

**CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP  
THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2024  
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES  
MINUTES**

<b>Present:</b>	<p>Councillor Liz Blackshaw Inspector Charlotte Dickens Phil Martindale Jenny Ardley (MS Teams) Graham SurrIDGE Maddie Clay Sajan Devshi (MS Teams) Shameera Zaheed Mandhu (MS Teams) Lisa Wilkinson (MS Teams) Sarah Whannell Peter Singleton Jo Hewitt</p> <p>Gareth Harvey Tim McCabe Giuseppe Vassallo Allison Fadesco Andrew Staton Sally Watson (minutes)</p>	<p>Charnwood Borough Council (Chair) Leicestershire Police (Vice-Chair) Leicestershire Police Loughborough University Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Leicestershire Probation OPCC Violence Reduction Network Violence Reduction Network Falcon Centre Turning Point Leicestershire County Council – Public Health</p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council</p>
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1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was agreed that Insp Charlotte Dickens be appointed Vice-Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for the remainder of the 2023/24 council year.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

James O’Connell	OPCC
Verity Graham	Charnwood Borough Council
Grace Strong	Violence Reduction Network
Sarah Lewis	LLR integrated Care Board
Gurjit Samra-Rai	Leicestershire County Council
Karey Summers	Charnwood Borough Council

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2023 were approved.

4 ACTION LOG

The Chair confirmed that all actions as listed in the Action Log had been completed.

## 5 VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK

A Serious Violence Duty Position Statement for Charnwood and an update on the Violence Reduction Network Community Partnership Framework. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. Following a national readiness assessment, it was evident that Charnwood Community Safety Partnership was fully compliant in relation to the Serious Violence Duty and it was highlighted that there was 'phenomenal work being done across the Partnership'.
- ii. The Community Safety Partnership would like to develop projects aimed at reducing both violent and serious violence offence, as per the CSP Plan 2023 – 2026.
- iii. The Strategic Lead would continue to develop and consolidate plans under their allocated CSP strategic priorities.
- iv. The Partnership was asked to consider adopting the Community Partnership Framework, outlined to the group. There was a co-production event to be organised to support CSPs in implementing the framework.
- v. The Community Partnership Framework intended to build an inclusive, and courageous network to secure the change required to prevent violence. Communities were considered to be core partners in the network and encouraged collaboration with communities through co-producing violence prevention strategies. The intended impact of the framework was to improve understanding of violence, to increase the effectiveness of responses, increase the reach to young people, increase feelings of safety and to reduce crime.
- vi. The Violence Reduction Network was using social media platforms to communicate developing procedures. There was work being done to identify other platforms for sharing information, which could reach other groups, such as young people. In addition, a Youth Development Programme was planned, which would include employing a number of young people to lead on youth outreach work.
- vii. It was recommended that the CSP continued to engage in and contribute to the local partnership arrangements for discharging the Duty whilst also progressing the steps identified over the next 6-12 months, with the support of the Violence Reduction Network.

### **AGREED**

1. That the information be noted.
2. That the resources used within the two VRN presentations be circulated to the Partnership.

## 6 2023/24 PERFORMANCE

A presentation detailing Charnwood performance figures was provided. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. The followings crime types had increased in comparison to the same period in 2022/23; Burglary – Residential (+14%), Burglary – Business and Community (+8%), Theft of Motor Vehicle (+4%) and Shoplifting (+41%).
- ii. The following crime types had decreased in comparison to the same period in 2022/23; Total Crime (-6%), Theft from Motor Vehicle (-10%), Robbery (-16%), Cycle Theft (-6%), Violence Against the Person with Injury (-8%) and Sentinel Reports for Antisocial behaviour Incidents (-6%).
- iii. There had been a change in recording practices, which could account for the increases in residential burglaries. Some crimes which were not classed as residential burglaries previously, were now classified as residential burglaries.
- iv. The Police have issued communications as part of a prevention strategy against burglary associated with business and communities. The focus had been borough wide, not just the Town Centre.
- v. The increase in shoplifting was a national issue and was likely linked to the cost-of-living crisis. Police were working closely with local businesses to help prevent incidents. Shoplifting incidents were usually low-level theft and it was common for shoplifting offences to increase over the Christmas period.
- vi. There had previously been a network that enabled retailers to communicate about shoplifting in the local area. This had not been successful in the past due to the low engagement of businesses, but it was possible that this would be re-established in the future.
- vii. The OPCC recognised that crime against businesses was a concern and had launched an initiative in other local authority areas, which involved an app being used by local businesses to communicate information regarding prolific offenders. It was possible that the OPCC could support some preventative measures in Charnwood if there was an understand in the CSP budget. Inspector Charlotte Dickens agreed to liaise with Sajan Devshi outside of the meeting to discuss this.
- viii. Jenny Ardley highlighted that any data analysis required to support the prevention of crime could be undertaken by dissertation students at Loughborough University.
- ix. There was an issue whereby some individuals were being released from prison, sleeping rough and committing shoplifting offences to live or to sell the goods.
- x. The reduction in cycle theft was the result of proactive preventative work.

