



Subject:	Update on Safe and Strong Theme Group
Meeting:	Customers and Communities OSP
Report Date:	14 March 2011
Chair of Theme Group:	Andy Bickley, Chair of the Safe and Strong Theme Group

Purpose of Report:

To provide members with an update on current successes and performance issues. To provide an update for the panel on the work currently undertaken by The Safe and Strong Theme Group

Current Status / Developments/Successes:

Strong

1. Decentralisation and Localism Bill

1.1 The Decentralisation and Localism Bill is expected to become law in 2012. The Bill aims to significantly decentralise power and decision making giving greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and giving local communities control over housing and planning decisions.

1.2 In terms of the 'strong' agenda the Bill will provide for:

- A community right to buy requiring local councils to draw up and publish a list of assets of community value (a route for community groups to express an interest in bidding for assets.)
- A community right to challenge, providing community groups with the right to bid to the council to take over the running of a service.
- Powers and processes for newly created neighbourhood forums to develop neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders.
- The right to seek a referendum on any local issue that the community think is important.

1.3 The government has set out six essential actions to deliver decentralisation down through every level of government. The six actions are:

- Lift the burden of bureaucracy
- Empower communities to do things their way
- Increase local control over public finance

- Diversify the supply of public services
- Open up government to public scrutiny
- Strengthen accountability to local people

1.4 While the elements of the localism agenda around democracy will be actioned by the council, work will progress to determine the issues that Safe and Strong theme group will deal with.

2. Cohesion

2.1 One of the level one indicators in the Plymouth City 2020 partnership priorities will be: The number of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well. Level two indicators are likely to include: number of racist, disabled, homophobic, faith, religious and belief incidents.

2.2 There are currently no significant community tensions.

3. Environmental issues

3.1 Waste collection services, despite the December inclement weather, experienced no problems.

Safe

4. Strategic assessment 2010/11

4.1 The Safe and Strong Theme Group has agreed the 2010/11 strategic assessment. Plymouth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required to produce an annual Strategic Assessment to identify crime and disorder priorities for the following 12 months. Future assessments for Plymouth will be closely linked to the 'Plymouth Report'.

4.2 The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide an accurate and realistic evaluation of the significant crime, disorder and substance misuse issues that may impact the Partnership over the next 12 months, and also takes account of areas impacting over the last 12 months.

4.3 The assessment identifies the following strategic crime priorities:

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Anti-social behaviour
- Alcohol related violence
- Reducing re-offending
- Hate crime

4.4 The assessment uses its findings to make key recommendations based on the sources identified above, which in this Strategic Assessment are:

- All partners to support the strengthened strategic partnership approaches, such as supporting the cross cutting enablers identified within the 'Plymouth Report' that relate to Crime and Disorder. These being; the impact of alcohol across the City, Domestic Abuse and provision to victims, and Drugs.
- To support the priorities identified within the Strategic Assessment in relation to crime and disorder: provision of domestic abuse services, provision of sexual abuse services, anti-social behaviour, alcohol related violence, reducing re-offending and hate crime.

- Safe and Strong group to agree a way forward for commissioning and delivery of the integrated domestic abuse priorities beyond 2011, based on resources available.
- Safe and Strong group to agree a way forward for commissioning towards provision to victims of sexual violence, particularly SARC services, based on resources available.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to host a consultation event for partners relating to Government proposals for tackling ASB and the shift toward three key areas of harm, risk and vulnerability of victims and witnesses.
- The violence delivery group and partners to support the LSP strategic lead on alcohol adapting working practices and priorities accordingly to assist in delivery against alcohol related issues.
- Safe and Strong theme group to be aware of, and adapt to risks posed by the loss of funding towards the violent crime delivery group.
- Partners to ensure support for the adoption of hate crime as a level 2 priority within the LSP, ensuring link with equalities work undertaken within the LSP.

Performance / Risks:

Quarter 1 & 2 performance against current LAA targets is as reported at the last meeting. Qtr 3 performance will be available for the April meeting.

Risks

Strong

5. Plymouth Third Sector Consortium and Volunteer Centre Service Level Agreements with Plymouth 2020 Partnership – continuation of funding for 2011/2012

5.1 The Plymouth Third Sector Consortium SLA commissions services to deliver the LSP Third Sector strategic objectives. The contract is for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012 for a maximum of £138,000 for 2010/2011 and £148,625 for 2011/2012

5.2 Volunteer Centre SLA assists in the delivery of the LSP strategic objective relating to volunteering. It has the same contract period as above and is for £100,000 for 2010/2011 and £102,500 for 2011/2012.

5.3 The Safe and Strong theme group are considering the issues around funding, particularly the second year for £250,000, renegotiation of contracts to ensure value for communities, and the development of a funding strategy over the next three years.

Safe

6. Domestic Abuse Services update

6.1 Safe and Strong Group has been working on the problem with the gap in funding and reduced this in a number of ways including reprioritisation, efficiencies and different delivery models. Funding has already been committed by Plymouth City Council. This work has reduced the funding gap to £150k and within this the priorities for any further funding identified have been agreed as - Domestic Abuse Civil Court Advocacy and Children's Domestic Abuse Service. Both the Police and Children's Service have identified potential funding and Probation is considering an alternative training service - together these would be a significant contribution towards closing this gap.

7. Sexual Assault Referral Centre

7.1 Following on from the last update - a stakeholder group being developed, it has been agreed that Paul O'Sullivan will now lead the city development and response to the SARC position. A meeting is planned for Monday 24th January where service design, provision of services and funding will be discussed. It is unclear what level of funding is available for service delivery.

Issues that will impact on other Theme Groups:

8. 2020 City Priorities

8.1 Work is continuing on the priority target setting process for level 2 and 3 indicators. Safe and Strong members propose to sign off related indicators on 17th February.

8.2 The Local Policing Plan will be discussed at the Police Authority's meeting on 18th February. It is required by the Home Office by 31st March 2011. There are no areas of conflict anticipated between the high level strategic priorities within the plan and the Plymouth 2020 priorities.

9. Cross Government letter to CSP Chairs dated 17th December 2010.

9.1 Some of the relevant points are:

- Confirmation of CSP's on a statutory footing
 - Government wide shift towards localism, a draft 'Single Data List' is out for consultation
 - Councils will set up Crime Panels consisting of Councillors, to hold Police and Crime Commissioners to account
 - Health and Wellbeing Boards to be set up in each top tier local authority – Plymouth to have a 'shadow' board from April 2011
 - Hospitals collect and share information with CSP's to reduce violence. Plymouth is currently replicating the Cardiff model and broadening data sharing with SW Ambulance Service
 - A new single fund for Youth Offending Teams
 - Majority of central Government funding for crime and community safety programmes will be devolved to the Police and Crime Commissioner once they are in a position to commission services locally
-