

A series of police-led workshops have been held in recent months to discuss the future of the Cumbrian Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and how they can be re-modelled to best meet the requirements of the two Unitary Authorities after 1st April.

This is an important discussion because the countywide Safer Cumbria Board, which currently assists the CSPs with some functions, will also be changing as a result of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and is likely to withdraw most of its support, including for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

Clearly, there is a need to manage this transition as the CSPs currently have no direct allocation of staff or resources since funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner terminated over a year ago.

A national review of CSPs is currently taking place to address the many inconsistencies that currently exist. Some English counties are home to multiple CSPs whereas in others a single partnership has responsibility for a disproportionately large geographical area. There are various methods of funding and the role of CSPs is not clearly defined. When the results of the national consultation are published, it is likely to be recommended that CSPs will carry out some additional roles in terms of local implementation of the Serious Violence Duty and the policies of the Combating Drugs Partnership. This would be in addition to existing duties around Domestic Homicide Reviews for which CSPs already have statutory responsibility.

It would be reasonable to expect that with additional duties, more funding from central government would be made available for CSPs to successfully fulfil their enhanced roles.

As a result of the Cumbrian workshops, a proposal has been drafted for consideration by the Shadow Cumberland Council with the following suggestions:

- That there will be a single CSP for Cumberland that will fulfil community safety statutory responsibilities
- That themed delivery groups will be set up and maintained that are governed and held to account by the CSP. These groups will focus on current community safety issues and priorities
- That two dedicated roles are created of a CSP manager and a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) co-ordinator to enable satisfactory fulfilment of statutory responsibilities
- That these roles be added to the Cumberland Council revenue budget and then be partly re-charged to other responsibilities and stakeholders
- That the role of CSP will transfer from elected members to the director (officer) responsible for community safety. It is proposed that the Chair of the CSP will be a member of the countywide Safer Cumbria Board to provide key information exchange and interconnection.

In the meantime, The West Cumbria CSP continues to meet regularly and enjoys a strong relationship with both Allerdale and Copeland Local Focus Hubs. In recent years, the CSP has contributed to two successful bids for Safer Streets funding which has benefited the residents of Workington and Whitehaven. Direct funding from the

CSP has been awarded for:

- Active Bystander Training
- Training for relevant partners on Adverse Childhood Experience
- Research on Youth Violence
- Security doorbells to assist victims of Domestic Abuse
- Equipment for ID tagging of illegal motorcycles
- Stronger Together Moorclose
- Training for relevant partners whose work brings them into contact with young people
- Taxi marshalling in Workington and Whitehaven
- Project Unbeatable which provides a structured coaching programme for young people from the age of nine years
- Funding for additional staff hours and IT equipment to support the educational programme developed by North Allerdale Development Trust (NADT)

The above is not an exhaustive list.

Partners in regular attendance at CSP meetings include the police, fire service, social housing providers. Allerdale and Copeland Local Focus Hubs together with senior officers from the county and district councils. The current structure already provides a firm footing to support the new Cumberland Council. However, LGR presents the opportunity to further develop the CSP model and to realise more of its potential.