

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28TH SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF ACTING HEAD OF PEOPLE PERFORMANCE AND PROJECTS

A.2 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Report prepared by Leanne Thornton Safer Communities Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider elements of the work of statutory bodies and others to make communities safer and to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and measure to detect and detect anti-social behaviour.

INVITEES

Chief Inspector Lily Benbow (Tendring District Commander) Essex Police

Chief Inspector Benbow will be undertaking a presentation to the Committee as well as answering questions on all aspects of policing and the Multi Agency Co-ordination Panel and Anti Social Behaviour.

BACKGROUND

To consider elements of the work of statutory bodies and others to make communities safer and to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and measure to detect and detect anti-social behaviour.

1. Given the previous financial support of this Council for Operation Spider activity to provide a more visible police presence in Clacton town centre over the summer, the Committee is interested to look at the experience in 2020 where no such Operation was jointly funded by this Council.
2. The extent to which Homewatch (or other Watch) groups exist across the District, the information flow to and from them and the support they require will be examined.
3. To enable the Committee to scrutinise the work of the new/revived Multi-Agency Coordination Panel (MACP); that has the remit of examining enforcement powers and protocols between various agencies locally to ensure that the most effective response possible is put in place to a range of criminal and anti-social behaviour. The Committee envisages receiving a written report setting out the work of the MACP over the 6 or more months since it was (re-) established and the intentions for the following year. Indicators for success of the MCAP should be included with

a commentary on progress towards those.

DETAILED INFORMATION

1. Essex Police, through funding by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) have given all districts permission to recruit a Town Centre Team (TCT). The TCT for Clacton consists of one police sergeant, a number of police constables and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Tending TCT is being utilised to tackle four (4) broad issues in the centre in collaboration with community safety partners (including various TDC departments, Open Road, Phoenix Futures, Anglia Care Trust, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Peabody).

These issues are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in all its forms – street drinking, homelessness (specifically begging within homelessness), poor behaviour. – Op Luscombe (Led by Tending District Council) commencement date 18th September 2020
- Day Time Economy - Shoplifting, hate crime and pick pockets.
- County Drug Lines – drug dealing, carriage of weapons, the effects criminally from being an addict and High Harm violence through turf disputes or debt collection.
- Night Time Economy – High Harm (HH) through drunken violence.

Policing of the Town Centre and specifically ASB has become everyday business.

TDC has employed an ASB Patrol Officer since August 2019. He is embedded within the TCT and works predominantly from Clacton Police Station, working the same shifts as the TCT. From September 18th the ASB Patrol Officer will play a vital sign-posting role in Operation Luscombe, a multi-agency initiative providing support to people that have been found in Clacton Town centre, rough sleeping, street drinking or are suspected of begging in a public place.

Identified individuals will be invited to attend an Intervention Hub at Trinity Methodist Church, Pier Avenue, Clacton on Sea. The Hub will have representatives from Rough Sleeper outreach workers, TDC Homelessness Team, Health and Wellbeing services, Support Agencies, Charities and Drugs and Alcohol referral services. Attendees will be able to seek help in matters that may be causing them to offend or any matters that are concerning them. All discussions will be private and confidential.

In 2019, TDC contributed funding to the police to support Operation Spider; an initiative to provide high visibility patrols within Clacton town centre. In 2020 no such funding request has been received. However, the Council has provided, at the request of the police, funding of £5K to support special projects run by the TCT to address the four issue areas as outlined above and especially to tackle ASB in the town in all its forms. The special projects for this activity are due to commence in the autumn of 2020. At the time of writing details of the projects are still to be confirmed.

2. Tendring have various 'watch groups' such as Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Frinton Residents Group and Pub Watch. In addition there are other watches including Farm Watch and Horse Watch but at this time it is unclear as to how active these groups are. Although the Community Safety partnership does not currently meet with these groups on an individual basis, regular contact is maintained through other fora; the key one of which is the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) which meets on a quarterly basis. In addition, plans have been made to have a separate meeting with the NHW however this has been delayed as a result of the Coronavirus crisis.

The watch groups are intended to facilitate a two way flow of information.

3. See Appendix - Written report provided by Chief Inspector Lily Benbow, District Commander for Tendring, setting out the work of the MACP over the 6 or more months since it was re- established and the intentions for the following year.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the Report provided and determines whether it has any comments or recommendations to put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.



Multiagency Coordination Panel (MACP) Tendring District - Interim Review

Executive summary

This report sets out a review of the Tendring District Multiagency Coordination Panel (MACP). The panel's inaugural meeting took place on the 5th November 2019 and has been convening approximately every six weeks since.

The initial Terms of Reference (TOR) aimed at managing partnership enforcement against serious and organised criminality at a local level, specifically Organised Crime Gangs and County lines. In January 2020 the Terms were amended with agreement from the panel to include Hate crime within its remit.

A full review was planned in March 2020 however due to our need to respond to the pandemic this did not take place. Although there was a slight delay for April's panel convening, virtual meetings have since taken place with good attendance and referral levels. For the foreseeable future all meetings will continue as virtual meetings.

