

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing Paper

## **Subject: Community Safety Background**

Director: Executive Director: Wellbeing, Jane Carr

Officer Responsible: Community Safety Manager, Colin Wilderspin

Background and Reason for Briefing Note The aim of this briefing is to provide an overview of the history and legislation of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). A presentation will be delivered to the scrutiny committee to provide current work and challenges of community safety in the Cherwell District area.

## **Community Safety Legislation**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and police services duties to work together to develop crime reduction strategies and to work in partnership with other agencies to form Community Safety Partnerships to tackle identified problems. Over the years this has evolved through legislation and practice and other partners have been made statutory members of the Community Safety Partnership.

Section 17 is a clause within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which seeks to ensure that public authorities ensure that they undertake their work in ways which support crime and disorder prevention and combating community safety concerns in their area.

"Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority ... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area"

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places an obligation on local and other named authorities to consider the crime, disorder, environmental issues affecting the local area and substance misuse of all their activities and to do all they reasonably can to prevent them.

## **Statutory Public Accountability for CSPs**

The provisions contained within Sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 extended the remit of local authorities to scrutinise the functioning of the local CSPs in England and Wales. It puts in place arrangements to ensure that every local authority has in place a committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports or recommendations, about the functioning of the CSPs responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police, probation services, and Clinical Commissioning Groups who make up the statutory agencies of the CSP.

The current Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2017/18 is attached.

Completed by: Colin Wilderspin Date: 28/09/18

Presented to: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Date: