

Report for Resolution

Report to Scrutiny
20 January 2011

Report of Community Safety

Subject New Community Safety arrangements

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Purpose

To provide Scrutiny committee with an overview of the new partnership arrangements for addressing community safety in Norwich.

Recommendations

To consider which community safety processes and information the committee might like to scrutinise at future meetings, in light of the new structures and how that might be undertaken.

Financial Consequences

The financial consequences of this report are none.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the following strategic priorities:

- “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future”
- “Safe and healthy neighbourhoods – working in partnership with residents to create neighbourhoods where people feel secure, where the streets are clean and well maintained, where there is good quality housing and local amenities and where there are active local communities.”

and the following service plan priorities:

Local Neighbourhood Service:

- The need to develop a mechanism to ensure cross-departmental co-operation on crime and disorder issues to ensure the Council is meeting the needs of customers and its statutory obligations
- The need to ensure that the specific issues of crime and disorder in Norwich are addressed by the single community safety partnership for Norfolk

Strategy and Programme Management Service:

- Promote partnership working across the council whilst building and maintaining relationships with external partners either through formal structures such as the City of Norwich Partnership, or through bilateral arrangements with key individual partners.
- Provide strategic direction and guidance in thematic areas of health and well being, children’s and adult services, community safety and the voluntary sector.
- Ensures the Council fulfils its statutory duties in relation to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) through coordinating the council’s community safety work.

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

Appendix 1 - attached. Further documents, containing restricted information, will be circulated at the meeting.

Report

New partnership arrangements for Community Safety in Norwich

Context

1. Throughout last year, discussions took place amongst Responsible Authorities Partnership (RAP) members to explore ways to make community safety partnership working more efficiently across the districts, while retaining its effectiveness. The decision was taken to establish a countywide community safety partnership (CSP) to better enable this. A report detailing this proposal was presented to Cabinet in July 2010 and endorsed.
2. In November 2010, the terms of reference were adopted for the countywide CSP. While the statutory obligation to scrutinise the performance of the county CSP now sits with Norfolk County Council's scrutiny committee, each of the partner agencies holds a right to scrutinise the work of the CSP.
3. The CSP is in the process of developing priorities and actions to monitor and address. This will be informed by each of the former district level partnership plans held, along with Norfolk Constabulary's strategic assessment (October 2010 - Norwich summary at appendix 1) and current partner information. Any initiatives and / or project work commissioned by the county CSP will depend on funding and resources available to the partnership from county and individual partner input.

District Partnership Arrangements

4. The development of the county CSP (A) also resulted in the establishment of new local delivery arrangements (please refer to diagram at Appendix 1). The City of Norwich Partnership (CoNP) - the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Norwich (B) - will undertake a strategic overview of community safety in Norwich.
5. There will exist between the county CSP and CoNP a dynamic exchange of information regarding issues of community safety. It should be noted that CoNP is in the process of developing into a single board, which replaces the former delivery board and strategic board levels of district partnership working. However, it will retain key partners that contribute to issues of community safety, including children's and adult services, police, probation and health.
6. To address issues of concern regarding community safety, the CoNP is able to make use of:
 - Anti social behaviour action group (ASBAG) - this is a multi agency practitioners group that meets monthly to review, monitor and address issues of ASB in Norwich. In addition, ASBAG (C) monitors all Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Anti Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBIs) for breaches and completion, as well as other such tools and powers available to address ASB. ASBAG also problem solves around geographical areas of Norwich that have

either high level or long term ASB and is able to escalate issues to Partnership Operations Group (D), as required. Issues and individuals are referred to ASBAG by any of the partner agencies.

