

**ORIGINATOR: West Community Safety
Partnership**

PAPER NO. AP13/33

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
13 AUGUST 2013**

**SUBJECT: To report on the Western Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP)
progress on the projects funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner.**

SUMMARY:

The WSCSP has agreed 5 priorities for 2013 -14 based on the recommendations in the annual strategic assessment which also takes account of the Police and Crime Plan (Page 3). The Partnership has been allocated £72,238.27 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to commission projects which deliver against the priorities of both the CSP and those of the Police and Crime Plan.

The WSCSP covers 4 district council areas, St Edmundsbury, Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk and Babergh and is a mixture of rural and urban areas, with two large towns, 4 smaller towns and a myriad of villages. The associated crime is therefore wide ranging and access to services often limited. The night time economy and associated issues in Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds is of particular interest, whilst the rural crime is equally important and has a huge impact on feelings of safety in our area. WSCSP has developed excellent relationships with partners and commissions projects on an evidence based approach which is central to the working of the partnership. The partnership is also mindful of other agendas and endeavours to work together where there are common objectives to avoid duplication, strengthen partnership working and support best value for money.

This report outlines the progress of the partnership so far and a list of projects commissioned to date can be found at Appendix A. Please note that due to delays in funding arrangements being clarified, the projects were not commissioned until Quarter 2 and therefore progress to date has been limited. The WSCSP will be monitoring the projects as they progress and a report will be made to the Partnership at the end of September, December and March 2014 or at the project end date whichever is more appropriate.

The partnership are also key partners in a number of initiatives (continuation or implementation), although not directly funded through the WSCSP these are detailed in Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Accountability and Performance Panel note the information in this report and endorse the progress made to date.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

The WSCSP have a good track record on commissioning and delivering projects to contribute to reducing crime and making Suffolk safer. In April 2013 the WSCSP was allocated a grant of £72,238.27 in order to reduce crime and disorder and Anti-social behaviour within the West of the county.

Through the Strategic Assessment process, the CSP identified priority areas where the partnership can have an impact on crime and ASB. Together with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan the WSCSP Partnership Plan 2013/14 was produced and published.

A commissioning pack for agencies (public, private and voluntary) has been produced allowing any agency or group the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) with the WSCSP to achieve our priorities. The pack identifies the measurable outcomes that are expected should the WSCSP award funds and what outcomes are expected to be delivered.

The WSCSP has made attempts to ensure the EOI process is as simple as possible, however ensuring the projects are monitored robustly to ensure success. Each EOI to the WSCSP is initially considered by the Officer Working Group who decides if the EOI meets the priorities set out by the WSCSP Partnership Plan and is realistic in what it claims it can achieve, represents good value for money and that the required progress reporting requirements will be met.

As part of monitoring and evaluation, each project will need to set clear objectives/targets which will be evaluated on a quarterly basis, the project will also be evaluated on whether the outcomes have had an impact on reducing crime. The WSCSP has discretion to ask for additional outcomes/targets dependant on the application.

Before any EOI submitted to the WSCSP is considered, it is made clear (within the commissioning pack) that any expression must meet the priorities of the West CSP and the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

Priorities for WSCSP: 2013/14

Theme One: Sustaining a Safer Night Time Economy:

- Reduction in violence in a public place associated with alcohol
- Reduction in Anti Social Behaviour associated with alcohol
- Reduction in Criminal Damage and Public Order

Theme Two: Anti Social Behaviour:

- Reduce reports of Anti Social Behaviour involving young people
- Improve the way young people are perceived
- Reduce criminal damage where young people are the offenders

Theme Three: Domestic Abuse:

- Reduce Domestic Abuse by raising awareness
- Increasing support for victims
- Work with perpetrators

Theme Four: Substance Misuse:

- Increase awareness and understanding of substance misuse
- Reduce illegal drug and harmful alcohol use in the most deprived areas
- Promote and support recovery

Theme Five: Emerging Crime:

- Tackle short term issues not included in the Strategic Assessment
- Support Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Operational Partnership Teams with priorities raised/identified by the engagement process.

