

# **THE IMPACT OF FUNDING CUTS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICES IN DERBYSHIRE.**

**Report of Derbyshire County Council's Improvement and Scrutiny  
Committee- Places**

**Cllr Kevin Gillott (Chair)  
Cllr Michelle Booth  
Cllr David Williams  
Cllr Carol Hart**

**Roz Savage - Improvement and Scrutiny Officer**

## **Foreword**

The turnout for the Police and Crime Commissioner's election in 2012 was low. It was less than 15% in Derbyshire. I am hoping that the information presented in this report will act as a catalyst to stimulate interest in the PCC elections on 5 May 2016.

Crime, disorder and fear of crime are important considerations in the quality of life of local people. Across Derbyshire numerous public and voluntary sector organisations work in partnership to improve community safety. The fact that overall crime rates have for many years displayed a downward trend is testament to how effective their work has been. The outcome of their combined efforts is that Derbyshire remains one of the safest counties in the country. The circumstances and pressures experienced by these agencies have changed in recent times. Public organisations have had to adjust to ongoing budget reductions and voluntary agencies have had to vie for funds in an increasingly competitive arena. The situation is further compounded by changes in the nature of crime. Offending continues to move away from the more traditional types of crime such as domestic burglary and vehicle theft to cyber-crime, modern slavery and people trafficking.

Individual organisations will be familiar with the challenges they face and what they have done to mitigate the impact of reductions in their own budget. They may have also communicated these changes to the communities they serve. What will be less well known, to agencies and the general public as a whole, is how changes in the services of one agency affect the demand for services elsewhere in the system and, the capacity of another agency to deliver its services.

Emerging from the evidence of this review is a strong message that the pressure on the financial resources of partners is having a cumulative impact on the volume and nature of community safety services that the Police, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations can deliver. The information provided by partners indicates that there has been a rise in incident threshold levels before community safety interventions are triggered and that the reduction or withdrawal of ancillary activities is having a significant impact on the demand for headline services and their capacity to deliver.

I trust that the themes identified in this report will offer residents the opportunity to engage with all the candidates about their priorities in this difficult financial environment, and that more people will be encouraged to vote in the forthcoming election.

**Councillor Kevin Gillott**

**Chair of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee –Places**

**April 2016**

## **1. Purpose of the review**

It is the intention that the findings of this review will inform the debate leading up to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election on 5 May 2016.

In a time of austerity, statutory and voluntary organisations are having to make hard decisions about the services they deliver and adopt new ways of working. The purpose of this review is to examine the impact of funding cuts on the delivery of community safety services in Derbyshire and provide a flavour of how the environment in which these services operate has changed. It will highlight some of the challenges faced by individual organisations and Derbyshire as a whole.

Across Derbyshire there is a myriad of agencies that contribute to community safety. It is beyond the scope of this review to provide a comprehensive analysis of the budgets and circumstances of individual organisations. Nor has the review scrutinised or passed judgement about any decisions made by individual organisations.

What the review has done is to draw together, in a single document, examples of the impact of funding cuts on the capacity of partner organisations to deliver community safety activities. It illustrates some of the measures being taken to mitigate the impact of funding cuts and innovative approaches to the challenges that organisations face.

## **2. Methodology**

The review was undertaken by a cross-party working group of elected county councillors who were all members of Derbyshire County Council's Places Improvement and Scrutiny Committee. The review was Chaired by Cllr Kevin Gillott. The other members of the working group were Cllr Michelle Booth, Cllr David Williams and Cllr Carol Hart.

The working group held a series of meetings. Members met with Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (Alan Charles), Derbyshire County Council's Assistant Director of Health and Communities, Community Safety (Sally Goodwin), representatives from the Public Protection Unit at Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire Crossroads (a voluntary organisation supporting victims of domestic abuse) and SV2 (a voluntary organisation supporting victims of sexual violence).

The Chair of the working group wrote to all Derbyshire Borough and District Councils inviting them to submit evidence to the review. As a

result, written responses were received from North East Derbyshire District Council, High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Set out in this report is the information provided by the respective organisations that contributed to the review, including the PCC. The working group is mindful that PCC elections will take place in May 2016 and care has been taken to ensure that the publication of this report is conducted in compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986.

The working group is very grateful to the people who gave up their time to present their verbal or written evidence and would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

### **3. Background information**

#### **3.1 Community Safety and Partnership working**

Across Derbyshire, different agencies are committed to working in partnership to reduce crime and maintain community safety. A Community Safety Agreement prepared by the Safer Communities Board provides strategic direction to guide the work. The agreement and associated action plan (written on behalf of all Derbyshire Local Authorities, the Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Health Clinical Commissioning Groups and Probation services reflect the national and local priorities). It takes full account of the need to plan and implement for significant legislative changes that impact upon community safety, criminal justice and the wider roles and functions of public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

The Safer Communities Board also provides a key strategic link to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire which helps ensure countywide priorities are reflected in the PCC's Crime Plan.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a requirement for local agencies to work in partnership to tackle community safety issues and develop a strategy at district and borough level. To meet this requirement local CSPs produce annual action plans. There are eight district based Community Safety Partnerships CSPs - Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Erewash, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, North East Derbyshire

and South Derbyshire. They work at a local level tailoring their approach to the specific needs of individual communities.

