

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2013
 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 the current work programme and budget of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership (RVCSP).
- 1.2 To look at how the CSP links with other bodies to ensure that Ribble Valley remains one of the safest places in the United Kingdom.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives - }
 - Corporate Priorities - } The future success of RVCSP will impact upon the Council's ambition to keep Ribble Valley a safe and healthy place to live and work.
 - Other Considerations - }

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership has now been operating for 14 years. Its principal aim is to help combat crime and disorder in the district.
- 2.2 It provides its component agencies (RVBC, LCC, Police, Lancashire fire & Rescue Service, Probation Service and Public Health) with the ability to work together to combine scarce resources to help reduce crime in the borough.
- 2.3 Over the years the Community Safety Partnership has been responsible for a number of initiatives aimed at crime reduction:
 - CCTV in Clitheroe, Whalley and Longridge.
 - A one to one mentoring scheme for young people.
 - Castle Grounds project tackling drugs and alcohol.
 - Use of Smartwater liquid in remote rural areas to protect property.
 - Wasted Lives Campaign aimed at teenage drivers.
- 2.4 Funding originally came via the Home Office through Government Office North West. With the demise of regional government, this was then transferred to Lancashire County Council for them to administer.
- 2.5 Lately funding has been restricted to second homes funding and other small pots of money. Recently, all Lancashire CSPs have been allocated £10,000 by the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.6 Even with diminishing resources, both financial and staffing for the CSP, the Ribble Valley has consistently been one of the safest places in the country in terms of reported crime.

3 ISSUES

3.1 With the limited budgets which were reported to your June meeting, we have tried to allocate resources to priority initiatives.

3.2 The Community Safety Partnership has allocated £5,500 to community alcohol networks which use special constables and Trading Standing officers to travel around known hot spot areas in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. Their remit is to look to prevent underage drinking, substance misuse and risk taking behaviour.

3.3 These patrols operate on a sporadic basis on Friday evenings and have produced some notable successes recently including Facebook party disruptions and drugs seizures.

3.4 We have championed the use of Smartwater in rural areas and encouraged farmers and rural businesses to sign up to Farmwatch and Smartwater as a preventative tool against crime.

3.5 The CSP has also supported the Lancashire Fire & Rescue led Wasted Lives Campaign, which is aimed at educating young drivers about car safety, drink driving and spatial awareness in an attempt to reduce the number of road casualties in the 17-24 age range.

3.6 Ribble Valley suffers a disproportionately high number of road casualties in that age range, primarily because of the rural nature of many of our roads but also due to more affluent parents buying their children high powered vehicles.

3.7 The centre piece of the Wasted Lives presentation is the wreck of an actual vehicle which was involved in a collision killing a teenage young man from Read.

3.8 Alcohol zone signage has been improved and increased in Clitheroe and it is hoped to introduce polycarbonate beer and wine glasses in Clitheroe on the run up to Christmas.

3.9 We also provide a small maintenance budget for Longridge CCTV system and recently repaired one of the cameras at the Forest Arms on Berry Lane, Longridge.

3.10 Regular Friday night football sessions take place at the end of Longridge Youth Club between 9.30am and 10.30pm at Longridge High School. These are run by a youth worker/coach and these sessions regularly attract around 20 young men on Friday evenings.

3.11 The CSP also make small financial contributions towards various police operations, the most recent of which was Operation Firecrest which targeted rural crime and was launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner at Beacon Fell, Longridge.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – an available budget of £40,000 has been split over two years (£20,000 for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 as there is great uncertainty whether there will be any funding available for next financial year).

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – Having a successful and active CSP enhances the reputation of the Borough Council as we are key players within the Partnership.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

5 **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership continues to act as the co-ordinating body for its various component agencies and to work towards reducing crime in the Ribble Valley.
- 5.2 Future funding is as ever a concern but we will continue to use available resources to their best advantage.
- 5.3 Future update reports will be submitted to this meeting as and when appropriate.

BILL ALKER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Eastern Division Community Safety Plan 2012/2015.
2. Police Commissioners Funding Notification – 15 March 2013.

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

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