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| Report of: | Chief Executive |
| Contact Officer: | Donna Meredith-Wood |
| Telephone No: | 01543 464638 |
| Portfolio Leader: | Crime and Partnerships |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Report Track: | Cabinet: 23/10/14 |

**CABINET
23 OCTOBER, 2014
UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on Partnership working within Cannock Chase to ensure that Cabinet are briefed on key issues and opportunities.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the update on Partnership activity.
- 2.2 That Cabinet identify any specific areas of interest for future reports.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on 21st June 2012, the regular Partnership Update report was noted and it was resolved that, in future, an Update would be required on a quarterly basis following the LSP Strategic Board meeting cycle.
- 3.2 This report provides an update on the key areas of focus for the Chase Community Partnership since the last report to Cabinet together with detailed information and case studies on specific initiatives.
- 3.3 Cabinet will recall that the LSP has adopted its own governance structure and Terms of Reference, and therefore the quarterly update reports are intended to provide a summary of Partnership work for information. Any particular areas of interest to Cabinet can be reported in more detail in future Partnership Update reports, hence the recommendation that Cabinet identify specific areas of interest in respect of Partnership working.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

4.1 The Partnership vision is shared with this Council and the Council's priorities were established alongside the development of the Partnership priorities as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Therefore the Partnership Delivery Plan includes actions which contribute to all of the Council's priorities and in particular, through the Economic, Health and Community Safety activities, will contribute to the Prosperity, People and Place priorities respectively.

5 Report Detail

5.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on 21st June 2012, the regular Partnership Update report was noted and it was resolved that, in future, an Update would be required on a quarterly basis following the LSP Strategic Board meeting cycle.

The Strategic Board has met twice since the last update to Cabinet on Partnership work and this report provides an update on decisions, funding allocations and key areas of work during that time period.

Funding allocations

Since the last Partnership update report to Cabinet, the following initiatives have received funding from the LSP:

- Partial contribution to the development of a Hednesford-based support group for carers of, and those living with, dementia = £5000
- Pilot project to provide a mentoring service during school summer holidays for Looked After Children leaving school = £1708

Specific information in respect of key areas of LSP are detailed below.

5.2 Community Safety

The Community Safety Delivery Plan was approved by the LSP on 31st March 2014. This was developed by all partners at the Joint Operations Group who will manage delivery and implementation during 2014/15. The Plan will be delivered through existing staff resources and utilising the £96, 466 funding allocated by the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2014/15. Three priority outcome areas are addressed in the Plan as follows:

- Increased assurance in the community
- Improved living environment
- Reduced offending behaviour & ASB

A copy of the Plan is available from the Partnerships Team located on the second floor in the Civic Centre.

5.3 Alcohol & Substance Misuse

The previous report to Cabinet in respect of LSP work included an update on an alcohol and substance misuse campaign which has been developed as evidence shows that young people are often associated with ASB/disorder issues when under the influence of alcohol. There are also links between alcohol misuse, low educational achievement and adult criminal behaviour.

A survey was conducted in Schools across Staffordshire which consulted young people on their drinking habits in an attempt to understand how they obtain and use alcohol, as well as their perceptions of drunkenness and associated behaviours. 61% of respondents stated that their parents had supplied the alcohol.

As a result of this information, the campaign was devised to raise young people and their parents' awareness of the effects of the alcohol and substance misuse.

The objectives of this campaign are as follows:

- Educate young people around the consequences and health issues associated with alcohol and substance misuse
- Reduce ASB/disorder issues associated with young people and the misuse of alcohol
- Advise parents of the risks around their children misusing substances and alcohol
- Reduce the amount of alcohol specific hospital admissions.

The campaign is targeted at two audiences:

- Young people aged 11 to 16 years old
- Parents

This campaign was launched in July 2014 and has been presented at numerous events targeted at young people over the summer holiday period. It has been challenging to engage schools in the delivery of this campaign (both before and after the holiday period) and, as a result, it has proven difficult to access parents of young people living in the District. Ongoing attempts to engage local schools in the campaign continue and an opportunity to meet with head teachers at the Head Teacher's Forum meetings has been requested, as yet to no avail.

5.4 Update from Joint Operations Group

The JOG meets monthly to manage the Delivery Plan and ensure operational forward-planning during known ASB/crime high risk periods throughout the year.

Since the last Partnership Update to Cabinet, one funding request has been agreed by the JOG. The request was made on behalf of the Cannock Town Centre Group in respect of the issues identified regarding young people loitering in the multi storey car park and using the ramp at the rear for skateboarding activity. The Town Centre Group is concerned about both the safety of the young people involved as well as the risk to car and lorry drivers using the area. It was agreed that two “No Loitering, No Skateboarding” signs will be erected and used by the police and security officers to move young people away from the area.

The JOG has also been planning the delivery of the Pumpkin Patrol campaign during the Hallowe'en-Bonfire Night period. An update on this initiative will be provided in the next Update to Cabinet.

5.5 Partnership Hub

The Partnership Hub continues to carry out a multi-agency tasking and co-ordinating role on a weekly basis. The Hub aims to improve community safety across the District by identifying and addressing immediate crime, disorder and vulnerability issues. This includes domestic abuse, vulnerable residents, anti social behaviour and crime trends. In recent months the membership of the Hub has grown to include representatives from Mental Health Services and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership Trust.

On 5th September 2014, Antonio Romeo, Director General of the Ministry of Justice attended to hub alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire. Feedback from both the PCC and Director General was extremely positive and, in particular, they were impressed by the wide-range of partners involved in the Hub locally.

Work is currently underway with key stakeholders from the Hub to consider how the Hub can embed the new powers available to partners under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act.

5.6 Let's Work Together multi-agency training programme

Cabinet may recall a presentation from the Chief Executive at Lichfield DC in respect of the 'Let's Work Together' initiative. This is a multi-agency training programme which provides a range of training sessions for front line staff to enable them to identify the potential signs of issues such as fire risks, medicine mismanagement, vulnerability in relation to crime and substance misuse. Staff are trained to identify potential signs and, where appropriate, raise this with the householder/individual and refer (with the individual's permission) to the appropriate partner agency for action.

Resources to develop the training programme and manage the referral process have been a barrier to developing a similar scheme in Cannock Chase during the last three years. However, an opportunity to develop a localised version of this scheme is now a possibility through the Partnership Project Officer's post. A number of partners are very keen to deliver and attend training sessions and the LSP Strategic Board has tasked a working group to develop the scheme within the District. This working group has met once to date and further updates on this initiative will be included in future Cabinet reports.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

There are no direct Financial Implications arising from the report.

The funding of each initiative is detailed in the relevant Delivery Plan as reported to the LSP Executive Board.

Funding from the LSP direct comes from a Partnership financial reserve which is a combination of external funding streams such as the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and the Locality Funds together with previous LPSA 2 reward grants and money paid into the LSP budget by individual partner organisations. Whilst this reserve has been used to allocate resources to some of the projects within the Plan, it is important to note that this a finite fund and is unlikely to be replenished in the future and therefore any opportunity to match-fund projects or achieve success through working differently with partners must be realised.

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention) –

The Partnership Delivery Plan is integral in ensuring that this Authority, and our partners meet the statutory duty placed upon the 'Responsible Authorities' under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6.5 Human Rights Act

None

6.6 Data Protection

None

6.7 Risk Management

None

6.8 Equality & Diversity

Council involvement in specific projects may be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment

6.9 Best Value

None

7 Appendices to the Report

Previous Consideration

Background Papers