At county level, community safety services are managed within the framework of the Safer Derbyshire Partnership. The Safer Derbyshire Partnership has responsibility for ensuring that plans are in place to deliver outcomes in relation to the identified priorities in the Community Safety Agreement. It also co-ordinates plans, projects and governance arrangements at a county level to assist delivery at local CSP level, ultimately preventing a duplication of effort and bringing about consistency in the delivery of some services across the county.

## 4. Discussion with Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

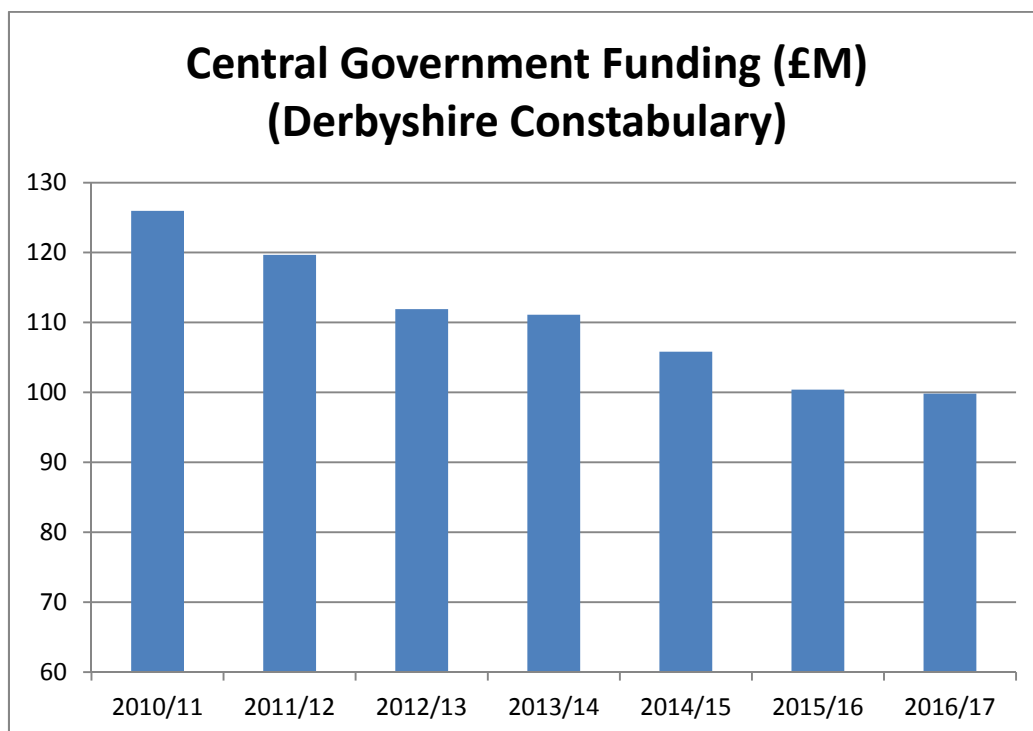
Derbyshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was elected in 2012.

The role of the PCC is designed to bring communities and the police closer together. Through the Police and Crime Plan the PCC sets the policing priorities for the county ensuring that they are aligned with the needs of the local community. The PCC ensures that the necessary resources are available to address local and national priorities when setting the budget, assesses the Force's performance and in doing so holds the Chief Constable to account.

A key element of the PCC's role is working with community safety partnerships, local authorities and the local criminal justice board in their joint efforts to prevent and reduce crime.

### 4.1 Budget

Since 2010 the central government grant for the Derbyshire Constabulary has reduced by £26.1m.



Planning to deliver spending reductions began in advance of the 2011/12 Comprehensive Spending Review in anticipation of a period of austerity. To date a total of £31m in planned spending reductions has been delivered. The spending reductions have been achieved through a number of initiatives including a freeze on police officer recruitment and a reduction in the numbers of police officers and police staff.

Compared to 2010 there are now 344 fewer police officers in Derbyshire and 294 fewer police staff posts.

In the summer of 2015 the Chancellor asked the Home Office to consider potential cuts to police funding of 25% and 40%. Concerned by the impact that further budget cuts would have on local neighbourhood policing and public safety, PCC's and Chief Constables across the UK lobbied the government extensively. Sadly, their concerns were validated by the tragic events that took place in Paris on 13 November 2015, and following the terrorist attacks the government revisited their approach to police funding.

The Comprehensive Spending Review and the decisions announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in November 2015 did not impose further police budget cuts.

