



## **CABINET – 5TH OCTOBER 2022**

**SUBJECT: SAFER CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Cabinet in relation to the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet endorsement of the updated Terms of Reference of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.3 To approve the Cabinet member with responsibility for community safety, currently the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, as the voting representative for Caerphilly Council on the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Responsible authorities, including the Council, are required to work together as a Community Safety Partnership to address crime and disorder, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and to reduce reoffending.
- 2.2 Partners have a strong track record of working together within the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership. Partnership arrangements in Gwent have changed with the establishment of the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) and the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership has reviewed its terms of reference.
- 2.3 This report updates Cabinet on the activities of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership. It also seeks endorsement of the Partnership's updated terms of reference and approval for appropriate Cabinet Member representation on the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.2 That Cabinet endorse the updated Terms of Reference of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.3 That Cabinet approve the Cabinet member with responsibility for community safety, currently the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, as the voting representative for Caerphilly Council on the Safer Caerphilly Partnership.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To appraise Cabinet of the activities of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.2 To confirm the Council's representation on the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (and amending legislation) places a duty on specified responsible authorities to formulate and implement:
  - A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder;
  - A strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and
  - A strategy for the reduction of reoffending.

Other legislation requires a strategy group to be established who must:

- Prepare strategic assessments; and
- Prepare and implement a partnership plan, for the area on behalf of the responsible authorities

- 5.2 The responsible authorities are:

- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Gwent Police
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

A Community Safety Partnership forum has operated in the county borough since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In addition to the responsible authorities listed above, membership includes other agencies such

as the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO), and representation from the Regional Substance Misuse Team and the Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Team. From a Caerphilly Council perspective membership includes Public Protection, Youth Services, and Youth Offending Services, with input from other services when necessary. The Chair of the CSP is Chief Inspector Amanda Thomas, Gwent Police and the Vice Chair is Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services, Caerphilly Council. Councillor Philippa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection is a Member as community safety is within her portfolio. Councillor Colin Elsbury is a member as the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority representative.

- 5.3 In practical terms the community safety partnership is concerned with:
- Crime & Disorder
  - Reducing offending and re offending
  - Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)
  - Substance misuse
  - Domestic abuse violence against women and girls
  - Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)
  - Organised crime

There are also links to Modern slavery, Counter terrorism, and Community Cohesion.

- 5.4 The Safer Caerphilly Well Being Delivery Plan outlines the current priorities for the CSP. This work is co-ordinated by the Council's Community Safety Team who work closely with partners to ensure the statutory duties for the partnership are met and resources deployed effectively to address identified priorities. Arrangements in the county borough are supported by the Safer Caerphilly Hub which is a Multi-agency office in Penallta House established in 2018. This arrangement supports information sharing between partners and facilitates the partnership tasking process.
- 5.5 The CSP has an intelligence led approach with an annual Strategic Assessment produced to analyse crime and disorder data. In addition, monthly crime and anti-social behaviour statistics are produced by Gwent Police and shared with partners. Fortnightly meetings of the Safer Caerphilly Tasking Process are held with community safety partners to identify priority locations, subjects and victims of concern and effectively deploy partnership resources. A Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI) agreement is in place for all of the Community Safety Hubs across Gwent to share information. Partners commit resources appropriately and Community Safety Wardens, Positive Futures, Youth Outreach and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) tasked to identified priority areas.
- 5.6 Partnership arrangements are in place to address anti-social behaviour and the 4 Strike Anti-Social Behaviour Process aims to reduce an individual's unacceptable behaviour whilst also offering supportive interventions. The early intervention and prevention work has been extremely effective with over a 90% reduction in offending behaviour between strike 1 and strike 4 of the process.

A range of tools and powers are considered for each case which can include Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Civil Injunctions, Community Protection Notices, Closure Orders and Criminal Behaviour Orders. During 2021-2022 a total of 14 multi-agency strike meetings were held to discuss 93 cases. Of these, 6 individuals continued to offend and the community safety partnership applied for and obtained Civil Injunctions at court.

