

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

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2014  
 title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE  
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: BILL ALKER - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on recent activities of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership including budgets, priorities and wider working with neighbouring districts.
- 1.2 To reflect discussions taking place at a countywide level in respect of more strategic elements of community safety.
- 1.3 In particular to agree the threshold for the 'Community Trigger' element of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which will come into force in October 2014.
- 1.4 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
  - Community Objectives - } It is a key part of the Council's ambitions and
  - Corporate Priorities - } priorities to work together with other agencies to
  - Other Considerations - } keep the area safe and protect the community it serves

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership has been in existence for the past 15 years. It was brought into being by the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.
- 2.2 That Act placed a duty on a number of named agencies to work in partnership to help combat crime and disorder.
- 2.3 Each district in England and Wales have a community safety partnership which co-ordinates agencies response to crime and disorder in their particular district.
- 2.4 Other relevant agencies involved in the partnership include the Police, Lancashire County Council, Public Health, Probation Service and Fire & Rescue.
- 2.5 Whilst Ribble Valley is consistently one of the lowest crime areas in the country, there have nevertheless been some notable projects which have all contributed to that success.
- 2.6 These include CCTV in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley; the Castle Grounds project; construction of Longridge Skate Park; alcohol control zones; polycarbonate glasses in town centre pubs; wasted lives project and many more.

2.7 Whilst funding has been limited, it is fair to say that the Community Safety Partnership have made the most of the funding which has come its way.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership met recently and agreed how it would spend this year's budget of £20,000.

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Cost</b>
CAN/CANSAFE	£6,000
Longridge CCTV maintenance	£2,500
Rural crime initiatives	£2,500
Speed indicator device	£3,000
Sheds/rural building locks	£1,000
Event marshal training	£1,500
Publicity for World Cup domestic violence initiatives	£500
Conferences, travel etc	£500
Total	£17,500
Reserve	£2,500
Grand Total	£20,000

3.2 These initiatives address most of the priorities identified by the Community Safety Partnership, such as road safety, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour/criminal damage, travelling criminals and violence including domestic violence.

3.3 The CAN initiative has been particularly successful in acting as a prevention measure aimed at young people drinking underage, illegal use of drugs and risk taking behaviour.

3.4 On a recent CAN initiative held on Friday, 9 May 2014, the target audience was year pupils who had started study leave prior to their GCSE exams.

3.5 The results were as follows:

Significant alcohol seizures from underage youths were made. 8 youths were taken home to their parents with a further 2 being reunited with parents at the CANSAFE base in Pimlico Road, Clitheroe.

A further 18 youth referrals were made to the Police. The operation was deemed as successful as it prevented young people from being intoxicated near Edisford Bridge with all the potential dangers that would cause.

3.6 With the forthcoming World Cup fast approaching, attention will switch to England football matches, some of which will be shown late at night with extended licensing hours. This could result in over consumption of alcohol which in turn might cause an increase in domestic violence. An awareness campaign is currently being rolled out across Lancashire via billboards, bus shelter adverts, beer mats, pub promotions etc.

3.7 Increasingly community safety partnerships are being encouraged to work more collaboratively and strategically across the county. Whilst this is welcomed by this particular partnership, in many ways there is a real danger of smaller CSPs being forced either into merger with larger neighbours or simply being side lined as we do not have significant levels of crime.

- 3.8 Your officers will continue to make the case for Ribble Valley's partnership and the need to retain a seat at the table when bigger issues are being discussed and decided.
- 3.9 A recent piece of legislation which could have important significance on both the Council and the community it serves is the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 3.10 One particular element of the Act, the 'Community Trigger', gives people who have been suffering from anti-social behaviour and who feel that agencies have not dealt effectively with the problem, the ability to trigger a review of how those agencies have dealt with that particular issue.
- 3.11 This legislation will come into force in October 2014 and the Council, Police, social landlords and the Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed the procedure to be followed.
- 3.12 A copy of that procedure will be published by the relevant agencies on their websites and I will report back to Committee in September on the agreed wording.
- 3.13 The Community Safety Partnership will also work alongside Early Break, who are providing outreach for young people with drugs and alcohol problems. They will work closely with both Young Peoples Service and the Police to identify and rectify these problems for a 12 month period.
- 3.14 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership will continue to work with other agencies to identify 'early interventions' which will enable different agencies to act in partnership to resolve problems at an early stage rather than wait for the problem to escalate by lack of action.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership will continue to work effectively bringing a number of agencies together and encouraging them to work in partnership.
- 4.2 They work with a limited budget and make best use of that budget by encouraging collaborative working.
- 4.3 Partnership working can bring together scarce resources to tackle problems. A prime example is with the CAN initiative and the use of special constables.
- 4.4 Whilst the Community Safety Partnership has always collaborated alongside its neighbours on a number of initiatives, it has no desire to be merged, taken over or ignored by larger district partnerships or other agencies.
- 4.5 The Community Safety Partnership will continue to act as a first point of contact for new legislation such as the community trigger. It is vital that districts respond appropriately to new legislation and do what is required of them by law.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
- Resources - Community Safety Partnership has identified a budget of £20,000

primarily from outside funding arrangements.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – It is important for the Ribble Valley to continue to be recognised as one of the safest places in the country.
- Equality & Diversity – The Community Safety Partnership will ensure that quality and diversity are always applied in any initiatives which they are responsible for.

## **6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

6.1 Note the content of the report.

6.2 Continue to support and endorse the continuance of Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership and to support officers in future discussions with other Lancashire community safety partnerships, Lancashire County Council and the Police in relation to future mergers or take-overs against the best interests of this partnership and the residents of the Ribble Valley.

BILL ALKER  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Anti-Social behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.  
Ribble Valley Community Safety Strategy 2012-2015.

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

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