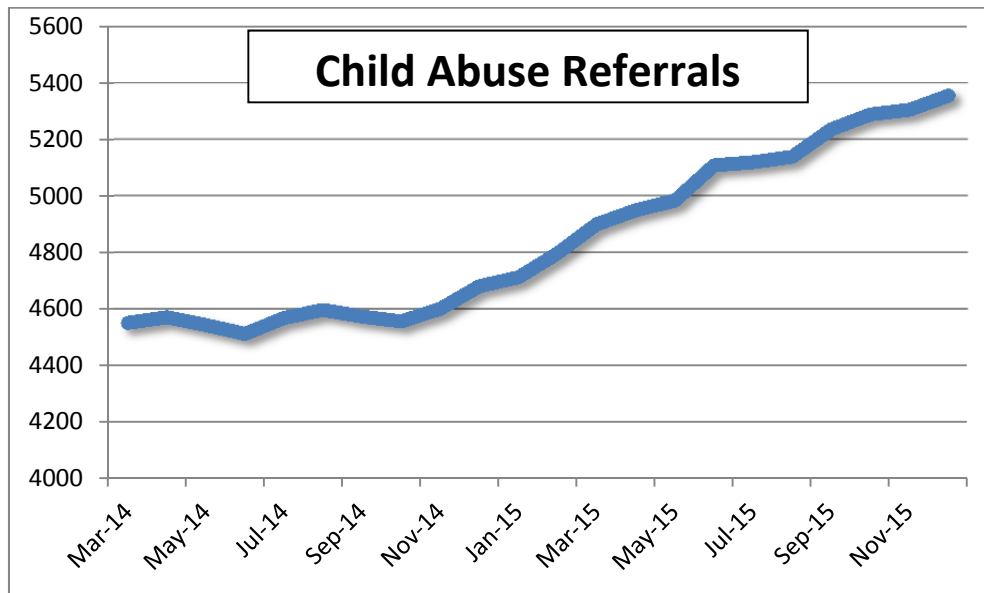
The decision not to impose further cuts to police funding was predicated on PCCs increasing their precepts by 2%. It should be noted, however, that a 2% precept rise would have triggered a referendum so in reality PCCs needed to increase the precept by 1.99%. In Derbyshire a 1.99% increase equated to an increase of £3.46 per year to the current B and D precept of £173.61

The number of Police Divisions is to be reduced from three to two. This will mean there will be a North Division and a South Division. Geographic policing will be delivered through basic command units and Local Policing Units (LPUs). In the event of an incident close to the boundary between the two divisions, GPS functionality and mobile working arrangements will enable the nearest officer to be identified and deployed.

Across Derbyshire neighbourhood policing teams will focus on the areas of greatest need. Detailed work is currently being undertaken to identify areas with the highest levels of risk and threat to determine the deployment of officers.

## 4.2 Demand

There are significant challenges facing the police. The nature of crime is continuing to change. Offending is moving away from the more traditional types of crime such as domestic burglary and vehicle theft, towards offences such as cyber-crime, child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The breadth of demand on policing services is continuing to expand as the complexity and duration of investigations, into public protection and digital crime cases, grows. Added to this, cuts to the budgets of other public services increases the demand on police services. The following chart showing the twelve month rolling totals for the number of child abuse referrals provides just one example of the growing demands on police resources



Based on the government's "basket of crimes" used to measure the UK crime rate it appears that "All Crime" is falling in Derbyshire. Currently, however, the "basket", does not include digital crime which has risen significantly. It is estimated that £52 billion a year (a billion pounds a week) is lost from the UK economy to digital crime and the investigation of such crimes is a significant draw on police resources. It should be noted that digital crime will be included in the UK crime figures later this year.



### **4.3 Impact of budget reductions on police priorities**

Like many public service decision makers, PCCs are having to make choices about where to place resources in the light of increasing demands and pressures.

Public Protection is a high priority and in Derbyshire more resources have been directed to protecting individuals from child sexual exploitation, child neglect and domestic violence. The abuse of children on-line is a growing area of criminal activity. Its detection calls for considerable resources and specialist skills. Derbyshire Constabulary is working with partners to tackle this area of crime. Much of this work takes place behind the scenes so it is not obvious to the public that this policing work is being undertaken.

In common with other public services facing budget reductions, Derbyshire Constabulary has diverted funding towards activities identified as being of higher threat and risk. This means that the money directed to Public Protection cannot be spent on other activities.

The Criminal Justice Division has also been subject to budget reductions. Criminal Justice has responsibility for supporting investigations through the criminal justice process and is the central point of contact between the police and other criminal justice agencies including the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the courts service. It aims to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system by better supporting victims and witnesses. There has been a reduction in civilian staff supporting “witness care services”. Their role was to undertake preparatory work, collating evidence and acting as file builders. The reduction in this support has placed further pressure on Police Officers involved with each case.

The closure of police stations has contributed to achieving budget reductions and this has been facilitated by increased usage of mobile technology by police officers and staff.

### **4.4 The impact of local authority budget reductions on policing**

In response to budget reductions, local authorities are understandably retracting their services and focusing on providing statutory services. This has a knock on effect on policing.

