

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2015  
 title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – CURRENT ISSUES  
 submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: BILL ALKER – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update Committee on current initiatives which the Community Safety Partnership is involved with and to consider the future direction of the CSP as a separate partnership.

1.2 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 - } help 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 sixteen years and was brought into being by the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

2.2 The Act placed the 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 has a Community Safety Partnership which co-ordinates agencies response to crime and disorder and community safety in their particular area.

3.4 Other relevant agencies involved in the Partnership include Police, Lancashire County Council, Public Health, Probation Service and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

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 helped contribute to that success.

2.6 These include CCTV in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley, Castle grounds project, construction of Longridge Skate Park, alcohol control zones, polycarbonate glasses in town centres pubs, wasted life projects and many more.

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

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership has been involved with a number of initiatives during 2014/15. These include:

- CAN/CANSAFE;
- Extra polycarbonate glasses in town centre pubs;

- supporting Early Break outreach projects;
  - supporting waste lives campaign;
  - white ribbon campaign;
  - wider collaboration with neighbouring Councils.
- 3.2 CAN and CANSAFE continues to operate regularly on Friday evenings in the Ribble Valley. Special Constables and Trading Standards work side by side on targeted patrols looking at regular hotspots where youths gather to consume alcohol under age, take illegal drugs and place themselves in risk situations.
  - 3.3 Early Break who are a young people's drugs and alcohol advice service have been providing an outreach service on regular Friday evenings since May 2014. Whilst comparatively speaking Ribble Valley's numbers are low, nevertheless, the take-up is proportionately good and a useful base to work with Early Break who liaise with the Police, Young People's Service and the CAN/CANSAFE teams.
  - 3.4 Rural crime continues to attract a high number of incidents in our rural communities. Operation Firecrest is a recent example of how the Police are working in tandem with landowners, Environment Agency, Defra and others to help reduce this particular problem.
  - 3.5 Extra polycarbonate glasses were ordered for the festive period to help prevent glassings in licensed premises. This funding was provided by the Mayor of Clitheroe's charity fund and the former Town Mayor, Councillor Kevin Horkin, had kindly agreed to fund this particular project.
  - 3.6 Councillor Horkin, as Chair of the CSP, accompanied Police who were on duty on Friday, 19 December (Mad Friday) which is a traditional day when local firms close early for Christmas which can lead to excessive amounts of alcohol being consumed.
  - 3.7 A much talked about merger of the Penning Lancashire Community Safety Steering Group was discussed recently at a meeting of East Lancashire Chief Executives and other key agencies. Ribble Valley remains opposed to this idea as we feel that our influence and local voice would be lost in a larger merged CSP. Members are asked to endorse your officer stance on this issue.
  - 3.8 Allied to this talk of mergers, there is running alongside it the question of budgets and whether the Police and Crime Commissioner will continue to provide funding for individual CSP's as he has for the past 2 years. A representative from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office will attend the Community Safety Partnership on Thursday, 29 January 2015 to inform us of the PCC's future budget plans.
  - 3.9 The Community Safety Partnership is also hoping to persuade all Ribble Valley schools to embrace the wasted lives campaign which looks at young driver awareness in particular in relation to drink/driving initiatives and the morning after the night before.
  - 3.10 Finally it is hoped that a new road safety group will look at ways to reduce road casualties in the 16 to 25 age bracket. This group will consist of Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council Safer Travel Unit, Health and Ribble Valley Borough Council.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership will continue to work effectively bringing together a number of agencies and encouraging them to work in partnership to help reduce crime figures in its area.

- 4.2 The CSP works with a limited budget and will continue to 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 the CAN initiative and its innovative 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 first point of contact for any new legislation. It is vital that districts respond appropriately to such legislation and do what is required of them by law.

## 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – This is always an issue for the CSP as funding pots continue to reduce. Currently the Police and Crime Commissioner contributes £10,000 and Ribble Valley Borough Council allocates £5,000 towards the annual budget.
  - Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
  - Political – Important to continue the good work of the Community Safety Partnership over the past 15 years.
  - Reputation – Ribble Valley continues to be one of the safest places in the country.
  - Equality & Diversity – The Community Safety Partnership will ensure the equality and diversity are always applied in any initiatives which they are responsible for.

## 6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Note the content of this report and endorse the retention of a Ribble Valley CSP.

BILL ALKER  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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

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