

**CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
THURSDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2025
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES
MINUTES**

Present:	<p>Councillor Liz Blackshaw Phil Martindale Graham Surridge Shameera Zaheed Mandhu (MS Teams) Gurjit Samra-Rai Sarah Whannell Lee Mansfield Jo Hewitt (MS Teams)</p> <p>Pam Hayton Maddie Clay Jenny Ardley Sajan Devshi (MS Teams) Kat Pinnington (MS Teams) Lindsay Widdowson Claire Westrup Giuseppe Vassallo Allison Fadesco Sally Watson (minutes)</p>	<p>Charnwood Borough Council (Chair) Leicestershire Police Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Violence Reduction Network Leicestershire County Council Falcon Centre Charnwood Borough Council Leicestershire County Council – Public Health Turning Point Leicestershire Probation Loughborough University OPCC Loughborough BID LLR Integrated Care Board Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council Charnwood Borough Council</p>
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1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

There were no nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Verity Graham	Charnwood Borough Council
Peter Singleton	Turning Point
James O’Connell	OPCC
PS Thomas Else	Leicestershire Police
Insp Charlotte Dickens	Leicestershire Police
Ant Dales	Loughborough University
Sarah Lewis	LLR integrated Care Board
Andrew Staton	Charnwood Borough Council

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2024 were approved.

Post meeting note: Andrew Staton (Charnwood Borough Council) had attended the meeting of the Community Safety Partnership held on 24th October 2024. He was listed in the minutes of the meeting under 'apologies'.

4 ACTION LOG

The action log was updated as follows:

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ACTION LOG		
Meeting Date	Action	Complete By
22082024 Item 6	<p>That PS Rhys Barber enquire about the ASB Hub trial and feed back to the CSP at the appropriate time.</p> <p><i>It was unclear what information could be shared at this point. Following a discussion with the author, the review report will be shared.</i></p>	Insp Charlotte Dickens
22082024 Item 9	<p>That the relevant officer be approached to liaise with James O'Connell of the OPCC regarding the Bin Store Project.</p> <p><i>James O'Connell was not present at the meeting to update.</i></p> <p><i>James O'Connell was not present at the meeting to provide an update. Charnwood Borough Councillor Officers stated that the project was considered to be impractical and unsafe following site assessments. This item could be removed from the action log.</i></p>	Clerk/James O'Connell
24102024 Item 11	<p>That the Clerk circulate the invite to the VRN Community Campaign update meeting, following the meeting.</p> <p><i>This action was complete.</i></p>	Clerk/Shameera Zaheed Mandhu

24102024 Item 12	That Giuseppe Vassallo pursues discussions with the Police regarding the remaining 50% funding for the Neighbourhood Management Co-ordinator role to continue. <i>This action was complete and the role had been extended for a further 12 months.</i>	Giuseppe Vassallo
24102024 Item 12	That support be provided to the Falcon Centre to deliver the hot meals initiative, including £10k from the Community Safety Partnership. <i>This action was complete. 1,600 meals had been provided so far.</i>	Giuseppe Vassallo
24102024 Item 12	That the Falcon Centre works with the Community Safety Partnership to develop a funding bid to the OPCC to continue the work of the hot meals initiative. <i>This action was ongoing but was in hand and could be removed from the action log.</i>	Sarah Whannell/Giuseppe Vassallo

5 2024/25 PERFORMANCE

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

- i. The following crime types had increased in comparison to the same period in 2023/24; Burglary – Residential (+19%), Shoplifting (+27.5%) and Robbery (+34%).
- ii. The following crime types had decreased in comparison to the same period in 2023/24; Total Crime (-5.2%), Burglary – Business and Community (-21%), Theft from Motor Vehicle (-17.3%), Theft of Motor Vehicle (-6.2%), Cycle Theft (-60%), Violence against the person with injury (-11.3%) and Sentinel reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (-1.9%).
- iii. Burglary – Residential had increased since the same period last year, although since quarter 1 of the current year, it had decreased significantly. Burglary – Residential was an issue across the County and the Police were working on various initiatives to decrease this crime type further.
- iv. The decrease in Theft from Motor Vehicles was the result of proactive partnership working between the Police and the Fire Service.