The PCC Police and Crime Priorities: Objective 3 and 4 relate to wider community safety as follows

- Reduce Re-offending
- Prevent the damaging effects of drugs and alcohol on lives, crime levels and the night-time economy
- Support Families
- Provide high quality services to victims
- Tackle domestic and sexual abuse
- Create a safer environment for road users
- Support crime prevention activity
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Engage with businesses to reduce business crime
- Improve trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

The following EOI have been submitted to the WSCSP and have been granted funding and should therefore be considered by the Panel:

SCC: Trading Standards Test Purchasing Operations: Awarded £2,000.

(This EOI supported: WSCSP Theme 1: Priority 2, Theme 2: Priority 1, 2 and 3 and PCC Priority 8)

The EOI identified intelligence led submissions supporting the need for additional operations within the West of the county. Further discussions through the West Night Time Economy Group identified a number of premises to support the need for further operations. Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been signed and returned and outcomes/targets agreed (See Appendix A).

Catch 22: Mediation: Awarded £3,500

(This EOI supported: WSCSP Theme 2: Priority 1 and 3, Theme 5: Priority 2 and PCC Priority 3 and 8).

The EOI identified mediation has a positive response to prevent ASB issues from escalating and has been used previously through the ASB co-located team where disputes have arisen and resolution may be achievable through a third party involvement. Strict referral process is in place and these can only be made through the multi agency co-located teams. SLA has been signed and returned and outcomes/targets agreed (See Appendix A).

West Suffolk Domestic Abuse Forum: Victim Support (personal alarms): Awarded £378

(This EOI supported: WSCSP Theme 3: Priority 2 and PCC Priority 4 and 5).

The EOI identified a need for increased support to victims of domestic abuse who were deemed high risk. Simple use of personal alarms provided reassurance and support at a time of crisis. A shortage in the West resulted in victims not being offered the additional support. The issue was raised at the West Suffolk Domestic Abuse Forum and EOI submitted to the WSCSP. SLA has been signed and returned and outcome/targets agreed (See Appendix A).

Suffolk Police: Police Cadet Scheme: Awarded £2,000

(This EOI supported: WSCSP Theme 2: Priority 1, 2 and 3, Theme 5: Priority 2 and PCC Priority 8)

The EOI identified a need for financial support to Police Cadet Schemes within the West with initial start up costs. The benefit of the Police Cadet Scheme was evident within the EOI and cadets would also be utilised with the test purchasing operations. An additional requirement of the scheme was encouraging young people deemed at risk to engage with the scheme. SLA has been signed and returned and outcome/targets agreed (See Appendix A).

The above list indicates the financial support to date from the WSCSP, however the partnership are also key partners in a number of initiatives (continuation or implementation), although not directly funded through the WSCSP these are detailed in Appendix B.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As part of a merged partnership the funding is held centrally by St Edmundsbury BC who act as banker for the partnership.

For auditing purposes all EOI must sign and agree the SLA which includes terms of monitoring and evaluation. In terms of funding, any EOI under £5,000 can be considered and agreed by the Officer Working Group, £5,001 - £10,000 needs consent of the chair and vice chair of WSCSP and any EOI over £10,000 must be presented to the WSCSP Responsible Authorities Group.

To date: £7,878 has been allocated to projects.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

The delay in the arrangements for funding and uncertainty over levels of funding leading up to 2013 -14 has meant that there has been a slow start to commissioning in this financial year. The WSCSP is working hard to engage with partners to ensure that appropriate evidence based commissioning continues to take place with a robust mechanism to ensure that proposed outcomes are appropriate and meet the priorities of the CSP and the PCC Plan.

It is anticipated that the commissioning opportunities will come forward in the remaining months and the CSP is confident that the allocated funding will be required. However, the Chair is keen to point out that should this not happen and the WSCSP finds that there is a substantial amount of unallocated funding, this will be returned to the PCC forthwith to be reallocated to other projects as per the agreement. The CSP would also respectfully request that this flexibility is also afforded back to the Partnership, in that if funding has been returned to the PCC but then a problem is unexpectedly identified for which funding is required, that the CSP can re-apply to the PCC for consideration.