
North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (NNCSP)

SYNOPSIS

This report discusses structural and operational matters relating to a possible North Northants Community Safety Partnership, following a proposal to merge the Community Safety Partnerships for Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough to form a new North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (NNCSP).

1. Relevant Background Details

A Community Safety Partnership has a statutory responsibility under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 for partnerships to work together to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in that local authority area. More recent legislative changes gave additional responsibilities such as the duty to hold Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews and to oversee Community Triggers through the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

At present there are four CSPs in the north of the county, working to specific local priorities that align with a number of key county strategies including the Police and Crime Plan. This has proved efficient within the localities but crime trends, particularly Serious Organised Crime (SOC), does not respect district or borough boundaries and there has been a slightly different approach to tackling similar problems.

Some CSPs have started to share resources and undertake joint activities to tackle the same crime type, e.g. Domestic Abuse, FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) and alcohol-related violence. This is beneficial in a number of ways including the sharing of ideas, resources and the saving of time.

County-wide agencies have struggled to support each CSP, particularly on the back of reductions in resources. Usually, only the local Police commanders and each district or borough council engage at the CSPs. The opportunity to take a more holistic approach across the health, criminal justice, voluntary and social care sectors would be a positive move forward. Creating a single, larger CSP would enable county-wide agencies to engage more effectively in CSPs and would also enable the Police to commit the right seniority of resource to partnership working.

2. Report

Given the issues identified above, and being mindful of the local government reorganisation proposals, the four CSPs (Corby, Kettering, East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough) have discussed a merger to create a North Northamptonshire CSP (NNCSP). This would enable issues to be strategically addressed where formerly they have largely rested with the county-wide local authority Chief Executives' Group.

The new Community Safety Board (CSB) for the county has become operational and will give strategic direction to three principal community safety priorities:

1. Serious Organised Crime (SOC)
2. Domestic and sexual abuse
3. Anti-social behaviour and hate crime

Since 2012, any CSPs seeking to merge only need the signed agreement of each responsible authority within that CSP area. The proposal has received approval from a number of the responsible authorities including the Fire and Crime Commissioner (the

Commissioner) but a formal response is awaited from the CCGs, it is expected both will agree.

Proposed NNCSP model and arrangements

Consideration has been given to how the NNCSP should operate and in particular, harmonise all the arrangements in place with the four existing district-based CSPs. The proposal is for the NNCSP to become operational from July 2019, from that point to when the new local authority governance arrangements are fully implemented.

Membership of the NNCSP must reflect the statutory requirements of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and subsequent amendments and the membership base of the four current CSPs. The NNCSP core membership should include:

- The four district and borough councils (namely: Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough),
- Northamptonshire County Council,
- Northants Police,
- Northants Fire and Rescue Service,
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs),
- National Probation Service,
- Bench CRC.

The local authority membership would of course change once the new unitary arrangements become operational.

The Chief Executives of the district and borough council chair the current four CSPs. The proposals are that these four individuals chair the NNCSP, over the shadow period on a rota. The current CSPs all meet quarterly and it is proposed to keep this arrangement for the new NNCSP. The meetings would be held across the four districts on a rota basis to coincide with the chair's rota. East Northamptonshire Council will provide the Secretariat during the shadow period.

Each CSP has elected Member involvement, either through Leader of the council, portfolio holder or nominated representative. It is expected that Members will remain involved in the new NNCSP.

None of the four current CSPs specifically hold any funding or budgets. Each of the district and borough councils makes provisions for community safety functions in their revenue budgets annually, including partner contributions for: inter-personal violence services (MARAC), ASB case management through E-Cins and the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) for the management of high-risk offenders. Externally sourced funds for CSP projects are generally held by the district and boroughs. These arrangements need to continue throughout the shadow period with progression towards pooled budgets and joint funding arrangements. The four Community Safety Managers are reviewing current community safety investment in North Northants, with the view to putting forward detailed proposals for pooling resources.

Prior to it becoming operational, the NNCSP's priorities will need establishing. It is proposed to keep the priorities from the CSB, linking the partnership's work and delivery to the Police and Crime Plan and the relevant county-wide strategies for each community safety and safeguarding function.

The merger of the CSPs into the NNCSP also means those issues that transfer from area to area dealt with at one meeting, meaning more joined-up action plans are in place to tackle these problems. In the longer term this will also enable joint commissioning.

If agreed the new NNCSP will begin 01 July 2019. Although the recent announcement by the Secretary of State that two brand new unitary authorities will be established in Northamptonshire on 1st April 2021 it is proposed to keep to the original timeline.

3. Options to be considered (if any)

To agree the merger with the North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership

To decline the merger with the North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership and await April 2021.

4. Issues to be taken into account:-

Policy Priorities

The proposal is consistent with the following Corporate Plan 'One Corby Objectives':

1. Objective 1- Promoting healthier, safer & stronger communities to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
2. Objective 3 – To make a positive contribution towards the quality of life of those who live and work in the borough

And the following Safer Corby Strategy principles:

1. To reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
2. To provide a consistent service
3. To work in partnership to deliver a safer Corby Borough
4. To tackle emerging issues through early intervention and prevention
5. To provide a visible reassuring presence and point of contact for our communities

Financial

There are no expected costs to the amalgamation of the CSP's and there is potential to join resources which would strengthen funding bids.

