

## People's Board

25 September 2019

### Review of the Governance of Community Safety

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval to review the current governance arrangements for Community Safety and to consult partners and stakeholders as part of this review
- 1.2 To feedback on the outcome of consultation and to present proposals for approval by the People's Board prior to the implementation of any revised governance arrangements.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Community Safety Partnerships were established as statutory bodies under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes explicit that tackling crime requires a partnership approach with key local organisations working together to deliver a shared strategy for the benefit of local communities.
- 2.2 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are made up of representatives from the responsible authorities defined in the 1998 Act and subsequent guidance. These are the local authority, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, the National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company and the CCG.
- 2.3 The responsible authorities are required to work together to protect their local communities from crime and anti-social behaviour and to help people and communities feel safe. They are also required to annually assess local crime priorities and to consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them. CSPs have no national targets and rely on local communities for prioritising issues.
- 2.4 Prior to 2016, there was a Community Safety Partnership and a Health and Wellbeing Board in St Helens. A review of these arrangements found that there were a number of key issues, for example, drug and alcohol misuse, self-harm and mental health that were common to both Boards. In addition, many of the key partners also attended both the CSP and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Following a governance review, the St Helens People's Board was established which absorbed the statutory functions of previously separate governance arrangements.
- 2.5 Under the Terms of Reference of the People's Board, the Board has the statutory responsibilities of a CSP. These are to:
  - identify local priorities via a strategic assessment; and
  - reduce crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), substance misuse and re-offending in the local authority area.

There are also statutory requirements for CSPs regarding information sharing and engaging and consulting with the community about their priorities and monitoring progress in achieving them.

- 2.6** Under Section 17 of the 1998 Act, there remains a duty on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of all their day to day activities.
- 2.7** In addition to the responsibilities set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires CSPs to work with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), including a mutual duty to co-operate to reduce crime and disorder and re-offending and a requirement that PCCs and CSPs must have regard to each other's priorities within their respective plans.
- 2.8** PCCs are held to account by Police and Crime Panels, whilst Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Community Safety scrutinise the work of the CSP as a whole and are unique in that they can call in representatives from other responsibilities on CSP to be held to account.

### **3. Current Position**

**3.1** The current priorities for Safer Communities are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Serious Acquisitive Crime;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Drugs and drug-related crime;
- Violent Crime;
- Reduction of Re-offending;
- Hate Crime; and
- Tackling Organised Crime.

**3.2** These priorities are consistent with the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities for Merseyside Police, which are to:

- prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour;
- tackle Serious and Organised Crime;
- support Victims, Protect Vulnerable People and maintain Public Safety;
- improve Road Safety; and
- provide a visible and accessible Neighbourhood Policing style;

**3.3** It is proposed to review the current multi-agency partnership governance framework as a Strategic Needs Analysis is currently in progress and this will form the basis of a new Community Safety Plan for the Borough which will be presented to the People's Board in early 2020 for approval. It is likely that the new Plan will outline revised priorities and this will require a review of the current operational groups and their Terms of Reference to ensure these align with revised priorities and are relevant to

current partnership working and the resource structures in place in all public services. The review will also provide the opportunity to take into account changes that have occurred since arrangements were agreed in 2016, for example, multi-agency arrangements for tackling serious violence and knife crime through Violence Reduction Units, changes likely to be implemented through the Domestic Abuse Bill and the strategic review of plans across Merseyside on the implementation of the national Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.

- 3.4** The review will consider proposals to rationalise the existing number of delivery groups and to establish a multi-agency Operational Partnership Group which will oversee and manage the delivery groups and report to the People's Board.

The role of the Operational Partnership Group will be to assist the People's Board in meeting its statutory responsibilities by:

- monitoring performance against the Community Safety Plan priorities;
  - hold delivery partners to account;
  - develop mechanisms for community engagement and improve accountability to the community;
  - be responsible for analysing and reporting performance through reports to the People's Board twice a year;
  - provide oversight of the tactical and operational groups and address any issues that arise from these groups.
- 3.5** The proposal to establish an Operational Partnership Group which will focus on managing performance and implementing the strategic priorities of the People's Board will enhance existing governance arrangements.
- 3.6** To assist in the governance review, consultation will be undertaken with partners and stakeholders to identify opportunities for enhancing the current arrangements and to agree draft proposals before these are presented for final approval to the People's Board prior to implementation. The review will allow the development of a revised multi-agency partnership framework.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1** The People's Board agrees:

- to review the current governance arrangements of Community Safety; and
- that a report is presented to a future meeting of the People's Board setting out revised governance proposals following consultation with partners and stakeholders.

#### **LEAD OFFICER FOR THE REPORT**

Name: Stephen Tracey

Job Title: Senior Assistant Director, Housing, Safer Communities, Recreation and Libraries

Telephone: 01744 676490 Email: [stephentracey@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:stephentracey@sthelens.gov.uk)