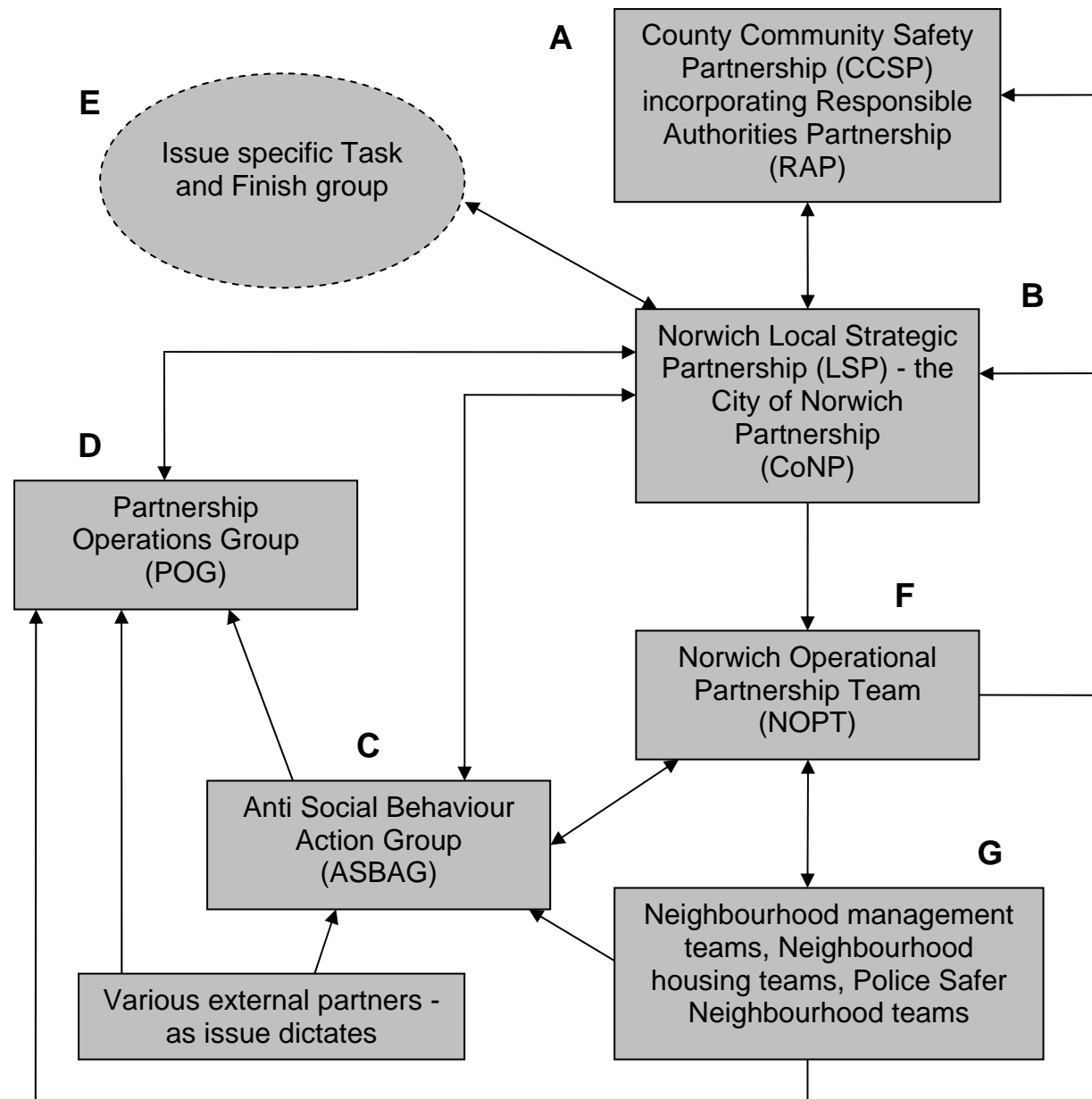
- Partnership Operations Group (POG) undertakes focused problem solving around specific issues that are not resolved at ASBAG or neighbourhood team level. In addition, POG plans proactive joint operations to effectively manage potential community safety issues linked to regular events and activities (e.g. Halloween & Fireworks night, Christmas and New Year). POG meets as and when issues dictate, rather than to a set schedule of meetings.
7. In addition, CoNP has facility to pull together time limited, task and finish groups (E) to address specific issues that are not met by POG or ASBAG.
 8. The partners involved in any of the partnership arrangements above, will vary according to the issues. Typically, this might include police, probation, fire service, youth offending team, Norfolk County Council's children's services, relevant social landlords, relevant health / mental health partners, officers from Norwich City Council's Family Intervention Project, licensing, planning, housing and Anti Social Behaviour and Tenancy Enforcement (ABATE) teams.
 9. To further support district partnership working, Norwich also benefits from the Norwich operational partnership team (F) (NOPT). NOPT is a co-located team that comprises members of the police ASB unit, including ASB case officer, county community safety team officers, architectural liaison officer and police officers. In addition partner practitioners 'hot desk' on a weekly basis into NOPT. This includes representation from Youth Offending Team, Children's Services and various practitioners from various Norwich City Council teams.
 10. NOPT has daily communication with each of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (G) (SNTs) in Norwich. This ensures speedy resolution and escalation of community safety issues to the relevant agency / partnership, as appropriate. SNTs are in regular communication with Norwich City Council's Neighbourhood teams (incorporating the neighbourhood warden service) via local Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels (SNAPs) and Police Task & Co-ordination Group (TCG) meetings. The Neighbourhood teams also work closely with Norwich City Council's housing teams, ABATE and Family Intervention Project, as appropriate.

Community Safety Data

11. Police hold crime and ASB data for Norwich, which is available to partners on request and is restricted in its circulation (to be circulated at meeting). Norwich City Council holds data on ASB reported to the Council via a number of routes available to the public and is also available to partners on request (to be circulated at meeting). These reports are collated on a monthly basis. There is currently work in progress to explore the possibility of merging Police and council ASB data to provide a single community safety data report.

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY IN NORWICH

APPENDIX 1



NOTES:

- Task and Finish groups may be established under the direction of the CoNP to address specific issues of community safety that cannot be met by existing structures.
- POG will meet only as issues dictate, for issues that cannot be resolved at Neighbourhood / ASBAG level and require extensive problem solving
- ASBAG meets monthly and receives issues from all partners
- NOPT is multi agency team based at Vantage House (Police accommodation). It includes Police ASB staff and Norwich City Council staff (partnerships, housing, ABATE), Children's and adults services and Youth Offending Team (some still to be confirmed) hot desking for set days each week.