Risk

Should we not join the NNCSP then there may be a risk of lack of attendance and support from other agencies for the Corby CSP which would impact on its effectiveness.

Legal & Data Management

Statutory duties conferred onto CSP's (commissioning of Domestic Homicide Review's, review of Community Triggers, reduction of crime & disorder) need to be undertaken and reported on. Information Sharing Agreements will be in place to manage de-personalised information for the prevention and reduction of crime.

Performance Information

The addition of wider agency involvement will aid the annual strategic assessment and commissioning cycle of identifying priorities, setting the partnership plan, delivering action plans and evaluating impacts.

Best Value

Revising how services are delivered demonstrates that the Council is striving to continuously improve through joined up problem solving and the pooling of resources offer value for money.

Human Rights

This supports our commitment to the Act and shows that we are taking positive steps to protect resident's rights when lives may be in danger.

Equalities

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed relating to this proposal and no negative impacts are identified.

Sustainability

A combined North CSP is sustainable and can be delivered within current resources.

Community Safety

The benefits to the community, economy and society by pooling resources with the aim to reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending through partnership working will increase confidence and provide reassurance to residents and visitors.

5. Conclusion

The opportunity to form the NNCSP now will ensure that processes and plans are embedded and working prior to unitary in 2021. Streamlining of meetings should enable greater agency input, consistency and co-ordination of the north strategies and delivery plans to address the issues in each locality. This may bring added benefits for commissioning of services and strengthen funding bid applications.

6. Recommendation

The Committee:

- i) Agree to the merger of the Corby CSP into the proposed NNCSP with effect from 1st July 2019.

Background Papers

None

External Consultations

Police, OPCC & Chief Executives

List of Appendices

None

Officer to Contact

Antonia Malpas
Safer Corby Manager
01536 464647

Equality Questionnaire

This Equality Questionnaire must be completed to enable a decision as to whether a full Equality Impact Assessment should be carried out. For further information see the guidance notes.

Name of the policy, strategy or project:			
Proposal to merge the Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough & East Northants Community Safety Partnerships to form a North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership.			
Department and Section:			
Neighbourhood Services			
Lead Officer:		Contact Details:	
Antonia Malpas		Tel: 464647 Antonia.malpas@corby.gov.uk	
1.	What is the main purpose of this policy/project?		
	Report outlines the proposal to merge the existing 4 CSP's prior to the reconfiguration of our local government arrangements.		
2.	Who are its beneficiaries?		
	Residents of the Borough as processes will be imbedded prior to 2021		
3.	Has consultation on the proposal been undertaken?	Yes	No
	✓		
	Who will be/has been consulted with:		
	Chief Executives from the north, Police Constable, Police and Fire Crime Commissioner, Probation, BeNCH, CCG.		
4.	Has this consultation highlighted any negative impact?	Yes	No
			✓
	If yes, please state the negative impact:		
5.	What systems are in place to monitor its impact?		
	Statutory obligations of the CSP to share information, identify priorities through a strategic assessment, reduce crime, disorder, drug use and re-offending through monitoring of data is reported regularly.		
6.	Does the proposal contribute towards one of the 3 aims of the General Equality Duty?	Yes	No
	✓		
	Explain (general equality duties are listed at the foot of this form):		
	The proposal supports all three equality duties.		
7.	Which group is likely to be affected by the proposal?		
	Explain how each protected characteristic is likely to be affected, or not as the case may be.		

		Yes	No	Comments (<i>include data source</i>)
Age		✓		Statistics in relation to this PC are under-reported and by supporting this will contribute to increased reports which can then support commissioning and service provision.
Disability		✓		Although there are reports of disablist hate crime occurring in Corby combining data with other agencies we will be able to target delivery towards those with the PC.
Sex		✓		Actions will be delivered regardless of sex.
Marriage & Civil Partnership		✓		Actions will be delivered regardless of this PC
Pregnancy & Maternity		✓		Actions will be delivered regardless of this PC
Race		✓		By pooling resources a more accurate picture will be available so actions and activity can be directed towards emerging and established issues.
Religion or Belief		✓		Statistics in relation to this PC are under-reported and by supporting this will contribute to increased reports which can then support commissioning and service provision.
Gender Re-assignment		✓		There is underreporting of those with this PC, through promoting wider agency involvement we may encourage more reports.
Sexual Orientation		✓		Statistics in relation to this PC are under-reported and by supporting this will contribute to increased reports which can then support commissioning and service provision.
Socio Economic		✓		Crime rates are rising and by pooling resources a more accurate picture will be available so actions and activity can be directed towards emerging and established issues.
Community Cohesion		✓		Addressing crime and the fear of crime will build community resilience.
8.	What impact does the proposal have on the Equality Target Groups?	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact or Impact unknown*
			✓	
<i>*Negative Impact or Impact Unknown will require a Full Impact Assessment to be completed.</i>				
9.	Proceed to a Full EIA?	Yes		No
Lead Officer Signature:				Date:

**On completion submit copies to: Policy Officer (Equalities & Diversity)
Democratic Services for Committee with policy (if relevant)**

General Equality Duties:

- 1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

- 2 *Advance the equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. Eg:*
 - a. *minimising disadvantage,*
 - b. *taking steps to meet their needs,*
 - c. *involving them with activities where normally people with that PC participation is low.*
- 3 *Foster good relations between people that share a relevant protected characteristic and those that do not.*