One of the biggest impacts of local authority budget reductions on policing is the removal of distraction activities and the lessening of youth service activities designed to tackle anti-social behaviour. The reduction in these types of activities is not just from local authorities but from voluntary organisations too, where funding is also tight.

Advocacy services have also been affected by budget cuts. It is not a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide an “appropriate adult” for vulnerable adults. Consequently in Derby City, for example, these services are under threat.

The Arbor project is a strategy designed to provide settled accommodation for High Risk Serious Offenders in Derbyshire. Previously the project was jointly funded by Derby City and Derbyshire County Council but future funding for this project is uncertain. One of the key aims of the project is to reduce the incidence of reoffending by ensuring that the location of accommodation is appropriate. As many partner organisations, and the communities they serve, benefit from the work of this project there would appear to be a need to develop a sustainable funding solution.

Historically the police have worked in partnership with social services and other agencies to support vulnerable adults in the community, calling on residents in their own home and conducting “safe and well checks”. This is a service that the Police can no longer resource.

## **5. Discussion with Assistant Director for Health and Communities - Community Safety, Derbyshire County Council**

Working under the umbrella of Safer Derbyshire, the County Council works with local community safety partnerships to identify and provide solutions for communities with high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Key priorities for the Council include reducing re-offending, tackling domestic and sexual abuse and alcohol related harm.

### **5.1 Budget**

The County Council's community safety budget is used to fund projects that support the Council's priorities. It funds domestic abuse services and sexual violence services (often jointly with other agencies such as the police and health). Also a small proportion of the budget is used to jointly fund (with Districts/Boroughs and the Police) community safety posts within local authorities, and analysts within Safer Derbyshire.

The County Council's community safety service has slimmed down but is still in a position to operate effectively at a strategic level over the next two years. In terms of staffing two, community safety posts have been lost over the last four years. The team is now 9.8 FTE plus the Assistant Director. It is anticipated that there will be further job losses in the future.

Four years ago, the County Council's Community Safety Budget for projects was approximately £1 million. Now the project budget is £487,000 and will reduce to £400,000 in 2017

The Community Safety Unit is moving to a new department within the County Council. Initially (up until 2018) the community safety budget will be kept separate from the department's budget. From 2018 however, cuts will be allocated across the whole department so the budget for community safety activities in the future is uncertain.

### **5.2 The impact of budget reductions on support available for Community Safety Partnerships and county wide projects**

The mechanism for distributing the funding for community safety projects and activities has changed over time. Prior to the establishment of the PCC, money from the Home Office was received by the Council and then distributed through the Safer Communities Board to fund district Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and county wide projects.

Now local authorities have to put in bids to the PCC (up to a maximum of £25K) and provide clear proposals about how the money will be utilised. This ensures accountability of how public money is spent, as does the requirement to show evidence of progress half way through the year and the requirement to evaluate the project on completion.

The project funding that Districts receive has reduced considerably in recent years. Previously it has been between £60,000-£80,000 for each District and Borough now the figure is £25,000.

“The Districts are very dependent on the community safety funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner”.

In the past some of the Districts have received funding directly into the CSP budget for local projects agreed by the CSP from the Police Divisional Commander. This is now less common but Police Commanders may still fund one off agreed projects.

In previous years the County Council has been in a position to help the Districts with funding for an area that was suffering from pockets of crime or ASB. For example in the case of low-level anti-social behaviour, the County Council would have contributed some funding and worked jointly with the Districts around solutions.

Now the threshold, in terms of the severity of a problem, is much higher before the County Council will contribute funds to a district or borough project.

Previously the County Council may have contributed funding towards diversionary activities, but this is now less likely. If the severity of a problem exceeds a certain threshold the County Council may be able to fund a street lighting project or a clean-up but nothing more.

In the County Council's Community Safety Unit's budget only £100,000 is allocated for this type of activity so the eligibility threshold of the project is much higher than it used to be. For example at one time there was money to fund projects to provide diversionary activities for young people such as Multi User Games Areas but this is now not the case. It is anticipated that the project budget will be cut again next year, by £87K. The impact of this will be further reductions in individual projects, fewer clean-ups, less diversionary activities and less street lighting projects.

The Community Safety Unit has had to reduce its contribution to the Handy Van Scheme from £50,000-£25,000. This funding will be concentrated solely on providing services to high risk victims of domestic abuse. This means that the scheme (which is mostly funded by Adult Care and the Fire Service) will have less capacity to support elderly residents with initiatives such as “dawn to dusk lighting”.

Unless a Vulnerable Adults Risk Management (VARM) assessment identifies that intervention is essential a vulnerable resident will not receive the level of support from the Handy Van Scheme that they would have previously received.