- xi. The reduction in violence against the person with injury offences was the result of a number of different work streams working successfully.
- xii. It was recognised that a proportion of individuals reported student-related anti-social behaviour directly to Loughborough University, as opposed to reporting the incident online. There was work being undertaken to encourage reporting via the dedicated online portal, as opposed to the University.

## **AGREED**

- 1. That the information be noted.
- 2. That Inspector Charlotte Dickens liaise with Sajan Devshi to discuss the potential underspend in CSP budget and how this could be spent to support businesses in Charnwood in crime prevention.

## **7 2023/26 CSP PLAN UPDATE**

Updates on the Strategic Priorities included within the CSP Plan 2023/26 were provided. The following summarises the discussion:

Strategic Priority 1: Safeguarding Communities from Violent Offences.

- i. There were four desired outcomes within Strategic Priority 1 as outlined in the report; Preventing violent crime against women and girls, tackling night-time economy offences, reduction in violent offences and raising awareness of the consequences of knife crime.
- ii. Up to 5th December 2023, reporting of sexual offences had reduced by 19.7% and reporting of rape had reduced by 26.6%. There was a key performance indicator which aimed to increase the reporting of sexual offences. It was highlighted that if there were less sexual offences being committed, then the reduction in the number of reports was positive.
- iii. It was recognised that while there was significant work being done to tackle domestic abuse in the Borough, there was a need for more work to further reduce this type of crime.

Strategic Priority 2: To reduce Harm caused by Youth ASB and Youth Crime.

- i. There had been a reduction in youth anti-social behaviour across Charnwood and there had been positive feedback from residents in high-risk areas.
- ii. There had been 134 young people engaging with the Go Getta scheme between quarter one and quarter three.
- iii. There had been some outreach work undertaken in schools which included some one-to-one sessions with young people.

- iv. LCFC continued to hold training sessions with vulnerable young people.
- v. It would be advantageous to expand the youth support services more widely across the Borough.

Strategic Priority 3: To Reduce Criminal Exploitation.

- i. The County Lines within Charnwood had reduced significantly and a monthly County Lines meeting for the Charnwood area had been established to try to reduce this further.
- ii. A sanitised version of the NPA Weekly Threat Document had previously been circulated to the Community Safety team at the Council, with the aim of ensuring the partnership had a joined-up approach in seeking to prevent and deter crime. Insp Charlotte Dickens agreed to look into reinstating this process.

#### **AGREED**

- 1. That the information be noted.
- 2. That Insp Charlotte Dickens look at reinstating the sanitised NPA Weekly Threat Document, circulated to the Community Safety team.

#### **8 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE 2023**

A brief update on the Council's scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership at the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 28th November 2023, was provided. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee praised the CSP Plan.
- ii. The Committee enquired about the Most Similar Family Groupings and how Charnwood fits into the rankings.
- iii. The Committee felt that more data was required on anti-social behaviour and suggested that quarterly updates be provided to members.

**AGREED** that the information be noted.

#### **9 2024 PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

The 2024 Partnership Strategic Assessment and the ten recommendations were outlined. The following summarises the discussion.

- i. It was suggested that Recommendation 5 be removed from the CSP Plan, as the work described was closely linked to that described in Recommendation 2.

- ii. Staff at the Falcon Centre worked closely with individuals experiencing homelessness to work on a personalised plan. It was suggested that colleagues at the Probation Service could support this work. Sarah Whannell said that she would liaise with a colleague from the Probation Service.
- iii. The Falcon Centre had all funding removed and would not be funded from 31st March 2024. Staff were looking at possible opportunities for support and funding. There would not be beds available after this date unless funding is offered from elsewhere. The funding for the day centre was Lottery funding, and this also ceased on 31st March 2024. An application had been submitted to Lottery funding to continue this service, and it was anticipated that a decision would be made at the end of January. However, there would still be a reduced day centre service if the funding was awarded, as it would be a lower amount. It was highlighted that 30,000 meals had been provided by the Falcon Centre in 2023, and that thousands of people were supported each year.
- iv. It was confirmed that the OPCC would continue with the usual time scales for funding, despite the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2024. Contracts would be renewed from April 2024, and the elected Police and Crime Commissioner would commence work on their plan in the months following the election. The application process was likely to be streamlined in the coming months.
- v. There was an underspend in OPCC funding for 2023/24 and there were a number of key themes around which the funding was likely to be spent. It was hoped that the CSP may be able to apply for some of the underspend funding to support the Falcon Centre.
- vi. The Chair thanked officers for their work on the comprehensive 2024 Partnership Strategic Assessment and noted the time and effort put into the report.
- vii. It was agreed that Allison Fadesco arrange a meeting to discuss the ownership of each recommendation.
- viii. It was highlighted that some of the KPIs within the CSP Plan were unachievable. The Strategic Group had discussed the KPIs and it was felt that some measures were duplicated in some way, appeared to lack value in demonstrating real success, were written in language that were not consistent with the trauma informed approach and were set up for failure in some areas. A number of recommendations had been put forward by the Strategic Group and an additional paper was circulated to the Partnership detailing the rationale for the recommendations;
  - Remove the target to increase the reporting of Domestic Abuse offences and Sexual Abuse within the borough by 2.5% (baseline 2022/23 reported offences).
  - Remove the measure relating to the Number of Young People engaged with knife Crime diversionary activities.

