

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5 JULY 2021  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) over the last 12 months at their meeting of 3 March 2021.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed that a separate report would be prepared so that the Committee could further consider the Community Safety Partnership's community engagement activities, particularly in light of the covid 19 pandemic.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 The Committee notes the appendix with the table listing the CSP's successful community engagement work over the past 12 months in spite of the challenges associated to COVID-19.
- 2.2 The Committee formally supports the partnership's ongoing commitment and innovative ways to continue to engage with the community in order to deliver services and projects to reduce and prevent crime.

**3 Explanation**

- 3.1 The CSP partners continue to meet weekly to ensure we stay in regular contact so we can tackle together issues as they emerge. This arrangement has been in place since March 2020 and was as a direct response to the pandemic.
- 3.2 The CSP has reacted creatively with alternative ways in which to engage with the community about their safety concerns whilst adhering to Covid-19 rules. Working in close partnership with key stakeholders and partner agencies to enable projects to go ahead, many of which being delivered online.
- 3.3 The CSP Action Plan for 2021 – 2022 is currently being updated following the review of the CSP's priorities during the last Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The new Action Plan for 2021-22 should be published in September 2021, providing further information on how the partnership intends to deliver on its agreed priorities.

**4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly related to the content of this report.

**5 Legal Implication(s)**

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a statutory responsibility to review the discharge of crime and disorder functions by responsible authorities in its areas.

## **6 Risk Management Implication(s)**

- 6.1 The recognised risk that a partner might disengage from joint work is reduced in the case of the CSP because each responsible authority has a statutory duty to take part. Partners recognise the value of the CSP, and the main threat to partners' involvement arises from major legislative or organisational changes.
- 6.2 Any specific risks associated with project delivery are recorded on the council's Risk Management system.

## **7 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 7.1 There are no implications for security and terrorism arising from this report.

## **8 Procurement Implication(s)**

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **9 Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

## **10 Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 10.1 The content of this report is linked to the council's new corporate priority for Sense of Community and Safety.

## **11 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)**

- 11.1 Providing community assurance is a key target of the CSP. This is done via campaigns and initiatives, and ensuring that the partnership actively engages with the community on all matters relating to improving their safety. The CSP has its own social media channel and pages on the Council's website and in the borough's ONE WelHat. The CSP has significantly increased its online media engagement in the last 12 months. The CSP will continue to build on the work developed through online promotion of activities, surveys and varied methods of engagement to improve resilience if any face to face engagement will continue to be restricted in future.

## **12 Health and Wellbeing**

- 12.1 Residents of the borough should always feel that they belong and are safe in their local area, as that is key to an individual's positive health and wellbeing.

## **13 Equality and Diversity**

- 13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with this report as it is for information only and does not propose changes to existing service-related policies.

Name of author	Bianca Moreira
Title	<i>Community Partnerships Manager</i>
Date	14 June 2021