


Report of: Head of Community Housing & Community Development

To: Executive Board

Date: 17 March 2008

Item No:

Title of Report : Oxford Safer Communities Partnership - Community Safety Rolling Plan 2008-11

 **Purpose of report:** To inform the Executive Board of the community safety priorities for Oxford, as identified by OSCP.

 **decision:** Yes



 **Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Mohammed Altaf-Khan

Scrutiny Responsibility: Community

 **Ward(s) affected:** All

Report Approved by:

 **Mayor:** Clive Thomas

Finance: Andy Collett





Policy Framework: Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour



Recommendation(s): The Executive Board is recommended to endorse OSCP Community Safety Rolling Plan 2008-11.

1. Summary

 Under the Crime and Disorder 1998, Oxford City Council is a 'responsible authority' of the local community safety partnership, known as the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP). The OSCP has to produce a  three-year Rolling Plan and the draft was agreed at their meeting on the 19th December 2007.

The draft Rolling Plan was taken to the Community Scrutiny Committee on 20th February who endorsed the plan. The relevant extract from the

minutes of the meeting are detailed in Section 9.

2. Legal implications

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory responsibility upon Local Authorities, police forces and other agencies to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the local authority area. In two-tier areas the partnership is required to work at the lower-tier area. The partnership was required to produce a Community Safety Audit every three years and use this information to produce a three-year Community Safety Strategy.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 amended the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 by requiring partnerships to produce a three-year Rolling Plan, refreshed each year using an annual Strategic Assessment. Further guidance on the CDRP Reform Programme is contained in the Home Office publication "*Delivering Community Safety: A guide to effective partnership working.*"

3. Oxfordshire Strategic Assessment

The CDRP reform programme states that partnerships must use an intelligence-led approach to its strategic planning. It recommends adopting the police National Intelligence Model to fulfil this requirement. Partnerships across Oxfordshire joined together and produced the Strategic Assessment 2007, using a police analyst. The assessment provides data and intelligence on current and emerging crime and anti-social behaviour trends and includes the views of local communities through our TalkBack survey and the Oxfordshire Citizen's Panel.

4. OSCP Community Safety Rolling Plan 2008-11

Each year the OSCP Rolling Plan will be refreshed using the annual Strategic Assessment.

The priorities for Oxford identified by the Strategic Assessment are:

- Serious Acquisitive Crime – Burglary dwelling, car crime and robbery
- Violent crime – domestic violence, sexual violence and alcohol-related violence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Tackling local organised crime groups
- Fear of crime
- Community cohesion
- Supporting vulnerable young people away from crime
- Tackling our most prolific offenders
- Tackling the harm caused by drug and alcohol abuse.

OSCP have a number of priorities in the Rolling Plan that focus on ensuring that the partnership is working effectively. These are:

- Communication and engagement activities
- Intelligence assessments
- Effective leadership, accountability and scrutiny structures
- A Performance Management Framework

- Coordinated tasking and information sharing processes.

5. Action Plans

Action Plans have been developed for most of the priority areas as they have remained priorities from the preceding Community Safety Strategy 2005-08. Action plans will be developed for new priority areas, such as Organised Crime Groups.

Some projects are well known, such as NightSafe, CCTV and Neighbourhood Policing. Other priorities have working groups and their own action plans. Acquisitive crime groups have plans centred on the victim, location, and offender relationship model of crime prevention.

All actions, subgroups and projects are overseen by the OSCP Steering Group. The partnership produces a newsletter and uses other media opportunities to publicise significant progress against these Action Plans.

6. Member Involvement

The Safer City Portfolio Holder is a member of the OSCP Steering Group. Members often attend Neighbourhood Action Groups and Area Committees receive reports from their local Inspector on a quarterly basis covering recent crime trends and the activities of their Neighbourhood Teams.

A representative from each Area Committee is on the Local Policing Board which provides an opportunity for Members to raise issues with the Local Police Commander when they cannot be resolved satisfactorily by the local Inspector or Area Committee.

7. Financial Implications

Funding for most of the crime reduction projects has been met by partner organisations and through Home Office crime reduction funding. Oxford City Council provides the financial system to manage these Home Office funds, audited by the Audit Commission and administered through GOSE.

8. Targets

Targets are currently being negotiated under the Local Area Agreement process. It is likely that violent crime and how council's and the police deal with anti-social behaviour will be part of this Oxfordshire-wide Local Area Agreement. Local targets for the other priorities are being considered by OSCP.

9. Community Scrutiny Committee

Minute 87 of the Community Scrutiny meeting in February relating the draft OSCP Rolling Plan is set out below: -

The Head of Community Housing and Community Development submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). Richard Adams attended to present the report and answer questions.

The following points were raised during discussion.

- The Community Safety Rolling Plan replaces the old Community Safety Strategy. It is a three-year rolling plan that will be refreshed annually.
- The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership drew up the draft Plan and proposed community safety priorities (which will tie in with LAA and local targets).
- Some priorities were best tackled by partnership working, others could be tackled effectively by individual partners.
- Concerns were expressed over proposed reductions in DAAT funding and more information was being sought on this. It was unlikely that the police would be able to make up the shortfall. The proposed cuts were in relation to a School Drug Education Consultant and a Drug Counsellor for Youth offenders.
- DAAT funding for the adult Treatment Plan and Young People's Treatment Plan was assured.
- There was a seminar on honour based domestic violence at the Kassam Stadium on 28 March and anyone interested in attending should contact Richard Adams.
- Scams were a big issue for pensioners, who were particularly vulnerable to this sort of crime. Distraction crimes were also an issue. There was concern that the Police were not willing to extend the "No cold calling" campaign to certain areas, but it was explained that this was expensive and the next area to be targeted (based on evidence of need) was Headington. It was suggested that the "cocoon watch" scheme was more effective in many cases and was much cheaper.
- There was a "looking after yourself" project aimed at the children who were subject to or witnessed domestic violence but not enough for adult victims. It was suggested that there should be some self-defence and empowerment training on offer for women.
- In order to tackle the problems of persistent offenders steps should be taken to ensure that support was offered to people as soon as they left prison, particularly in relation to housing and employment.

- It would be useful for the Committee in the future to see details of the county-wide Annual Strategic Assessment as this contained the under-pinning intelligence that informed the choice of priorities. Some of this information was very sensitive but it should be possible next year to give more information to the Committee, possibly in an annex, which could be exempt from publication.

Resolved to RECOMMEND the Executive Board to: -

- (1) ask officers to consider whether, under the new system, they would be able to assist with the re-integration of ex-prisoners into society (particularly in respect of housing).
- (2) support the Community Safety Rolling Plan 2008/11 when it was submitted to the Board in due course.

10. The Head of Community Housing and Development has provided the following response to the housing issue.

Ex prisoners (and others) with no accommodation do turn up in the city all the time, of course - if they are rough sleeping they would be picked up by the Street Services Team, who would try to reconnect them to their local area if they had no connection with Oxford, or channel them into the hostel/move on system if they do. There is a requirement to pick up ex-prisoners who are disadvantaged in the housing market by their incarceration (generally, institutionalised ex-prisoners) via the formal homelessness route.

11. Recommendation

The Executive Board is recommended to endorse the OSCP Community Safety Rolling Plan 2008-11.

Contact: Richard Adams

Tel: 252283

Background papers: None