

SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP – STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires District Councils to have a crime and disorder committee whose functions are to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by “responsible authorities” of their crime and disorder functions. The Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel fulfils the role of the crime & disorder committee for NFDC.

1.2 The “responsible authorities” for the area are:

- New Forest District Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Probation Services
- Police
- Fire & Rescue Authority
- Clinical Commissioning Group

1.3 These authorities form the nucleus of the “Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group” which co-ordinates the delivery of the responsible authorities’ statutory crime and disorder functions. They are assisted in this by the following partners who are additional members of the Strategy & Delivery Group:

- Forestry Commission
- Victim Support
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Community First New Forest
- Hampshire County Council Children’s Services
- Hampshire County Council Adult Services
- Hampshire County Council Youth Offending Team

2. STATUTORY CRIME AND DISORDER RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The responsible authorities’ statutory responsibilities include preparing annual strategies for:

- The reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- For combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- For the reduction of re-offending in the area

The Strategy & Delivery Group prepares an annual Partnership Plan setting out the strategies for the above.

2.2 The Strategy Group is required each year to prepare a strategic assessment to assist in revising and updating the strategies. The strategic assessment for 2016 is attached at Appendix 1, while the draft Partnership Plan for 2017/18 is at Appendix 2. Members are requested to note that the draft 2017/18 Partnership Plan has not yet been considered by the Strategy & Delivery Group in its entirety.

3. SAFER NEW FOREST STRATEGY & DELIVERY GROUP

- 3.1 During the course of 2016/17, the Strategy & Delivery Group revised its operational arrangements, combining the previous Strategy Group and a Joint Action Group into one body. The Group is now responsible for preparing strategies and for overseeing and monitoring actions to achieve the strategies. The new arrangements have worked well.
- 3.2 The Group has also established formal links with the New Forest Association of Local Councils. Representatives of the Police, the Fire & Rescue Authority and New Forest District Council (through the Chief Executive) have regularly attended meetings of the Association to hear about local crime and disorder concerns. All Parish and Town Councils were invited to be represented at the September meeting of the Strategy Group and to raise crime and disorder issues they considered should receive priority in the future. This arrangement has also worked well and is planned to continue.

4. PANEL'S VIEWS

- 4.1 In its role as the Crime & Disorder Committee, the Panel is asked to consider any matters arising from the 2016 Strategic Assessment, or the draft Partnership Plan for 2017/18, it wishes to convey to the Strategy & Delivery Group.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Plans and strategies are developed in accordance with New Forest District Council's Corporate Equality Objectives.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Panel considers the attached documents and advises the Strategy and Delivery Group of any information, concerns or actions they wish addressed by the Strategy & Delivery Group.

Further Information:

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Background Papers:

Published documents