



Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

Report title: Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan 2023

Date: 17 January 2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure

Head of Safer Communities

Safer Communities Crime and Violence Reduction Service Manager

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee with a draft version of the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan 2023.

Members are asked to consider the Plan and provide comment and ask questions to the Executive Member for Safer Communities and to the officers in attendance at the Committee meeting.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to provide the Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee with a draft version of the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan 2023, for pre-decision scrutiny in order to inform further consultation with the Safer Lewisham Partnership.
- 1.2. Members are asked to consider the Plan and provide comment and ask questions to the Executive Member for Safer Communities and officers in attendance at Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are recommended to consider, comment on and note the Plan.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-2026 outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents over the next four years and includes the following priorities relevant to this item: Safer Communities –

- We will work with the police to implement our Violence Against Women and Girls strategy 2021 – 2026.
 - We will reduce the number of young people who enter the criminal justice system, focusing on prevention and expanding our trauma-informed approach, championed by our Youth Offending Service.
 - We will continue to focus and develop our successful public health approach to youth violence, aiming to tackle knife crime and reduce sexual exploitation across the borough
- 3.2. The Council's Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021 – 2026, includes the following priority relevant to this item:
- Prevent: Preventing violence and abuse through early intervention and education
 - Protect: Providing support that keeps individuals and their families safe from harm
 - Recover: Providing long-term support to enable recovery following abuse
 - Pursue: Holding perpetrators to account whilst providing opportunity for change and support.
 - Partnership: Working in partnership across agencies and with the community to ensure our response to abuse is integrated, innovative and inclusive.
- 3.3. The Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty on public bodies, which would ensure relevant services worked together to share data and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence.
- 3.4. The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence was an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships by making sure that they had a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.
- 3.5. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- 3.6. The responsible authorities in the Serious Violence Duty will be the Local Authority, Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Justice Organisations (youth offending teams and probation and Health Bodies (Integrated Care Boards).
- 3.7. Lewisham's Serious Violence Duty strategy must set out the agreed definition of serious violence for the borough, summarise the key aspects of the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment, the partnership arrangements that have been agreed locally to lead on delivery of the Duty, the areas of activity to prevent and reduce serious violence, and activity to engage with voluntary sector organisations, communities - including young people, as well as businesses. Lewisham will have 12 months to finalise the Strategy and the Assessment (*January 2024, proposed date*).
- 3.8. In December 2021, the Government released a new 10 year drugs titled "From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives". The strategy was built on the findings and recommendations of the recent review undertaken by Dame Carol Black. The strategy has three overarching aims to break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system and reduce the demand for recreational drugs.
- 3.9. The office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) requires local areas to have a strong multi-agency Combating Drugs Partnership for oversight of the strategy, but the footprint of this will be decided locally. This partnership must have proactive oversight of the implementation of all three strategic priorities of the Drug Strategy.

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- 3.10. Given the requirements around the Combating Drugs Partnership for the grant and strategy implementation, in Lewisham the close alignment of membership and priorities means that officers propose to incorporate overall oversight within the work of the Safer Lewisham Partnership, and through subgroups including for the treatment system and for enforcement.

4. Timelines

- 4.1. Following Committee, the draft Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan informed by Committee recommendations will be heard at the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board on 25 January 2023.
- 4.2. Post the Board, and informed by any further recommendation, the Safer Lewisham Partnership representatives will gather operationally in order to finalise the Performance Management Framework, which will include clearly defined and measureable objectives. The Framework will also include an Action Plan 2023/24, and delivery mechanisms.
- 4.3. The finalised Plan will be presented to the Safer Lewisham Partnership Board on 26 April 2023.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. One of the priorities in the Safer Lewisham Plan 2023 is Lewisham's Public Health approach to violence reduction and the reduction of disproportionality. The Committee will consider wider Equalities matters when reviewing the Plan and when making any recommendations.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. The purpose of the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan 2023 is to set out the strategic approach to crime and reducing violence.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. The overall purpose of the Public Health approach is to improve the overall health and wellbeing of all residents in the borough.

11. Report contact

- 11.1. James Lee, Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure
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