would be provided in 2017/18, including refuge provision for male and LGBT+ victims
20. Both the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner updated the Strategic Partnership on several occasions of changes in their work and operation.

Performance Results 2016/2017

21. Targets for key strategic indicators were set by the Partnership at the beginning of the financial year. Full results for achievement of these targets are shown in Appendix 3, but key outcomes are outlined below.

Be Safe

22. The Strategic Partnership has previously determined that given the continuing national annual changes in crime recording methodology, rather than setting numerical targets for crime types it will compare results to those elsewhere.
23. This exercise shows that during 2016/17 overall crime levels, and those for the majority of crime types on which the Strategic Partnership concentrates, were below the levels across Avon & Somerset; the South-West region; and England and Wales.
24. The exceptions to this trend were Dwelling Burglaries and Serious Acquisitive crime. For both these crime types the South-West regional average was lower than the level in South Gloucestershire.

25. Endeavours to increase the reporting of domestic and serious sexual violence also provided successful, with a 6.3% increase on the previous year. However, the 242 extra cases recorded comprise 11% of the increase in total crime.
26. The previous year's reduction in the level of repeat victimisation of high risk victims of domestic violence supported through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference was repeated, and for the second year in a row this figure falls outside the target band. Work is underway across Avon & Somerset to improve MARAC process and outcomes, and the Strategic Partnership is keen to see this succeed.
27. Levels of personal priority crime are unfortunately at a high in Kingwood, with a total of 1,378 offences in 2016/17 compared to 1,291 the previous year. This increase of 6.7% over a year is better than the average recorded crime rate increase across South Gloucestershire of 15.3%. Actions that have helped damp down the increase include Operation Dharma which achieved good results in the peak times associated with the night-time economy.
28. The proportion of residents believing Anti-Social Behaviour is a problem in their local area increased from 6% to 7%. However, this result has been 6% or 7% every year since it was first measured using the current methodology in 2012/13. Although this figure rose the increase is within the margin of error, and this is not believed to be a cause for concern.

Feel Safe

29. The proportion of residents feeling safe outside in their local area reduced slightly from 80% in 2015/16 to 78% in 2016/17. However, this difference is within the margin of error for this methodology.
30. Despite this reduction the proportion of people thinking the police and other public services are successfully dealing with ASB and crime increased from 28.9% in the previous year to 32.9% - although positive this change lies on the boundary of the margin of error for this methodology.

Promoting equality and improving cohesion

31. The two indicators used to assess equality and cohesion showed contrasting results. The percentage of residents who feel people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area has continued to improve year on year and rose to 65.2%. However, the proportion of residents who think there is a problem with people not treating each other with respect and consideration increased from 8.5% to 10.1%. The survey was carried out in January and February, and in considering them the Strategic Partnership wondered whether results may have been affected by publicity over Donald Trump's initial impact and actions as president of the USA.

Priority Neighbourhoods

32. The key measures of success for the Priority Neighbourhoods programme are the Indices of Multiple Deprivation which are next due to be published in 2019.
33. An indicator of community resilience has been included within the new Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan, and will enable more frequent assessment in the future.

Engaging Communities in Decision Making

34. The slight improvement last year in the proportion of residents who believe they can influence decisions in their locality was not maintained and the result in 2016/17 dropped again from 22.4% to 18.9%. The Strategic Partnership removed this indicator from the new Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan having agreed that work to change the results lay outside its powers.

Voluntary Organisations, Community Groups and Social Enterprises

35. The amount invested in the VCSE sector by statutory organisations increased by 211% compared to the figure reported for the previous year. It has been difficult to obtain meaningful results for these indicators for a number of years, and they have been removed from the new Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan.

Community Trigger

36. During 2016/17 no Community Trigger applications were received.

Community Safety Grant

37. Available results from the work funded through the Community Safety Grant is included in Appendix 3. In interpreting this data the following information may prove helpful:

ASB Support Service

38. The outcomes reported by victims supported through this service remained very positive, though these results are based on exit surveys completed by 40 victims rather than the 60 targeted. This positive response was also evident in the descriptions provided by victims to the council's ASB team.

Towards Freedom Programme

39. As previously agreed with the Strategic Partnership the results presented are those for the programme run in the priority areas of Patchway, Kingswood and Yate, although the last of these is not funded by the Strategic Partnership as alternative funding was obtained.
40. The number of attendees significantly exceeds the number of formal referrals made into the scheme, reflecting a high number of victims not coming through Lighthouse or the Police, but who are responding to information about the course itself.

41. Since the change in monitoring previously agreed by the Strategic Partnership the number of attendees completing the form has now significantly exceeded the target, reversing the previous trend.

Complex Needs IDVA

42. Results achieved by the Complex Needs IDVA show that the Strategic Partnership's target both for the number of cases dealt with, and the positive outcomes sought, were achieved. In addition, a set of 4 case studies (1 per quarter) have been provided and these are also included in Appendix 3.

