

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: Safer Arun Partnership

REPORT AUTHOR: Dax O'Connor, Community Safety Officer

DATE: 11 May 2022

EXTN: 37834

AREA: Community Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides summary information which is intended to assist the Committee to undertake its statutory function of scrutinising the performance of the Safer Arun Partnership.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There are no recommendations put forward with this report. It is an information paper which provides detail of the Safer Arun Partnership's activities, allowing the Committee to analyse performance.

In undertaking scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership, the Committee does have authority to make its own recommendations to the partnership in relation to any performance and reporting elements it deems appropriate.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. It is a legislative requirement that scrutiny of local community safety partnerships (CSP) is undertaken at least annually, and that the local authority carries out this function via its Crime and Disorder Committee. The council has designated the Housing and Wellbeing Committee to serve as the Crime and Disorder committee.
- 1.2. For clarification, the CSP of the Arun area is known locally as the Safer Arun Partnership (SAP).
- 1.3. Historically, the performance review has been presented to the Cabinet once a year. Following the change in governance at the Council, the last annual review was presented to the Housing and Residential Services Committee on 30 September 2021.
- 1.4. This annual review provided a long and data heavy report due to the need to include a full year's performance information. Publication was always some months after the end of the reporting year. Assessment of the information presented to in the report would not be up to date and reflective of the concerns from our communities at the time scrutiny was undertaken.

- 1.5. It has been determined that SAP should become a regular agenda item of this Committee. This will provide:
- greater transparency in reporting on the activities of SAP.
 - timely examination of performance utilising the 'live' partnership plan.
 - a more accurate and relevant report for Committee Members.
 - an opportunity for the scrutiny Committee to hold SAP partners to account and to invite agencies to Committee meetings to discuss their own contributions.
 - increased public awareness of SAP and its aims.
 - Increased accountability of all SAP members for completion of actions and work streams.
- 1.6. In scrutinising performance, the Committee holds SAP and each of its Members to account, whilst providing an opportunity for local representatives to participate in reducing crime and disorder.
- 1.7. It is intended that scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership will provide open, objective, and constructive feedback that enhances the partnership and its objectives. Value to the joint work and responses that SAP offers to the public should be provided through this process.
- 1.8. The Committee should give consideration to the availability of resources within the partnership if making any recommendations. It should be noted that all member agencies are responsible for undertaking any additional work that the recommendations create.
- 1.9. **Appendix A** provides further guidance as to the scrutiny function in relation to community safety partnerships and reference to associated legislation.
- 1.10. Performance**
- 1.11. **Appendix B** is a copy of the latest partnership plan. This has been updated following the most recent partnership meeting on 26 April 2022 and reflects the current status of all actions. This document provides all relevant information from which the committee can assess the partnership's strategic and operation actions.
- 1.12. Key performance highlights:
- SAP has provided funding for a number of projects that seek to address community safety concerns. These include:
 - Provision of personal safety devices to offer increased security and reassurance for high risk victims of domestic abuse. This scheme is managed jointly by Sussex Police and the council's Lifeline team.
 - Match funding to allow Bognor Regis BID to install additional town centre CCTV.
 - Continued use of clinical space at Dove Lodge for Change Grow Live (drug and alcohol treatment services). This additional funding was granted on the basis of public health committing future funding within its own budgets.

- Contribution towards the Littlehampton community wardens pilot project. Both the district and town councils have since committed further funding to extend the scheme beyond the pilot period.
- Community engagement project to include tackling and reducing serious violence and exploitation amongst children and adults in Wick.
- SAP undertook a detailed review of its terms of reference, resulting in an updated and more appropriate working document which provides a clear code of governance.
- Agreement on the adoption of a 'live' partnership plan has recently been made. This provides a working document which highlights relevant action points and also holds lead agencies to account. SAP can become more robust through this approach, whilst holding partners to account for their own contributions.
- In light of national incidents, SAP recognised the importance of the safety of women and girls in the Arun area. The creation of the Arun and Chichester Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) group has brought together a range of organisations to reduce vulnerabilities. Led by the district council's community safety teams, local concerns are shared with SAP for strategic oversight and direction.
- SAP endorsed and adopted an innovative report looking at the demand for drugs in Bognor Regis. Understanding the demand is fundamental to being able to develop effective intervention and support strategies. This is being taken forward via an established working group consisting of a wide range of important organisations. The link to this detailed report is provided at section 8.
- The partnership has formulated its own community safety survey, due for publication by June 2022. By consulting with our residents, we hope to better understand the issues most pressing for them, and to be able to formulate plans which can improve public awareness of SAP and confidence in the members agencies.
- Reformation of the Arun Hate and Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC). This forum has successfully brought together statutory and non-statutory groups to address the most high risk ASB cases and reduce the threat to communities.
- Anti-social and dangerous driving has been identified by SAP as a rising concern. The relevant member organisations have been tasked with assessing the local risks and to instigate a plan of action.
- The Serious or Organised Crime strategic priority is undertaking a significant review. As such, SAP agreed to discharge the previous action points to allow for the Sussex Police led evaluation of serious or organised crime and where overall responsibility for this will sit.

<p>1.13. It should be noted that SAP is due to receive its annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment, produced by West Sussex County Council, in late June 2022. This report provides significant data from a range of sources that helps to inform partnership responses and the formulation of future strategic priorities. This will be discussed at length at the partnership meeting in July and the partnership plan will be updated to reflect the assessment's impact on SAP's priorities.</p>																													
<p>2. PROPOSAL(S): None</p>																													
<p>3. OPTIONS: None. This report is only intended to aid the Committee in carrying out its function of scrutinising the Safer Arun Partnership by providing information relating to the partnership's activity. Therefore, no options have been considered in compiling this report.</p>																													
<p>4. CONSULTATION:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Has consultation been undertaken with:</th> <th>YES</th> <th>NO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Relevant Town/Parish Council</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relevant District Ward Councillors</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other groups/persons (please specify)</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO	Relevant Town/Parish Council		X	Relevant District Ward Councillors		X	Other groups/persons (please specify)		X															
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<p>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>YES</th> <th>NO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Financial</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainability</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asset Management/Property/Land</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technology</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please explain)</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				YES	NO	Financial		X	Legal		X	Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		X	Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act	✓		Sustainability		X	Asset Management/Property/Land		X	Technology		X	Other (please explain)		X
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<p>6. IMPLICATIONS: Community safety – by undertaking scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership the council is in compliance with relevant legislation. Whilst scrutiny is required by be carried out at least once a year, doing so regularly via the Committee throughout the year means the council will be doing more than the bare minimum.</p>																													
<p>7. REASON FOR THE DECISION: As an information paper there is no decision required.</p>																													

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix A – scrutiny of community safety partnerships guidance

Appendix B – SAP partnership plan

[Understanding & Reducing Drug Demand: Bognor Regis Analysis 2021](#)