

Leicestershire County Council **Community Safety Strategy** **2019-2021**

Purpose

This strategy document provides details of relevant legislation in relation to Leicestershire County Councils (LCC) responsibilities concerning crime and disorder, provides an overview of the role of the LCC community safety team, and outlines the crime and disorder priorities agreed by Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's), the Police Crime Commissioner, and the statutory responsible agencies across Leicestershire.

Background

Alongside District Councils, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Health Authorities, Police Forces, Police and Crime Commissioners and Probation; County Councils were designated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as 'Responsible Authorities'. This places a duty on these agencies to work together to reduce crime and disorder in their areas.

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), which are an alliance of organisations statutorily responsible for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending within a set locality. Leicestershire has six CSP's based on district geographical areas which includes one merged CSP for Blaby District and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are elected representatives who oversee how crime is tackled in a police force area. Their aim is to cut crime and to ensure the police force is effective. In terms of responsibilities PCC's have an oversight function in relation to the police and are also required to introduce a Police and Crime Plan focused on reducing crime and disorder. It is of note that the PCC and CSPs should have due regard to each other's priorities within their respective plans.

The oversight function in relation to the way in which the PCC discharges duties is undertaken by a Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) Police and Crime Panel. The Panel includes a Leicestershire representative who can raise county related issues. The Leicestershire representative is currently the County Council Cabinet Lead Member for safer communities and chair of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB).

The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives statutory responsibility for two tier authorities such as Leicestershire, to have a county-level Crime and Disorder strategy group. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board, chaired by LCC's Lead Member for Safer Communities, comprises representatives from LCC, each of Leicestershire's CSPs, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Public Health, the

National Probation Service, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner.

As a result of the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012, additional legislation was introduced focused on county-level strategy groups working within two-tier local authority arrangements. The Crime and Disorder regulations 2012 place a duty on county level strategy groups to introduce a community safety agreement (CSA). The purpose of the CSA is to identify and enable co-ordination of county wide priorities. In Leicestershire the CSA is also available online to the public and provides links to national strategies and priorities linked to crime and disorder.

STRATEGY DELIVERY

In two-tier authorities, county councils have a pivotal role in co-ordinating community safety activity in addition to their role as a statutory responsible authority. Part of the role of the LCC community safety team is to provide support to the county level strategy group; the LSCSB. The key aspects of the local approach linked to the statutory responsibilities placed on county level crime and disorder strategy groups are as follows:

- That the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB) will be responsible for setting priorities at a county level;
- The LCC Community Safety Team will co-ordinate with the assistance of partner agencies the agenda and the work-streams overseen by LSCSB; and
- In line with statutory responsibilities within two-tier local authority arrangements co-ordination will include assisting in the preparation of a Leicestershire community safety agreement, and a regular review of the LSCSB terms of reference.

Another important function of the LSCSB is to draw together senior partners from the responsible authorities. The strategy group provides the forum to discuss and agree priorities, and check and challenge around matters affecting the delivery of crime reduction, offender management, and substance misuse across the county. A part of the LCC community safety team duties involve providing support to enable the effective operation of this aspect of the LSCSB activity.

PRIORITIES

The priorities in relation to crime and disorder were agreed by LSCSB during 2018 and are outlined in the current CSA. The county wide priorities are as follows:

- Identify and protect the most vulnerable;
- Reduce crime and fear of crime;
- Reduce incidence and impact of ASB;

- Reduce harm from alcohol and substance misuse;
- Reduce risk of harm to young people from cybercrime and bullying;
- Increase reporting of domestic abuse and protect the most vulnerable; and
- Increase confidence in reporting of hate incidents.

The county wide crime and disorder priorities will be reviewed annually by the LSCSB in order to consider any significant changes to national, PCC, or local CSP priorities. There are also strong links between these crime and disorder related priorities and 3 priorities within the LCC 5-year strategic plan focused on community matters. The 3 strategic plan priorities are as follows:

- **Wellbeing and Opportunity:** The people of Leicestershire have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing;
- **Keeping People Safe:** People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm; and
- **Great Communities:** Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.

A part of the LCC community safety team priorities involve working with internal and external partners to strengthen links between work-streams being undertaken through crime and disorder and community focused strategies.