5.7 The Community Safety Partnership has introduced various initiatives that aim to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour:

- Projects with the Fire Service to prevent deliberate fire setting such as Operation Arid, Project Bernie and Operation Bang which addresses anti-social behaviour over Halloween and Bonfire Night.
- Joint Operations and Dispersal Orders conducted between Community Safety Wardens, Gwent Police & Partners.
- Weekly Youth Service Outreach and Positive Futures sessions held to target hotspot areas and engage youths on the cusp of offending.
- Youth Offending Service projects to prevent escalating offending behaviour which can include family support and mentoring.
- Public Space Protection Orders have been implemented covering over 300 locations across the county borough, all aiming to prevent anti-social behaviour.

5.8 Caerphilly County Borough Council employ a dedicated team of Community Safety Wardens who act as the eyes and ears of the community. In February 2022 the Council agreed to increase the team from 6 to 10 (full time equivalent) Community Safety Wardens. The Wardens carry out daily patrols to tackle anti-social behaviour in hotspot areas and also have use of a mobile CCTV van which is utilised to target specific priority areas identified via the partnership tasking process. The Wardens can issue fixed penalty notices for offences including littering, dog fouling, smoking and breach of a PSPO and are accredited with Police powers. During 2021-2022 the team spoke to 4782 individuals regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour, issued 74 warnings, confiscated 98 items of alcohol and referred 426 environmental issues to other departments.

5.9 In addition to the fortnightly Tasking meetings that analyse the local crime and disorder priorities a multi-agency Organised Crime Group has been developed for Caerphilly to assist investigations and intelligence gathering. Community Safety Partners support Gwent Police in dealing with their most prolific/high profile offenders. The partners share intelligence and look to use their tools and powers to address offending. In 2021 partners worked together to obtain a court order against an individual who was part of an organised crime gang. The case is now used to demonstrate best practice and an example of good partnership working.

5.10 The Community Safety Partnership oversees the Prevent and Channel Counter Terrorism statutory duties for Caerphilly. The Community Safety Team works with partners to implement a regional Prevent Delivery Plan, co-ordinates the referral process and Prevent staff training. A Caerphilly Channel Panel has also

been developed and meets monthly to manage and support individuals identified as being at risk of radicalisation.

- 5.11 An initiative called 'After Dark' has been developed to address issues surrounding the night-time economy such as substance misuse and crime and disorder. The partnership project focuses on safety around the night-time economy particularly around sports events and the Christmas period. Work includes visits to licensed premises by Gwent Police and Local Authority licensing officers, media campaigns to promote safety, regular patrols by Street Pastors, Community Safety Wardens and Police, engagement with licensees, local businesses and residents. Incidents that occur at or just outside of licensed premises are discussed on daily management meetings and action is quickly taken with those premises.
- 5.12 The Community Safety Partnership has a statutory duty to conduct a Domestic Homicide Review whenever a domestic homicide occurs in Caerphilly County Borough. There are currently two on-going reviews that are being managed by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 5.13 In July 2014 Safer Caerphilly established its own social media presence on Twitter using the handle @SaferCaerphilly. The account is used to promote the work carried out by Safer Caerphilly partners to reduce levels of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, and partnership events. The account currently has 1,230 follows. Media campaigns have been developed to address issues highlighted as crime and disorder priorities. The Partnership have created various newsletters, leaflets and posters to promote its work, advertise campaigns and to update residents on key community safety developments. Community engagement events are held in hot spot priority areas to seek the views of residents, identify issues and work together with partners to address concerns.
- 5.14 The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership receives external grant funding from the Welsh Government and the Police & Crime Commissioner to address anti-social behaviour and crime prevention. This funding allows the partnership to fund the following projects that provide early interventions and prevent offending:
- Gwent Early Intervention, Prevention and Diversion Project - Run by Positive Futures in Caerphilly the project offers young people engaging opportunities to become involved in sporting activities which help them to develop life skills and achieve their potential. By providing quality sport, the programme acts as a positive alternative to anti-social behaviour, creating safer and more inclusive communities as a result. The Positive Futures staff work in targeted hot spot locations identified via the tasking process to support young people from entering the criminal justice system.
  - Targeted Youth Outreach - The Targeted Youth Outreach Project run by Caerphilly Youth Services works to reduce and prevent first time entrants, involvement in anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour.