Over the last five years the County Council has reduced its contribution to the joint funding arrangements that ensured that there was a Community Safety Officer in each district and borough. It was agreed in 2003 when the Safer Derbyshire Partnership was established that each organisation would fund a third of a Community Safer Officer Post. The County Council now contributes just under £8,000, as do the Police. Therefore each area gets £16,000 towards a community safety officer and they must make up the difference. It used to be that districts had a community safety officer, an anti-social behaviour officer and a police partnership sergeant. Now some districts only have one officer or divide the role among existing staff. Also the sergeant is shared between at least two partnerships.

Local Community Safety Partnerships do not have the funding or capacity to support county-wide initiatives that tackle new priorities such as modern slavery and child sexual exploitation. With their limited resources, however, they remain effective at responding to sporadic pockets of crime such as anti-social behaviour and burglary in a particular location.

There is a statutory requirement to undertake domestic violence homicide reviews and technically this should be delivered at the district level, however a decision has been made at the Safer Communities Board that the County will lead on this issue. Whilst strategically this is an effective approach, it also illustrates that at district and borough level there is not the capacity to take on this responsibility.

The County Council has been able to maintain the historical level of funding for domestic abuse services and last year undertook an extensive consultation exercise to inform the specification for a new integrated service. It is difficult, however, for the service to keep up with demand as the number of domestic abuse cases is growing due to the increased confidence in the reporting process and more people are coming forward for help

The County Council has fostered closer working arrangements with charitable providers to avoid services being duplicated. Knowledge is shared about gaps in service provision and potential funding sources are highlighted.

An example of where service provision is limited is the availability of “drop in sessions” for victims of sexual abuse. Whilst the Council may fund an organisation to deliver a drop in session it is not in a position to fund additional sessions at different times, such as weekends. It would also be beneficial to fund specialist mental health and substance misuse workers for domestic violence services but ongoing funding is not available. Last year the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) awarded the Council £900k for specialist workers and this was passed directly on to service providers but the Council cannot sustain this level of funding as part of its main domestic violence contract. A further example of a gap in service provision is a lack of appropriate and sustainable perpetrator programmes for serial or repeat offenders of domestic abuse.

The whole system of domestic violence refuges works on a quid pro quo basis. At any one time perhaps only 50% of Derbyshire victims are placed in Derbyshire refuges, the other 50% are placed out of the county (and vice versa because often it is not safe for victims to stay in their home county). Some local authorities in other areas have, however, pulled away from funding domestic violence refuges and the system is under considerable strain. To address this issue the DCLG set up a bid for refuge services last year.

In summary the County Council is currently able to fund community safety projects that deal with high risk issues and that have a high impact on the lives of victims. However, beyond the next two years the future of what the County Council will be able to fund is uncertain.

## **6. Evidence from North East Derbyshire District Council**

The Community Safety Team at North East Derbyshire Council works closely with colleagues from across a number of District and County Council Departments, including Community Development, Public Health, Adults and Children's Social Care, Environmental Health and Planning. The focus is on cross cutting agendas such as Vulnerable People, Substance Misuse, Youth Issues, Reducing Re-Offending, Hate Crime and ASB.

### **6.1 Budget**

Since 2010 North East Derbyshire's community safety budget has reduced significantly.

The 2010/11 budget was approximately £119k.

The 2016/17 budget is £40k.

Over the same period the number of dedicated community safety staff has also reduced significantly from 3.9 full time equivalents (FTE) to 1.5 FTE.

### **6.2 The Impact of budget reductions**

There has been a reduction in the Community Safety Team's involvement in partnership working. Current capacity means that resources are only deployed to carry out urgent projects that are considered essential. Furthermore when projects are undertaken there is greater reliance on Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the wider Police Partnership, to staff the projects.

"Prior to 2012 we were able to develop projects with partners, based upon need and whether we perceived issues within an area; we are now much more reactive and therefore cannot get positive messages out to the communities as readily as previously." - NEDDC

Due to the lack of funding there have been less outward facing projects and preventative work within communities. The North East Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership (NEDCSP) has had to become more reactive to issues such as burglary, acquisitive crime and ASB. The lack of core staff has resulted in reprioritisation of focus, with some activities no longer taking place and reactive work with vulnerable people taking

precedence. “Ultimately the withdrawal of funding will impact negatively on community confidence”.

“We were in the past able to deliver a lot of diversionary work in different areas to prevent ASB from becoming a problem. However, we are now in a position whereby we have to pool our resources to support areas that are suffering the highest levels of ASB. Without sustainable diversionary activities for young people, reducing ASB in certain areas has become a “plate spinning” exercise.” -NEDDC

Looking more widely, changes to Derbyshire County Council’s social care and other support services, means there is an increasing number of residents who are struggling to maintain their homes or tenancies. This manifests itself in two ways, either as vulnerable people causing ASB in their neighbourhood, or an increased call for service from vulnerable people.

### **6.3 Impact on services in the event of further budget reductions**

It is not known what the budget will be beyond 2016/17. At this point in time, no further reduction is anticipated as it is understood that the PCC is committed to funding at the current level of £25K per district or borough.