- v. The previous quarter had shown an increase in Theft of Motor Vehicle crime. This quarter had seen a decrease in this crime type.
- vi. There had been a slight decline in shoplifting, although it had increased since the same period in the previous year. Extra funding had been made available to the Police over the Christmas period to provide extra Police patrols. This had been appreciated by local businesses. Sarah Whannel felt that the hot meals initiative run by the Falcon Centre had also helped to reduce shoplifting figures.
- vii. Robbery had increased since the same period last year, but figures in the Charnwood area were much lower than the national average. Each robbery case was reviewed by a Crime Manager.
- viii. Cycle theft had decreased significantly since the same period in 2023/24. This was because of proactive partnership working.

AGREED that the information be noted.

6 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.

The report was outlined by PC Phil Martindale.

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

The report was outlined by PC Phil Martindale.

Strategic Priority 3: To Reduce Criminal Exploitation.

The report was outlined by Giuseppe Vassallo. It was highlighted that hoarding and neurodiversity were closely linked. A local charity ADHD Solutions had recently closed. There was a work stream being undertaken by the Safeguarding Adults Board which looked at self-neglect and hoarding.

AGREED that the information be noted.

7 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

A verbal update was provided by the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety to inform the CSP scrutiny of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committees' scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership at their meeting held on 26th November 2024.

The report had included information on performance, strategic priorities, self-reviews, work that had been done and work that was intended to be done. The report was well-received and members were content with the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

AGREED that the information be noted.

8 PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-26

Giuseppe Vassallo outlined the conclusion and recommendations in the report. He stated that there had been some positive statistics and some reductions in crime, but that some crime types (robbery, shoplifting, and residential burglary) had increased and so there was work required in these areas. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. Lindsay Widdowson invited partners to attend the Child Health and Wellbeing Partnership to engage different community groups and organisations.
- ii. It was difficult to understand whether the reduction in Drugs Possession and Drug Trafficking was real or perceived. Pam Hayton of Turing Point stated that typically, drug use increases and decreases on a regular basis. She agreed to ask Peter Singleton to make comment on the changes in drug use in Charnwood following the meeting.
- iii. Members of the Community Safety Partnership were invited to comment on the Partnership Strategic Assessment before 31 January 2025 via email to Giuseppe Vassallo and/or the Clerk Sally Watson.
- iv. Members of the Community Safety Partnership agreed for the Chair to approve the report after 31 January 2025.

AGREED

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Pam Hayton/Clerk liaise with Peter Singleton to provide comments on how drug use had changed in Charnwood.
3. That partners submit comments on the PSA to Giuseppe Vassallo or Sally Watson before 31 January 2025.

9 EARLY RELEASE OF PRISONERS SCHEME

A verbal update on the early release of prisoners scheme was provided by Maddie Clay. There had been a number of changes in offender management;

- Standard Determinate Sentences – This included offenders spending 40% of their sentence in detention and 60% in the community. This had been applied to all prisoners, except those considered high risk. Prisoners that had already served 40% of their sentence were being released into the community. This change had affected between 5 and 10 offenders in the Charnwood area and was considered to be

manageable change. There was some accommodation available for offenders leaving prison. However, this was very limited and was strictly for 8 days only. There was a need for more accommodation but this was difficult to source. Sarah Whannell of the Falcon Centre stated that there were some initiatives that could help with the lack of accommodation for released prisoners. It was agreed that Sarah Whannell and Maddie Clay discuss this outside of the meeting.