The project focuses on sessions delivered via detached, one to one and centre based activities. The young people engaged in the project are identified via the partnership multi-agency processes such as the ASB Strike 4 process and tasking.

5.15 Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS) are funded to run the following projects:

- REACH (Reach, Engage And Change Happens) Prevention Project - The Reach project has been developed to provide a multi-agency response to children aged 8-17 at risk of offending or displaying anti-social behaviour. The REACH project ensures that children and their families receive access to prevention support as well as substance misuse support, family support, mental health access and support, Speech and Language Therapist support and access to community activities.
- Youth Respect Programme - This project works with children aged 10-18 identified as at risk of offending or re-offending related to domestic abuse. This project looks to provide complementary, specialist targeted prevention, intervention and support services to child perpetrators of domestic abuse; where a child is showing early indications of, or are already exhibiting abusive, aggressive and controlling behaviours in family or intimate relationships.
- Family Support Project - This project provides support for all children and their families involved with the YOS. During every intervention voluntary family support is considered and offered to help maintain/increase the stability of living accommodation for children, whilst building on relationships within the home.
- Restorative Approaches for Children Looked After Project - This is a Gwent Wide Project established following the identification of a need to provide support for those caring for Children Looked After (CLA) placed with foster carers, in residential homes/units, in supported accommodation, with extended relatives or placed at home with parents/carers. The project aims to reduce the number of CLA entering the Youth Justice System, as well as reducing the re-offending rates of those CLA already in the Youth Justice System.

5.16 With the introduction of the Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB) in 2016 the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was brought within the Safer Communities theme of the Caerphilly PSB's Well-being Plan and the Safer Caerphilly CSP transitioned to a Safer Caerphilly Working Group reporting to the Caerphilly PSB. The establishment of the single Gwent Public Services Board in 2021 covering the 5 local authority areas provides an opportunity to review the community safety partnership arrangements for the county borough. Indeed, the Gwent PSB has established a working group to conduct its own review of community safety in the region. Additionally, the Government has recently published its Police and Crime Commissioner Review

(Part 2) update and as one of the recommendations, the Government confirmed it would be holding a full review of Community Safety Partnerships.

5.17 In May 2022, the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership held a development workshop. With over 40 attendees including representatives across partners and external observers, the workshop identified strong partnership working and information sharing as some of the key strengths of the CSP. Notes from the workshop are included at Appendix 2. Three key areas for improvement were identified:

1. The uncertainty created by short-term community safety funding arrangements for posts and projects.
2. Partnership analyst capacity which would enhance early intervention and prevention work.
3. An early intervention coordinator post to develop projects throughout the county borough.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 As can be seen from the above the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership is in good health. Some areas for improvement as detailed above have been identified and these will now be considered by the CSP. With the establishment of the Gwent Public Services Board, and to strengthen local arrangements further, at its 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 meeting the CSP agreed to updated Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 which Cabinet are asked to endorse. The updated terms of reference set out that the Safer Caerphilly CSP will report to the Gwent PSB, but that the statutory responsibilities placed on the CSP for the Caerphilly County Borough area are absorbed within the delivery arrangements for the Safer Caerphilly CSP. Further, from a Caerphilly Council perspective, Cabinet are asked to appoint the Cabinet member with responsibility for community safety, currently the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, as the voting representative for Caerphilly Council on the safer Caerphilly Partnership.

## **7. ASSUMPTIONS**

7.1 There are no assumptions within this report.

## **8. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this Report relates to governance of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

## **10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

## **11. CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated into the report accordingly.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

12.1 Crime & Disorder Act 1998

Author: Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive  
Councillor Philippa Leonard, Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection  
Councillor D.T Davies, Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Colin Elsbury, South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority  
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director, Economy & Environment  
Chief Inspector Amanda Thomas, Chair of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership  
Jacqui Morgan, Trading Standards, Licensing & Registrars Manager  
Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Steve, Harris, Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Natalie Kenny, Community Safety Officer  
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Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Development Manager  
Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager  
Jo Williams, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director, Children Services  
Nicola Barrett, Service Manager, Safeguarding & Review



Appendices:

Appendix 1: Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: Safer Caerphilly CSP Workshop 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Notes