In the event of further budget reductions the likely impact would be a further reduction in diversionary activities and a potential rise in ASB. Also, it might be necessary to start charging for the fitting of home security measures provided to repeat victims of crime and ASB. Currently the hardware is installed free of charge.

The North East Derbyshire Community Safety Team has concerns that there will be a reduction in engagement from partner organisations, they state that “the commitment is still there but as each budget is reduced partners tend to contract”. This will lead to fewer projects, less diversionary activities and slower response rates to support vulnerable people. As a result ASB and crime is likely to increase locally and community confidence will be reduced.

### **6.4 Innovative approaches to mitigate the impact of budget reductions**

The NEDDC Community Safety Team has adopted the following ways of working to mitigate the impact of budget reductions:



- Working in partnership with other agencies to pool resources including working with Health and other CSP's in the police division.
- Bidding for external funding as a collective "C Division" CSP.
- Using the Council's communication team to spread the messages that community safety team would normally have done themselves.
- Adopting smarter and evidence driven approaches to determine where resources need to be deployed.
- Identifying community and organisational concerns.
- Investigating priority problems, such as exploring in depth what, where, when, who, how and why the problem is happening.
- Developing tailored, evidence-based interventions to address the problems identified and their causes.
- Evaluating the implementation and outcomes achieved and then redefining and refining those.

## **7. Evidence from High Peak Borough Council**

The combined total of High Peak Borough Council's contribution to the community safety partnership and work dealing with anti-social behaviour has varied only slightly since 2010. The figure quoted includes staffing costs and the Council's expenditure on CCTV. Indeed it is this latter category that accounts for the increase in expenditure in 2015/16 budget.

The 2010/11 budget was £188,470k.  
The 2016/17 budget is £207,750k.

The budget figures do not include the Council's other contributions to community safety, such as through Environmental Health (eg noise nuisance), licensing and housing functions. Nor does it include funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for partnership projects delivered by the CSP which, like in other areas of the county, have decreased significantly in recent years.

Like all CSPs, the High Peak CSP produces an annual action plan. The 2016/17 plan includes initiatives relating to domestic and sexual abuse, fraud and scam awareness, modern day slavery, counter terrorism (Prevent), bullying, child sexual exploitation, hate crime, and addressing the problem of legal highs.

### **7.1 Impact of funding cuts**

"The workforce of High Peak Borough Council has reduced over recent years resulting in less capacity to deal with community safety issues."

The 'core' community safety team has reduced from 2 posts to 1.5 posts. In addition, the Police Partnership Sergeant was based full time in the Community Safety Team at Buxton Town Hall. This post is now shared with Derbyshire Dales.

"Youth diversionary work in the borough has greatly reduced. More early intervention work with young people, families, victims and others could be undertaken if resources and finances were available to prevent the escalation of problems and further costs downstream."

## **7.2 Innovative ways of working to mitigate the impact of funding cuts**

Delivery and prioritisation of community safety at a local – borough or sub-borough – level is key to ensure that local partners can address those issues that are of most concern to local individuals.

High Peak Borough Council has developed strong local partnerships with key agencies, this includes joint working with the neighbouring authority (Staffordshire Moorlands DC).

## **8. Evidence from Derbyshire Dales District Council**

Since 2010/2011 the funding for community safety has reduced by £98,150 (70%). During this time there has been a reduction in the number of staff devoted to community safety work. Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) does not now have an Anti-Social Behaviour officer and the working hours of the CCTV manager post have been halved. There has also been a significant reduction in the support provided by the partnership police sergeant role. Formerly this was a fulltime role and based at the DDDC offices.

In 2010/11 the budget was £139,356

In 2015/2016 the budget is £41,206

### **8.1 Impact of funding cuts**

The number of projects delivered by Derbyshire Dales CSP has reduced significantly and the nature of the work undertaken has changed. Previously the emphasis was on delivering pro-active programs but now projects tend to be re-active, and relatively few in number. Furthermore, communities that are experiencing low-level ASB are not receiving the support they might have done previously due to “gaps” in service provision. In a time of limited resources the district council has found the use of a case management system (E-CINS) has achieved time savings and more effective partner engagement.

“There is far less grass roots engagement with both communities and partners, there has been a reduction in early intervention actions, and less projects to help prevent crime in communities.” – DDDC

The funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner contributes to most of the projects which are delivered in the community as well as a proportion towards the CCTV manager post and up keep of the CCTV equipment. This funding is needed if community safety projects in the district are to be maintained at the current level. At this point in time the budget beyond 2016/17 is unknown.

## **9. Evidence from voluntary organisations**

### **9.1 SV2 (Supporting Victims of Sexual Violence)**

SV2 offers support to victims of sexual violence. They support all genders from any age, regardless of when the sexual abuse or violence occurred. Formerly known as Derbyshire Rape Crisis, the charity changed its name in October 2012 to make it clear that their services cover the whole scope of sexual violence.

