

Minutes

Partnership Development Group

23rd September 2020



Present

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J Baugh	Yes	I Pritchard	Yes
G Courtauld	Yes	Mrs J Sandum	Yes
Mrs M Cunningham (Chairman)	Yes	P Thorogood	Apologies
T McArdle	No		
Mrs J Pell	Yes		

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

2 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked, or statements made.

3 **MINUTES**

DECISION: The Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Development Group held on 5th February 2020 were approved; however, the Chairman noted that there was a typographical error on page three, paragraph five of the Minutes, whereby the word “remain” had been incorrectly duplicated. Officers subsequently agreed to amend the error.

4 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 2019/20**

INFORMATION: The Chairman invited Tracey Parry, Community Services Manager, to introduce the report. Members were informed that Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were a statutory requirement of all Local Authority areas across the country. The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (Braintree District CSP) was comprised of representatives from Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Essex County Council (Partnership Lead and Secondary Education), Community 360 and Eastlight Community Homes.

It was reported that under legislation within the Crime and Disorder Act (Revised 2006), there was a statutory requirement for CSPs to undertake an annual strategic assessment. The assessment collated and analysed statistical and contextual data from a range of partners, and was used to inform key findings and recommendations for priorities going

forward. The strategic assessment was carried out based on the previous year's crime data (1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019) by a CSP analyst, using data from Essex Police and also partners (e.g. youth offending teams, drugs and alcohol services, etc). It was from this collation of data that the priorities of the CSP for the upcoming year were determined.

The priorities of the CSP for the period 2019/20 were to:-

- Tackle the trafficking of drugs in the community
- Increase confidence in identifying and reporting hidden harms
- Drive down violence and disorder within the community

The internal meeting structure of the CSP consisted of the Responsible Authority Group (RAG), the North Essex Local Policing Area Tasking Meetings and Community Safety Hub Meetings. It was noted that further to the national lockdown in March 2020, Community Safety Hub Meetings now took place once a month, as opposed to fortnightly as before.

In respect of funding, it was reported that the Braintree District CSP received an annual Community Safety Grant from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner of £17,739.

Some of the key achievements of the Braintree District CSP for the year included the purchasing of mobile cameras for deployment to areas believed to be experiencing criminal or anti-social behaviour; early intervention work in secondary schools in the form of theatre group performances to help raise awareness of issues such as knife crime, and funding received from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for the provision of an Intensive Prolific Offender Caseworker (IPO). The IPO Caseworker would work with a cohort of 10 individuals who had more complex needs that surrounded issues such as homelessness, offending behaviour, substance misuse and ill mental health. The 'Spot It Stop It' campaign had also been expanded upon to help raise awareness of and prevent children and young people from becoming victims of exploitation. Furthermore, a number of 'J9' domestic abuse training sessions had been delivered to raise awareness of and help victims of domestic abuse.

Other achievements of the CSP included the introduction of the 'DISC' online app to 'Pubwatch' members across the District, the app of which allowed them to communicate directly with one another and share key data. Work had also taken place on the delivery of the 'Prison No Way' education and awareness programme by the Essex Youth Service. The programme aimed to dispel the myths and glorification of crime, gang life and prison in secondary school, as well as highlight the possible consequences of such actions; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme was unable to be delivered out to schools as planned, although this would hopefully take place in the near future.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic had not significantly altered the outcomes and achievements of the CSP for 2019/20, the delivery of the proactive programmes for 2020/21 would be affected; as such, the needs of the CSP going forward would need to be regularly reviewed and monitored.

Further to the conclusion of the report, the Chairman, on behalf of Members, commended the Community Services team and their associated partners for their hard work and

dedication in helping local communities throughout a year which saw unprecedented challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

DECISION: The Partnership Development Group reviewed the annual report and did not make any recommendations to Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION: To give an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership to Members.

5 **SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO LEISURE PROVISION ACROSS THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT AND ACCESS TO SPORT – DRAFT REPORT**

INFORMATION: Members gave consideration to the draft report of the Scrutiny Review into ‘Leisure Provision Across the District and Access to Sport.’ The Chairman, Councillor Mrs M Cunningham, introduced the report.

One of the key aims of the Scrutiny Review was for Members to develop a picture what sports provision in the Braintree District looked like; this included the available leisure facilities, groups and clubs, as well as the various partnerships that supported those groups through resources such as funding. Members were also required to gain a clear understanding of the Council’s involvement with its various partners, such as the Active Braintree Foundation, in order to establish whether there was a need to improve partnership working in order to support sport and leisure provision further.

As part of their Scrutiny Review, Members took part in a number of evidence gathering sessions which helped them to identify future research streams and develop conclusions that stemmed from the evidence presented to them. As part of these sessions, Members received a number of presentations from Council Officers on the subject of leisure provision, in addition to partnership input from external parties (e.g. such as Town and Parish Councils).

The Chairman then invited Members to raise their comments or make any potential amendments in respect of the draft report. Further to the discussion, the following actions were agreed:-

Draft Recommendation 8

Members agreed to omit this recommendation from the report for the time being. Consideration would be given to this at such a stage when the impacts of upcoming developments such as Local Government reform and the emergence of the White Paper became more apparent. Further advice would also be sought from officers in Environmental Health in respect of the wording within the recommendation.

Draft Recommendation 9

Members agreed to omit this recommendation from the report as officers confirmed that arrangements were already in place at the Council in respect of leisure provision going forward; for example, the Council would be giving consideration to its contracts with leisure providers.

Officers agreed to report back to Members at a later date in respect of the omitted draft recommendations as to whether these could be given consideration in future. It was agreed that recommendations one to seven would be remain within the report as stated.

DECISION: That Members of the Partnership Development Group:-

1. Reviewed the draft report and finalised the draft recommendations to ensure that they were in keeping with the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Review and the evidence gathered.
2. Authorised the Chairman to finalise the draft report, prior to its submission to Full Council, and to give authority to Governance Officers to make any necessary administrative changes to the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To finalise the draft Scrutiny Review Report into Leisure Provision and Access to Sport, prior to its submission to Full Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.10pm.

Councillor Mrs M Cunningham

(Chairman)