- Amend the requirement to monitor the number of Youth ASB incidents recorded (both on Police systems and on Sentinel) and compare the data to the preceding year.
  - Remove or change the objective of a year-on-year reduction in the Serious Acquisitive Crime Offences recorded within Charnwood (baseline figure – 2022/23 data set), from strategic priority 2.
  - Amend or remove the objective to achieve a 5% increase in the number of interventions taken against young perpetrators of ASB under the LLR ASB Incremental process (baseline figure 2022/23 data set).
- ix. It was highlighted that the CSP should be mindful of the requirement to evidence what has been done to tackle domestic abuse. It was confirmed that there had been a number of awareness campaigns including the use of social media and events.
- x. It was suggested that the lead of each Strategic Group could look at the relevant KPIs and consider any smarter ways to monitor progress, and this could include rewording some KPIs.
- xi. It was suggested that the CSP could consult with partners regarding their data on domestic abuse reporting. It was possible that Police data on domestic violence may not demonstrate the wider issue, as many people did not have confidence to report these issues.
- xii. It was agreed that any amendments to the CSP Plan, following the suggested recommendations, be ratified at the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership. It was suggested that a meeting be held, co-ordinated by Gareth Harvey, to look at the suggestions and any alternative KPIs adopted instead.

## **AGREED**

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Recommendation 5 be removed from the PSA.
3. That Allison Fadesco arrange a meeting to discuss the ownership of each recommendation of the PSA.
4. That the 2024 Partnership Strategic Assessment be approved (with agreed amendments).
5. That a meeting be held, co-ordinated by Gareth Harvey, to look at suggestions on the removal of KPIs in the CSP Plan, and any alternative KPIs adopted instead.

6. That any amendments to the CSP Plan, following the suggested recommendations, be ratified at the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership.

## 10 PARTNER UPDATES

Updates were provided from partners on matters affecting the Charnwood area. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. The Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership which Leicestershire County Council were involved in was in its infancy, but a good amount of information was being received and a plan and next steps would be developed in due course.
- ii. There had been little anti-social behaviour reported to Loughborough University over the Christmas period. One of the key concerns at present was the mental health of students and work was being undertaken to support students in this area.
- iii. The Probation Service was no longer classified as a red prioritising area and had moved into the amber classification. There were more face-to-face appointments taking place due to an increase in staffing. There was no longer education, training and employment advocacy being offered to service users as funding had been withdrawn.
- iv. There was an annual review being undertaken of the Council's anti-social behaviour policy, including risk management framework.
- v. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service data suggested that primary fire numbers were static, secondary fires had reduced in number and RTCs (Road Traffic Collisions) had increased by approximately 52% since the same time last year. Fatalities had decreased by 50%. Social media campaigns had taken place to raise awareness. RTCs were rural and urban and were affected all age groups.
- vi. Turning Point had been awarded additional funding and so were able to support more people. Peter Singleton thanked partners for referrals.

**AGREED** that the information be noted.

## 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Communications

Insp Charlotte Dickens suggested that a CSP Communications Strategy be developed to raise awareness of the good work being undertaken by the CSP. She agreed to take ownership of this.

**AGREED** that Insp Charlotte Dickens develop a Communications Strategy for the CSP to raise awareness of the work being undertaken.



## CSP Contribution to Key Objectives

Gareth Harvey suggested that some partners become more involved in the work associated with the key objectives of the CSP.

He also thanked officers for their work in developing the CSP Plan and PSA and associated reports. He acknowledged the time and effort put into the documents.

## 12 FORWARD PROGRAMME

A report to enable the Partnership to consider and manage its forward programme of work was provided.

- i. It was suggested that a representative from the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership be invited to a future meeting of the CSP. It would be beneficial to identify how the work of this group would link to the CSP.

**AGREED** that a representative from the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Group be invited to a future meeting of the CSP (either April or August 2024 meeting).

Upcoming meetings;

18th April 2024 (10am – 12pm) – location TBC  
Summer meeting – to be scheduled  
24th October 2024 (10am – 12pm)