- Probation Reset – As a result of increased caseloads, offenders were required to engage with Probation for 2/3 of their sentence. The final 1/3 of the sentence, offenders were not required to engage. In addition, face- to-face contact between offenders and Probation Officers had reduce. Offenders were still subject to enforcement if they breached their conditions, but remained unsupervised for 1/3 of their sentence. This applied to the majority of offenders. High risk offenders and offenders of serious violence serving over one year were not included in this scheme.
- Recall to Custody – This had had the biggest impact on the Probation Service. Offenders could be recalled to custody for two weeks maximum (if the original sentence was less than 12 months and the crime was low-level). This limited the deterrent of reoffending.

The data would suggest that the schemes were not solving the problem of overcrowding in prisons and so it was possible that Government may make some changes to the schemes.

AGREED

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Sarah Whannell and Maddie Clay liaise outside of the meeting regarding accommodation for released prisoners.

10 PARTNER UPDATES

A report containing updates from partners on matters affecting the Charnwood area was provided. The following summarises the discussion:

- i. Road Traffic Collisions were persistently high and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service had increased communications to try to improve this.
- ii. Home Safety Check referrals were received from GP surgeries, organisations and fire crews. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service performance related to Home Safety Checks was in the top 15 in the country.
- iii. Graham SurrIDGE agreed to provide contact details of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Lead to Lindsay Widdowson to explore partnership working opportunities with regards to Home Safety Checks.

- iv. Charnwood Borough Council did Home Safety Checks in collaboration with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service. New Council tenants were provided with checks when moving into new properties.
- v. Data was collected on lithium ion batteries and the National Fire Chiefs Council was undertaking research as there was an increase in domestic fires nationally due to the use of lithium ion batteries.
- vi. Fire stations had targets to audit commercial/residential properties.
- vii. Flood defence was the responsibility of the Local Resilience Partnership. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service were responsive in the event of flooding.
- viii. The Falcon Centre had extended the hours of their day centre. Two new schemes had been funded; a mental health for homeless team and a homeless GP centre.
- ix. Loughborough University was organisation a meeting with mental health support partners. The aim was to understand what support was available for students.
- x. Domestic violence funding would be delivered to Leicestershire County Council directly and Borough and Districts would not receive funding from the Government specifically for domestic violence projects.
- xi. The Echo Project was a three-year initiative which included collecting the voices of survivors of domestic abuse. Living Without Abuse was involved in the project and it was intended that Leicestershire County Council's Domestic Abuse Policy would be informed by the research involved with this project. The Strategic Needs Assessment of Domestic Abuse did not include Charnwood data at the present time, as data was not available when the work was being produced.
- xii. The Police was looking at creating a Hate Platform for professionals. Leicestershire County Council had procured a new Hate portal and data would be migrated onto the new system. Colleagues at Charnwood Borough Council were fully involved in this. Feedback on the new portal was overwhelmingly positive.
- xiii. The Loughborough BID was launching a 'shop watch' project and were encouraging use of the radio system by giving discounts and offers on the scheme. Events were planned to enable Loughborough businesses to get together and discuss Anti-social behaviour and information on thefts in the area.
- xiv. There were training materials available, and training course dates to inform about substance misuse of young people.
- xv. The integrated lifestyle services were working on projects to help people to stop smoking and vaping. There had been training for school staff.

- xvi. A needs assessment on gambling related harm had been undertaken. Training would be delivered to officers to recognise problem gambling. Licensing teams were involved in preventing problem gambling.
- xvii. The mental health friendly places project continued to be successful, with 20 organisations signed up in Charnwood.
- xviii. The trauma informed schools project aimed to prevent trauma in young people. This had received a grant to encourage restorative practice.
- xix. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was waiting for budgets to be confirmed. It was unlikely there would be an underspend of budgets.
- xx. The VRN were undertaking a project on sexual harassment awareness. There was a VORG project with education packages being delivered.

AGREED

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Graham Surrige provides contact details of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Lead to Lindsay Widdowson to explore partnership working opportunities with regards to Home Safety Checks.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to consider.

12 FORWARD PROGRAMME

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

Upcoming meetings;

24th April 2025 (10am – 12pm)

