Meeting date:	20th January 2021	
Report to:	Stronger Communities & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board	Solihull METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Subject/report title:	Safer Solihull Partnership review	
Report from:	Alison McGrory – Assistant Director Communities and Partnerships	
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Stronger Communities & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board on the review of the Safer Solihull Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board.

2. Decision(s) recommended

2.1 To update members of the Stronger Communities & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board on the outcome of the review of Safer Solihull CSP to date, and to seek the views from members on the proposed new governance arrangements.

3. Background to the review

3.1 The CSP, known locally as the Safer Solihull Partnership, formed in Solihull in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The core membership of a CSP must consist of the six responsible authorities, namely the local authority, Police, Fire, Clinical Commissioning Group, National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company. Its extended membership must also consist of a representative of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, with whom the partnership has a duty to co-operate and vice versa. The CSP can extend its membership to involve others as it sees fit.

3.2 Each CSP must produce a community safety strategy outlining what it intends to focus on, and how it will deliver and monitor performance against the plan.

3.3 Delivery of the Strategy is currently through delivery groups such as the Domestic Abuse Priority Group, Substance Misuse Group, Reducing Re-offending Management Strategic Board, Violence Prevention Group and the Road Safety Strategic Group, all of which are directly accountable to the CSP Board.

3.4 Other community safety and crime related matters link to the CSP through association with other groups and boards. For example, the Exploitation Board and its sub groups report to the Safeguarding Boards. Therefore, strong relationships with other partnership groups is critical to deliver an effective response to community safety issues.

3.5 The CSP does not currently directly report into any other Board, although it has a 'dotted line' to a number of Boards.

3.6 In September 2020 officers reported the results of a consultation exercise with strategic leaders from the council, Solihull Police and Solihull Community Housing. Stronger Communities & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board members were asked to provide their views too on the issues for community safety, partnership structures and governance arrangements and areas of best practice.

4. Matters for Consideration in the review

4.1 Generally, there is a consensus that Solihull is in a good place for partnership working. There is already a robust framework, with strategic oversight at Health and Wellbeing Board and operational delivery through Solihull Together, which works well. This demonstrates Solihull's ability to deliver well against partnership issues. The proposals aim to build on this recognised approach but by shifting the focus of the CSP from reflective reviews of performance statistics to be forward thinking and more responsive to emerging issues, in the same way as Solihull Together.

4.2 It is important that there are clear lines of accountability for each of the statutory partners at a senior level, and that there is clear oversight and challenge by elected members. We must work across the region on new agendas such as county lines, exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking.

4.3 In order to achieve the above, we are proposing the following changes to the formal governance process (see Appendix B for current arrangements).

4.3.1 Annual formal reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board who will take overall accountability. The current CSP member chair would move to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.3.2 That this Scrutiny Board, in its role as Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Board, reviews and scrutinises decisions made, or other action taken, by the CSP. Each meeting will give Scrutiny Board Members the opportunity to challenge a senior member of the CSP board to probe issues such as:

- Outside of the normal responsibilities of the agency how do they contribute to the CSPs priorities?
- What difference has their organisation made to Solihull residents, in terms of improving community safety?
- What partnership activity have they been involved in, in Solihull, and what outcomes were achieved?

4.3.3 There would be joint annual priority setting with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership. This would result in fewer shared but targeted priorities, clearly focused on keeping people safe and well.

4.3.4 Reduce the membership of the current CSP to senior leaders from each of the statutory partners. The meeting will be chaired by the council's Chief Executive.

4.3.5 Move the oversight of the delivery of community safety initiatives to the new Thriving Communities Board which will replace the current Localities Board. The role of this Board is to manage people and place based issues in each locality. The Thriving

Communities Board will also oversee the delivery of a number of projects that support improvement in health and wellbeing and community safety. The Board will be made up of officers from a wide range of partners including Police, Fire, Health, SCH and the voluntary and community sector.

4.3.6   Strengthen Solihull's CSP connection with Regional Community Safety Groups. This will involve clarifying the membership and role of each of the 4 Violence Reduction Groups. The council lead officers for these groups will co-ordinate regular updates to Solihull's CSP on the work of these groups and emerging issues.

5.   Reasons for recommending preferred option

5.1   No preferred option is being presented in this report. Stronger Communities & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board members are being asked their views on the future form and function of the CSP.

6.   Implications and Considerations

6.1   State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the Council Plan:

Priority:	Contribution:
Economy: 1. Revitalising our towns and local centres. 2. UK Central (UKC) and maximising the opportunities of HS2. 3. Increase the supply of housing, especially affordable and social housing.	**N/A**
Environment: 4. Enhance Solihull's natural environment. 5. Improve Solihull's air quality. 6. Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions.	N/A
People and Communities: 7. Take action to improve life chances in our most disadvantaged communities. 8. Enable communities to thrive. 9. Sustainable, quality, affordable provision for adults & children with complex needs.	This report will enable communities to thrive by addressing crime and improving the community safety of all our residents, visitors and people who work in the borough.

6.2 **Consultation and Scrutiny**:

6.2.1 Solihull Stronger Communities & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board members are being asked their views on the future function and form of the CSP.

6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report. It is an alignment of existing structures and working practices only.

6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 The proposals will ensure that the council is better equipped to deliver against the requirements of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

6.5 **Risk implications**:

6.5.1 To do nothing is likely to increase the risk that the council is not equipped to deliver against the requirements of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 There are no equality implications because of this report.

7. List of appendices referred to

7.1 Appendix A - Current board structures

7.2 Appendix B - Proposed Thriving Communities Management Board Structure and Membership

8. Background papers used to compile this report

8.1 N/A

9. List of other relevant documents

9.1 N/A