LCC Community Safety Team

Community safety encompasses not just criminal activities but also takes account of social and environmental influences. As well as traditional crime prevention and reduction activities, community safety also includes addressing quality of life issues.

LCC's community safety team currently comprises five members of staff, a Team Manager, a Community Safety Coordinator and three Community Safety Officers with lead areas of work within anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, hate incidents and Prevent.

As a two-tier authority, much of LCC's community safety team role is to provide strategic leadership, information and advice to implement county wide delivery in conjunction with partners, ensuring an appropriate response to community safety matters. The community safety team provide support through attendance at CSPs and the drafting of partnership plans, coordination of core areas of business such as anti-social behaviour (ASB), hate crime and Prevent, as well as horizon scanning for upcoming legislation changes or national developments which may influence local delivery. The work of the LCC community safety team is directly linked to enabling

LCC to discharge its duties in partnership with other statutorily responsible agencies in relation to reducing crime and disorder.

The key workstreams linked to the LCC community safety team are highlighted under the 5 headings, ASB, Prevent and hate crime, serious organised crime and emerging threats, domestic abuse and LSCSB support. The Strategy purposefully introduces a flexible approach which will enable the community safety team to focus on areas of serious and organised crime and risk as they emerge as national or local priorities.

ASB

- Provide a co-ordination role across LLR in relation to ASB.
- Chair both the ASB Delivery and Strategy Groups. Co-ordinate development of Sentinel multi-agency case management system
- Develop joint approaches and encourage collaborative working across agencies and partnerships in LLR.
- Review ASB minimum standards
- Keep abreast of legislation changes and communicate impact to LLR partners.
- Co-ordinate partnership training across LLR agencies linked to minimum ASB standards

Prevent & Hate crime

- Ensure LCC fulfils its duty under Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- Focus on Home Office standards ,introducing training on staff awareness, drawing links preventing radicalisation and channel project referrals
- Produce and monitor a corporate Prevent action plan.
- Keep abreast of legislation changes and communicate these and the possible impact to relevant LCC colleagues and LLR partners.
- Co-ordinate hate related work across the LLR. Chair Hate delivery group

Domestic abuse & vulnerability

- Commissioning. Co-ordinate county DA needs assessment and assist in co-ordination of LLR commissioning
- Provide link to commissioned DA services across the LLR, and co-ordinate relevant data sharing requirements
- Develop county focused strategy, DA needs assessment, development of operational practices, DA training internally and externally
- Provide link between responsible authorities and District CSP's in relation to the LLR vulnerability executive
- Provide co-ordination role in relation to emerging areas of vulnerability work

Serious & organised crime & emerging threats

- Lead on horizon scanning for identifying emerging national and regional threats in relation to crime and disorder
- Provide link between responsible agencies and District CSP's in relation to child exploitation and child sexual exploitation
- Co-ordination role in developing countywide and locality based information sharing meetings.
- Co-ordinate the LLR senior officer group. Focus on developing meeting to co-ordinate responsible authorities around identifying & developing joint working around emerging threats

Support

LCSCB & senior officer group

- Co-ordinate SOG agenda to enable responsible agencies and CSPs to discharge statutory duties.
- Co-ordinate LCSCB to support county partnership to meet statutory functions
- Attend and support District CSP meetings.
- Co-ordinate county related data linked to community safety.
- Provide input and support to priority setting at LLR, county, and District level
- Involvement in meetings focused on community safety county wide & LLR as needed

CONCLUSION

The way community safety operates in Leicestershire is complex and involves many different agencies and stakeholders. Due to the nature of the structure and responsibilities of the PCC, District CSP's, and statutorily responsible agencies, there is significant risk of duplication or a failure to develop collective strategies and priorities. The LSCSB brings together the PCC, CSP chairs, along with senior representatives from statutorily responsible agencies, and will continue to have a key role in co-ordinating priorities across Leicestershire. The future will also provide challenges as structures change, new legislation is implemented, or new threats linked to crime and disorder emerge. The emphasis of the strategy will be to continue to build strong partnerships across Leicestershire to enable agencies to work with the public, identify collective priorities, and introduce effective strategies to combat crime and disorder.