

## **South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership**

1. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with statutory responsibility for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in each local authority area. Subsequent legislation changed the role of and responsibilities of CSPs
2. Although initially established on an individual local authority basis many CSPs have merged and cover wider areas. This has the advantage of reducing the resource demands on organisations that cover wider areas and enabling sharing of experience across wider areas.
3. The South Notts CSP covers Broxtowe, Gedling, and Rushcliffe boroughs. In addition the Safer Nottinghamshire Board provides a strategic overview for the whole County.
4. The landscape for community safety has changed significantly over recent years. The early years of CSPs was accompanied by significant financial investment in crime and community safety which meant that there was scope for CSPs to seek funding for a range of projects. This funding has dried up since 2010. Many of the funding streams which supported CSP activities are allocated to the PCC who may pass funding to CSPs.
5. The core functions of the Police and Crime Commissioners are to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force within their area, and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the police and crime plan. PCCs are statutorily required to produce the Police and Crime Plan
6. There are reciprocal duties on CSPs and PCCs to co-operate. A member of the PCC's office sits on the South Notts CSP.
7. In Nottinghamshire the PCC produces his Police and Crime Panel following a process of needs assessment and community and stakeholder consultation. There is a risk of different community safety organisations having different plans and potentially conflicting objectives. The Chief Constable has been clear in discussions that his sole priority is delivering the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.
8. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has asked about how the South Notts CSP communicates with the public and how it provides information about what it does or if it is meeting targets and making a difference.
9. The South Notts CSP took a decision several years ago to stop maintaining its website. This reflected the lack of interest from the community in the CSP and the costs of maintaining the website. It was agreed that any communication needed would be undertaken through specific media campaigns and social media messaging.
10. A search for websites across the County indicates that other CSPs have taken a similar decision. For example, the most recent information on the Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood CSP website relates to the 2008-2011 Plan. In Ashfield and

Mansfield each partnership has been renamed as Community Partnership with individual plans.

11. Given the publication of the refreshed Police and Crime Plan the South Notts CSP has commissioned some work from the community safety teams to review each council's community safety plans to ensure that the plans align and that responsibilities are clear. The Council's Community Safety Manager is producing a plan setting out how the priorities mesh and the contribution to be made locally to the Crime and Safety deliverables.
12. It is arguable that the delivery mechanism for community safety in each area is the relevant agency. As discussed at Overview and Scrutiny in January the CSP is a useful mechanism for the agencies involved in community safety in the South of the County. The Safer Notts. Board serves a similar function in addressing issues that have significance across the County where there are synergies.
13. The Council's performance on community safety is reported quarterly and examined annually by Overview and Scrutiny. Similarly, the Police and Crime Panel holds the PCC to account for performance against the police and Crime Plan. This provides a direct line of accountability.

**David Ellis, Portfolio Holder, Public Protection**