Kinergy

43. End of year results for the service commissioned from Kinergy are still to be received. However, the results received in-year continued to show good Value For Money and excellent outcomes from their work with victims of rape and serious sexual assault.

Looking Forward to 2017/18

44. The new Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan adopted for 2017/18 onwards incorporates the Local Policing Plan. It thus provides greater alignment between the work of the Police and of the Strategic Partnership, and it is anticipated this will help the Partnership improve the results of its work.
45. The Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan highlights the need to better link with other strategic bodies - the Health & Wellbeing Board; and the (children and adults) Safeguarding Boards. During 2017/18 the Strategic Partnership will look to work closely with these Boards in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of work to address topics of mutual interest.
46. The same approach has been used in carrying out the strategic assessment for the last 8 years. That approach has served the Strategic Partnership well. There are a number of changes in the environment however which mean it is necessary to amend the methodology for the Strategic Assessment. These include:
- Reduced resources and capacity available to the Community Safety Partnership, and to member organisations.
 - The need to make prioritisation more objective and transparent
 - The adoption of a new Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan prioritising the impact of crimes on victims as part of the prioritisation of decision-making.
47. The Strategic Partnership therefore decided to use MoRILE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) as the basis for the 2017 strategic assessment. This is a risk-assessment methodology that will provide greater rigour and objectivity in the identification of priorities.
48. 2017/18 is the first time this methodology is to be used for the Strategic Assessment, and considerable effort will need to be devoted to ensuring it is properly implemented, and that it provides the benefits intended.

Risk Register

49. The Risk register for the Strategic Partnership is attached as Appendix 4. This Register has been reviewed by the Senior Officer Group and their proposed amendments to the previous Register are highlighted in the text. In the main these are updates to risks previously agreed, though changes in circumstance have amended the risk score of some items.
50. The most significant risks remain those the Strategic Partnership has no control over, including the impact of budget reductions on key front-line service delivery. The increased statutory obligations being placed on Community Safety Partnerships, following withdrawal of ALL funding for them also remains a significant concern.
51. Strategic Planning Risk 1 concerns the failure of statutory partners to adequately engage with the partnership and its work. Analysis of attendance at Strategic Partnership meetings in 2016/17 shows the following attendance from Responsible Authorities:

Responsible Authority	Number meetings attended	% meetings attended
Clinical Commissioning Group	3	100%
Fire and Rescue	2	66%
Police	2	66%
Police and Crime Commissioner	3	100%
Probation – National Probation Service	0	0%
Probation – Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company	1	33%
South Gloucestershire Council	3	100%

52. The rating for Strategic Planning Risk 3 (the Mishandling and/or mismanagement of information) has been increased in recognition of the potential impact of the new General Data Protection Regulations. Current arrangements will be reviewed during 2017/18 to help reduce this risk.
53. A new Strategic Risk 4 has been added, the Ineffective setting of priorities and resource allocation. The Strategic Partnership's decision to use a formal Risk Management approach to prioritisation as part of the Strategic Assessment process in 2017 mitigates this risk and significantly reduces the risk rating.
54. The need for greater clarity and review of responsibilities for dealing with community safety issues at Board / Strategic Partnership level leads to the introduction of a new Performance and Delivery Risk 6.

The Chair's Evaluation of the Partnership Process

55. This past year has seen a number of challenges to all bodies involved in serving the public. Financial pressures continue to have a major impact on all of us, and the impact of these pressures has been played out in the national media, often having a negative impact on public confidence.
56. South Gloucestershire has not been exempt from these difficulties, but through effective working together the Strategic Partnership has still been able to achieve positive results in a number of areas as described in this annual report.
57. I am particularly pleased with the improvements which mean Filton is no longer classed as a priority neighbourhood, and am looking forward to other neighbourhoods achieving this same result in future years.
58. The achievement of working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop a single strategic plan – the Safer and Stronger South Gloucestershire Plan – incorporating both the Local Policing Plan and the SSCSP's Partnership Strategy should not be underestimated. I am very aware that this innovative approach was not easy to bring to a successful conclusion and involved a number of difficult negotiations. However, the focus of those negotiations was always on what would be most effective in delivering the best possible outcomes for our residents. That is a real demonstration of the good partnership working I have seen over the past year.
59. That exercise has also highlighted a number of areas where we can improve our efficiency and effectiveness, and work is already under way to address these. In 2017/18. This includes linking more closely to the Safeguarding work going on locally; conducting a formal review of the Strategic Partnership's operations and work; and using more robust approaches to prioritisation and decision making. By maintaining a focus on improving the partnership's processes and relationships, we can continue to achieve excellent results for our local communities.

Heather Goddard, Chair

Recommendations

- 1) To review the draft annual report and agree any changes to be made to it
- 2) To approve the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership's final annual report for 2016/17.

Author

Heather Goddard, Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership

Officer Contacts

Robert Walsh, Head of Safe and Strong Communities, South Gloucestershire Council
☎ 01454 865818.

Appendices

1. Partnership Framework
2. Partnership Meetings 2016/17
3. Performance Results 2016/17
4. Risk Register 2017/18