Performance overview

The panel includes representatives from all relevant partnership agencies, including the Safer Communities Manager (TDC), District Commander, Children Social Care and the local Youth Offending Team (YOT). Representatives from various departments within both TDC and police are in attendance. Since its inaugural meeting there has been a consistent high attendance level from all partner agencies.

A 4P (Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue) plan has been prepared for the OCG within the Tendring District and is managed by Inspector Richards and the Lead Responsible Officer (LRO) Chief Inspector Benbow. The plan is reviewed regularly through the Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Board for Essex Police. Activities by action owners are progressed at panel meetings with progress documented on action plan logs. Prevention and disruption activities of County lines are coordinated through the Districts fortnightly Tasking and Coordinating Group. There is one other OCG awaiting scoring confirmation by the SOC Board which will be confirmed within the coming weeks.

No. OCG in Tendring	No. OCG Disruptions ¹
1	23

Table 1.1

Table (1.1) provides details of the two OCG's within Tendring and the number of disruptions carried out since November 2020.

¹ Disruptions are the use of existing law enforcement and other agency tactics to support a problem-solving approach

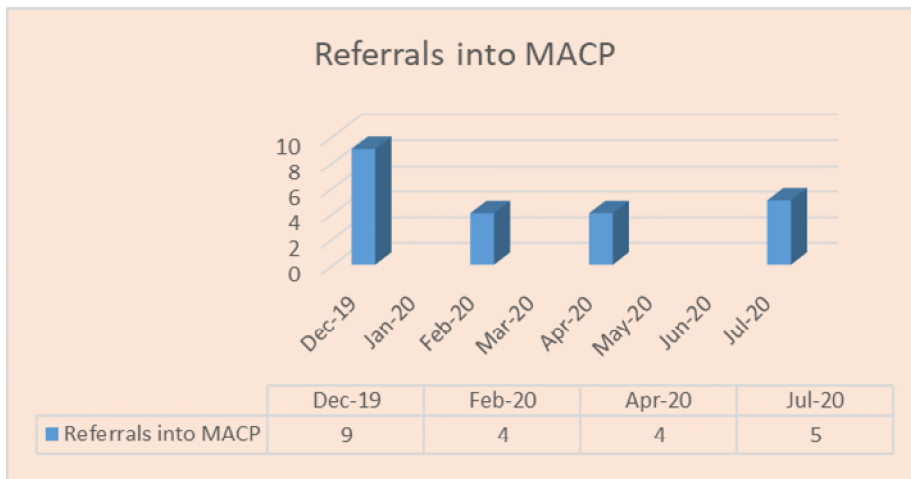


Table 1.2

Referrals (Table 1.2) have come from several agencies (DWP, Police, Clacton County High School, Tendring District Council) with the referrer attending and presenting their case to the panel for discussion.

On two occasions complex problem solving was initiated through referrals and two separate task and finish groups were established. URN 008/12/19 resulted in the successful eviction of a resident who had been responsible for numerous offences in the neighbourhood. The individuals concerned had engaged in both hate crime and ASB.

A day of action took place in early 2020 following extensive partnership work. Positive news stories were reported with residents thanking agencies for their commitment and problem-solving approach. The task and finish group for URN 001/01/2020 remains ongoing as activity has been delayed due to the pandemic.

Other positive outcomes include:

- Referrals into the Children & Young Person Officers, helping to divert two students from getting involved in County Lines activity.
- Authority to award a discretionary housing payment to an individual.
- Referral for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) status.
- Subject and family successfully re-housed within the District ensuring the subjects child was not further exposed to County lines activity and successfully placed in a local school. Subject also received debt management support.
- Referral to St. Helen's Hospice.

Governance and processes

Since inception the Panel has been co-chaired by the Police District Commander and a representative from the Fire Service. All referrals and actions are managed by the Safer Communities Manager at TDC. Referrals and actions are communicated through email with password protection on shared documents.

Recommendations

- Examining the MACP key objectives against activities indicates there may be further opportunities to develop partnership positive outcomes for victims of hate crime. Although the number of hate crimes reported in Tendring has seen a reduction since the

same time last year (Mar/Apr/May), the North LPA have seen a 7.8% increase in reported hate crime over a rolling 12 months. 42% of victims in the NLPA do not support police intervention. A greater focus on partnership problem solving in respect of hate crime resolutions may help in increasing the confidence of victims to engage.

- A coordinated and consistent media approach to ensure good news stories are publicised may increase confidence within the community in using a multi-agency approach.
- Clarity in the category of referral and subsequent outcome may assist in being able to better identify best practice and provide a structure by which a public health approach can be more readily applied.
- An in-depth review should be commissioned as we approach the 12-month date since its inaugural meeting.

Conclusion

The number of referrals, actions completed, and positive outcomes indicates that there was a clear need to re-establish the MACP. Partner agencies have maintained a consistent presence at all meetings with a strong culture of relationship building and problem-solving taking place.

Chief Inspector Lily Benbow
District Commander for Tendring

August 2020