

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 22 NOVEMBER 2011  
 title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE  
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To give Members an update of a number of initiatives which Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership is currently involved with.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Ambitions –</li> <li>• Community Objectives –</li> <li>• Corporate Priorities –</li> <li>• Other Considerations –</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>}</li> <li>}</li> <li>}</li> <li>}</li> </ul> | <p>To make peoples lives safer and healthier. Community safety has always been one of the Council's top priorities in keeping the area safe. Our reputation as one of the safest areas in the country is well known both locally and nationally.</p> |
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### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership was formed in 1998 as a direct result of the Crime and Disorder Act of that same year. It is a statutory partnership which Ribble Valley Borough Council is one of the key partners.

2.2 Other partner agencies include Police, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service and NHS East Lancashire.

2.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on all Councils to 'formulate and implement for each relevant period a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area'.

2.4 I reported to Committee in June 2011 on a variety of issues both historic and current, which have shaped the work of the CSP and will undoubtedly influence its future.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 In the past four months there have been a number of initiatives which Ribble Valley CSP has become involved with.

3.2 Wasted Lives Project – this is led by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and the campaign targets young drivers and seeks to change their driving attitudes via a hard hitting presentation. It is delivered to both young drivers, parents and future drivers and is already proving very impactive.

3.3 Castle Grounds Project – this project was highlighted in the last report and work is commencing identifying key partner agencies and undertaking a needs survey for young people.

- 3.4 Smart Water/Farm Watch – a meeting of interested individuals was held in early October at which farmers and residents living in the Newton-in-Bowland area heard about the potential use of smart water as a deterrent against theft. Smart water is a liquid which, when smeared on to anything, produces a series of unique microdots which can be traced back to the owner if that article is stolen. There is a good track record of goods being recovered.
- 3.5 Farm watch is a system whereby local farmers are linked to one another and the police and aims to provide further protection and reassurance in isolated rural areas. Smart water and Farm watch can be interlinked via signage, publicity and a network of people who are looking to protect their property and possessions.
- 3.6 Longridge Community Alcohol Network – this was launched on Thursday, 27 October by Lancashire Trading Standards in conjunction with the police. It has the full support of the CSP. The aim of the network is to reduce under age drinking, proxy sales of alcohol and any resulting anti social behaviour by targeting off-licences, young people and parents in an awareness raising campaign which will last for six weeks.
- 3.7 National Alcohol Awareness Week is exactly as its name suggests. There are a number of awareness raising initiatives planned for the week including an online survey, staff awareness sessions at the Borough Council, meeting the public to make them aware of the perils of alcohol abuse and extra police and under age alcohol checks in problem areas.
- 3.8 Domestic Homicide Reviews – all CSPs have been given a duty to conduct these reviews as from April 2011. Guidance has been sought from the Home Office on how to conduct such reviews and a full report will be submitted to the next Community Safety Partnership in January 2012.
- 3.9 In the meantime, two important appointments need to be made that of Chairman of the review team and the report author. I hope to be able to report on some progress with these appointments at Committee. The Home Office have not provided any funding for such reviews, although the CSP will try to identify funding from within existing budgets. The whole review period lasts for seven months from the date of any domestic homicide.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 As can be seen from the above initiatives, Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership continues to be active in a number of different spheres of influence and will continue to use its influence in relation to issues such as alcohol awareness, anti social behaviour and domestic violence.

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Bill Alker, extension 4412.