SV2 operates two distinct services: A crisis service and a counselling service. It employs a total of 19 full-time equivalent members of staff: There are seven crisis workers who provide a 24 hour on call service and support at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC); There are five Independent Sexual Violence Advocates or Advisers (ISVAs) who provide support to service users aged 14+. There are two children and family ISVAs, a Head of Service and an administrative team.

#### **SV2's Budget**

For the crisis service (and the activities related to the SARC) SV2 receives funding from the police, NHS England and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). Currently DCC is the lead commissioning body for the SARC and from April 2016 onwards NHS England will take over as the lead commissioner and source and coordinate the funding.

Obtaining funding for the counselling service is an ongoing and resource intensive challenge.

In recent years funding has been received from the Big Lottery Fund, Children in Need, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and Comic Relief. With the recent escalation in the volume of victims seeking help the waiting time to receive face-to-face counselling has increased. At one point people were having to wait up to 9 months. To address this issue additional funding was provided by Derbyshire County Council. Funds have also been received from National Enquiry Team.

Recently the PCC has commissioned consent workshops which are delivered in schools. Since September SV2 have delivered workshops to 5,000 pupils in Derbyshire and Derby City. In addition SV2 run client support groups throughout the year.

#### **Demand**

Since 2012 when the Metropolitan Police Service launched a formal criminal investigation, Operation Yewtree, into historic allegations of child sexual abuse by Savile and others there has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases coming forward and seeking support from SV2.

1500 people are supported by the service each year. In January 2016 the number of clients (85) was the highest experienced for any month. On average an acute case requires 11 to 15 months of ongoing support. Each Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) has a case load of approximately 80 clients, this is a high number but is achievable because the level of the ISVA's support fluctuates depending on the varying needs of the victim during the course of their case. A case can take up to two to five years to reach court after it is reported. The Goddard enquiry (The Independent enquiry into Sexual Abuse) estimates that there are 25,000 cases of sexual abuse reported in England and Wales each year and there is no sign that reporting is slowing down.

In Derbyshire there is a unique approach with SV2 operating within the SARC. This means that at one location sexual violence victims can access the expertise of medical specialists who can perform forensic examinations, the investigative services of the Police and the support of SV2 support workers who can provide an initial link to the recovery process. If victims wish they can ring through on the 24 hour advice line and request a medical or forensic examination without police involvement.

### **Knock on effects of funding cuts imposed on partner organisations**

SV2 raised the following concerns about the impact of funding cuts imposed on partner organisations:

- To achieve savings, local authorities have reduced the number of housing support workers. As a result ISVA's now have to understand the complexities of housing benefits to support their clients.
- The reduction in the Young Carers Service has led to some young carers, who have been victims of sexual violence, having to wait four to five months before receiving respite care.
- The implementation of the spare room supplement (or "bedroom tax") places extra pressure on the role of ISVA team. Some vulnerable victims require overnight carers, but because the victim has had to

move to one bedroom accommodation the carer has to sleep on the sofa. Similarly it is difficult for ISVA's to coordinate access arrangements for children when there is no bedroom where the children can stay.

- Welfare reforms have led to some clients needing support from foodbanks and as a result ISVA's are frequently taking on a new role of accompanying clients to collect the food.
- To access support from SV2's services many people are reliant on public transport. Therefore the client base is adversely affected by cuts to bus services.
- Victims travelling to give evidence in court, from the north of the county, will face long journey times now that Buxton Court is set to close and potentially the longer journeys will increase the risk of the victim coming into contact with the perpetrator whilst travelling.

- Competing demands for housing has led to victims of sexual violence being inappropriately housed. Vulnerable people, including those with learning disabilities, have on occasions been housed in close proximity to people with drug addiction or in communities where there is a high level of anti-social behaviour.

### **Innovative approaches to mitigate the impact of budget reductions**

In response to funding cuts to the counselling service SV2 has had to think creatively and change its service provision methods. Previously the service was able to provide five full-time therapists. The approach now is to have sixteen subcontracted therapists across the county. This approach means that the service is able to reach more clients and incur less overhead costs. To facilitate this approach SV2 invested in a database which enables therapists to access and record notes relating to the clients assigned to them via a secure remote login. The therapists receive specialist training from SV2 and so operate in accordance with a consistent ethos. The therapists however are required to resource their own rooms, transport, and insurance and are paid per client session.

## 9.2 Crossroads Derbyshire

Crossroads Derbyshire is a voluntary organisation and registered charity. It provides support and advisory services for victims of domestic abuse. The services include: Refuge for young women and children needing a safe place to stay; Outreach services for women and men; Community programmes for young people; Counselling, and Specialist services for children.

The demand for Crossroads services has increased dramatically over the years. The number of referrals for outreach support in the last quarter has exceeded 25 cases each month. Funding from DCC provides funding to support 90 victims annually but Crossroads have always worked in excess of this.

“It feels like the flow is going the wrong way. At a time when the service is battling with demand it is also dealing with the impact of funding cuts”.

