

Overall Situation

The Community Safety Partnership (West) continues to meet on quarterly basis. As a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, all of our recent meetings have taken place virtually. Attendance by partners has been very good during this time presumably because there has been no need to include journey time for members.

A CSP co-ordinator was employed for six months between April and September 2021. Although an option to extend the contract was offered, it was declined. However, in the short time that the co-ordinator was in post, considerable progress was made in terms of renewing the Action Plan and updating the Partnership's list of contacts.

We learned last year that all remaining funding of the three Cumbrian CSPs by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) would cease with effect from the end of September 2021, including the co-ordinator's salary.

It was agreed that the co-ordinator role should be retained and funded from the Partnership's own reserves. However, advertisements circulated to staff at both Allerdale and Copeland councils failed to produce any candidates, probably due to existing workload pressures.

Despite the lack of any external funding, there appears to be general consensus that the CSP should continue until Local Government Reorganisation on 1st April 2023, as the only alternative would be to leave a void for twelve months.

The CSP has survived and functioned well without a co-ordinator since March 2020, taking full advantage of the brief interval during 2021 when the post was temporarily filled.

Sufficient reserves remain for the CSP to continue to have a positive effect within the community. This will hopefully take us to the point where the Shadow Authorities will decide how the CSP's current functions will be delivered in future and towards a smooth transition thereafter.

The CSP's statutory duties in respect of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) remain in place.

Copeland and Allerdale councils are working closely together already as part of the same CSP. The CSP (North) has been contacted with a view to harmonising our activities with those currently taking place in Carlisle as we move towards the merging of the three Councils into a single Unitary Authority.

The CSP Chair has a monthly scheduled meeting with the managers of the Allerdale and Copeland Local Focus Hubs.

Over the Past Year, We Have...

Received regular updates at CSP meetings from:

- The Allerdale and Copeland Local Focus Hubs
- The Constabulary
- Allerdale and Copeland Councils
- Registered Housing Providers

We have also listened to presentations from:

- Independent Offender Management (IOM) North West Refresh Team
- Producers of a Cumbria wide Serious Violence Needs Assessment
- Specialists in Prevent/Counter Terrorism
- PCC Officer on the Safer Streets Fund
- Cumbria County Council Commissioning Officer on Gambling Harms in the Community
- Providers of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services following Change of Provider in October 2021

The invitation to Humankind, the new provider of drug and alcohol services commissioned by Cumbria County Council, to attend the CSP's March meeting was in response to concerns expressed by both hub managers, as well as a social housing provider, that the transition from the former service provider had not gone well.

This is a good example of the CSP being well placed to respond to issues raised by partners.

Successes have included...

- The Partnership working alongside officers of the PCC on applications to the Government's Safer Streets Fund. This has resulted in £311,358 being allocated for a project in St Michaels, Workington, designed to lower the burglary rate with the secondary benefit of reducing anti-social behaviour, thus increasing the perception of safety for residents.
- It was announced in October that a bid in respect of the Castle Park area of Whitehaven had also been successful, a total of £191,584 having been awarded with a particular focus on the Government's current initiative to end Violence Against Women and Girls.

There are three elements to the Whitehaven bid. The first is to improve safety in Castle Park with increased lighting after dark and CCTV. As the park is in close to proximity to the leisure centre, this will create more opportunities for outdoor activities in a safe setting with clear benefits for the health and wellbeing of residents.

The project also includes a dedicated media campaign to raise public awareness about the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls.

Active bystander training is planned for a range of target audiences including schools, youth groups, taxi drivers, publicans and door staff.

- The CSP is currently supporting a new bid to the Safer Streets Fund targeting anti-social behaviour in Maryport.

- Work has continued with Moorclose Connected Communities to wrap up the UCLAN led project, originally funded by the Partnership. We now await the evidenced report to demonstrate how the project delivered support to the community during the pandemic.

Over the Past Year, the CSP has approved the following funding applications...

- Allerdale and Copeland Local Focus Hubs for Active Bystander Training. In the Whitehaven area, the costs of this training are already covered by the Safer Streets Fund. However, the hub managers have recognised the benefits of extending the programme across the rest of Copeland and Allerdale.
- North Allerdale Development Trust (NADT) for additional staff hours and IT equipment to facilitate the educational programme for harder to reach young people.
- A Safe Place to improve youth provision in Workington and Maryport
- Allerdale and Copeland Local Focus Hubs to provide taxi marshals on key dates over the Christmas period in both Workington and Whitehaven.
- Youth Violence Project to understand young people's perceptions of knife crime and violence across the whole of West Cumbria.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

CSP remains the statutory body with the oversight of Domestic Homicide Reviews in West Cumbria.

There are currently eight current DHRs in West Cumbria.

The Dearham Review was led by the NHS and has been completed and submitted to the Home Office. Towards the end of 2021, the review was returned to the authors with a number of changes recommended by the Home Office's Quality Assurance Panel. Some of the recommendations were considered to be unreasonable. Following a meeting with the authors, the CSP chair agreed to support a challenge. On 28th March we received notification that the latest version of the review has been accepted by the Home Office. Therefore the full review is expected to be published imminently

The Egremont Review has been submitted to the Home Office and was returned with significant recommended changes before it had reached the Quality Assurance Panel. This Review had been carried out by an inexperienced Independent Chair. The DHR Coordinator for Cumbria has suggested that the report shall be passed to a more experienced Chair who will consider the recommendations and implement them as appropriate.

The Keswick Review has been submitted to the Home Office and was returned with some recommended changes before it had reached the Quality Assurance Panel. The Independent Chair has incorporated some of the suggested changes and has resubmitted the report with an explanation as to why some of the recommendations were considered unreasonable.

The Salterbeck Review has been running parallel to court proceedings. Now that the perpetrator has been convicted and sentenced, work can begin on the final draft of the report. Victim Support are in close contact with the family.

The Cleator Moor Review is progressing well now that the Independent Chair has recovered from Covid. The final draft of the review is expected to be presented to the CSP imminently prior to submission to the Home Office.

The Gosforth case is being treated as an Adult Safeguarding Review.

Two new cases have been referred to the CSP since the beginning of the year. One of these has significant crossover with Adult Safeguarding. Therefore, care must be taken that, if two investigations are to take place, they will support each other. The second falls within the remit of DHR as it is a suspected suicide resulting from domestic abuse/violence which is a new category of DHR.

The DHR Co-ordinator for Cumbria has commented that the early return of completed DHRs, with recommended changes, is not unique to Cumbria and could be linked to procedural changes at the Home Office.