### **Knock on effects of funding cuts imposed on partner organisations**

Competition for funding is fierce. Having to continually “chase funds” is very time consuming and the insecurity of funding for the service means that the service has sometimes lost good staff.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to house victims in refuges outside the county because, unlike Derbyshire, other areas have not maintained the funding for refuges, or they have been taken over by non-specialist providers who do not always offer the same level of service.

The reduction in the Sure Start service has meant Crossroads has had to seek new premises and venues to deliver outreach work. This process brings with it resource and cost implications as alternative venues make a charge and each new location has to be risk assessed.

At some localities, particularly in rural areas, outreach services have been delivered in GP surgeries. An advantage of this is that a victim’s attendance can be relatively inconspicuous. However many surgeries are now charging for room hire, and in some cases this is prohibitively expensive.

The restructure of Derbyshire’s Multi Agency Teams (MATs) has meant that during the initial period of the reorganisation staff members were not sure of the referral routes for victims of domestic abuse. Now that the



changes, brought about by the restructure, have been embedded there has been a dramatic rise in the number of referrals to Crossroads, particularly for children's services.

Some statutory services are referring clients to third sector organisations when they have the resources and funding within their own organisation. To overcome this staff within those organisations need to be trained to support victims.

Changes in the eligibility requirements for the Handy Van service means that some victims of domestic abuse do not receive the support they would have done previously. Medium risk services can no longer access the same robust safety and security package for victims despite the fact that the majority of DHR cases involve medium risk victims.

Despite Crossroads best efforts there are still gaps in service provision. It is difficult for some people to access domestic abuse services tailored to their needs (for example members from the LGBT community, travellers, migrants and people who are deaf). This has been picked up in the recent consultation on domestic abuse services and some of this work is included in the newly commissioned contracts.

Supporting victims in family courts is a crucial role but often there are insufficient resources to be able to provide the support that is needed. Since the announcement that Buxton Court will close this will add more pressure for service users who will have to travel to Chesterfield or Derby for their case to be heard, with the exception of some cases from Glossop transferring to Greater Manchester.

## **10.Key findings**

During the course of this review the working group has spoken to a range of partner organisations involved in the delivery of community safety services. The sample has been small but the message has been consistent. To achieve the required savings, funding has been diverted away from activities identified as being of lower threat and risk.

Across the board there have been reductions in the workforce resulting in less capacity to deal with community safety issues. Whereas previously, partners identified potential areas of need and had the resources to address them before a problem developed, now agencies are having to be more reactive. Also there is a tendency that the severity of an issue, now needs to be higher before there is an intervention.

The review heard frequent mention of the reduction of diversionary activities for young people across the county, and concerns that this will potentially lead to the escalation of problems (such as ASB) and increased future costs. One district council stated that: “without sustainable diversionary activities for young people, reducing ASB in certain areas has become a “plate spinning” exercise“. The PCC affirmed that whilst it is understandable that local authorities are retracting their services and focusing on providing statutory services, this is having a knock on effect on policing resources.

The PCC emphasised the current demands on the police budget which necessitates careful allocation of resources to ensure community safety is protected. Nationally, public protection issues (including protecting individuals from child sexual exploitation, child neglect and domestic violence, are identified as being of high threat and risk. In Derbyshire more resources have been devoted to public protection work. The Criminal Justice Division has been significantly affected by budget reductions and it has been necessary to cut back on “witness care services” which support investigations through the criminal justice process. Police station closures have been made, and there could still be more closures to follow. Whilst operational practices have developed over time (with the development of mobile technology) police station closures are still unpopular with some members of the public as their existence in the community can be reassuring. Historically the police have worked in partnership with social services and other agencies to support vulnerable adults in the community, calling on residents in their

own home and conducting “safe and well checks”. This is a service that the Police can no longer resource.

Representatives from the voluntary sector referred to the fierce competition for grant funding. They described the process of having to “chase” funding as relentless, time consuming and resource intensive. To quote “It feels like the flow is going the wrong way - At a time when the service is battling with demand, it is also dealing with the impact of funding cuts”.

In evidence, examples were provided about how changes to local authority services are having an impact on the capacity of voluntary services to deliver the work they do. For example, outreach services are affected by changes to Sure Start because they have to find new premises and venues in which to operate. Reductions in the Young Carers Service has led to delays in the availability of respite care for some young carers, who have been victims of sexual violence. Competing demands for housing has led to victims of sexual violence being inappropriately housed. Furthermore, the reduction in the number of local authority housing support workers has meant that specialist sexual violence advisers now have to understand the complexities of housing benefits in order to support their clients.

The County Council’s Community Safety Budget for projects has been more than halved in the last four years and has gone from approximately £1 million to £487,000. As a consequence when assessing whether a district or borough project is eligible for a financial contribution it has been necessary to raise the threshold, in terms of the severity of a problem. Furthermore, whilst the County Council is currently able to fund community safety projects that deal with high risk issues and that have a high impact on the lives of victims, beyond the next two years the future of what the County Council will be able to fund is uncertain.