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**REPORT TO:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 16 FEBRUARY 2012

**REPORT OF THE:** HEAD OF ECONOMY AND HOUSING  
JULIAN RUDD

**TITLE OF REPORT:** SAFER RYEDALE – PROGRESS WITH DELIVERING THE  
COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2011/12

**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of progress towards delivery of the 2011/12 Safer Ryedale Action Plan.
- 1.2 To inform Members of Priorities for the 2012/13 Safer Ryedale Action Plan.
- 1.3 To inform Members of arrangements being made for the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel for York and North Yorkshire.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to put in place arrangements for crime and disorder scrutiny committees, the statutory function of the committee being to review, scrutinise and report on the decisions made and action taken by responsible authorities relating to crime and disorder issues under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was designated as the Ryedale District Council's crime and disorder scrutiny committee in July 2009. To undertake this function, it was resolved to receive reports from the Safer Ryedale Partnership. (Minute 42(b) refers).
- 3.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill was enacted in September 2011. The Act sets out provision for 41 Police and Crime commissioners to be directly elected in force areas across England and Wales. A Police and Crime Panel, comprised of local councillors and independent members, will also be established in every force area, to scrutinise the actions and decisions of Police and Crime

Commissioners.

#### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

4.1 Risks are outlined in the Risk Matrix in Annex A.

### **REPORT**

#### **5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

5.1 The Safer Ryedale Delivery Team meets quarterly to review progress towards delivery of the Safer Ryedale Partnership Plan by receiving updates of the Performance Monitoring Report. A traffic light system is used to assess progress.

5.2 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has a statutory responsibility to produce a Joint Strategic Intelligence annually in order to review crime, disorder and substance misuse issues and determine which areas should be priorities for the coming year. The police are also required to deliver annual Strategic Assessments.

5.3 Since 2010, North Yorkshire Police (NYP) ceased the creation of police-only Strategic Assessments, focusing upon working with partners to deliver a truly joint assessment.

5.4 The Ryedale Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2011 (JSIA 2011) was published in December 2011 by North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). This document is marked 'Protect' under the Government Protective Marking System (GPMS) and is an internal document for use by the partnership and constituent member agencies, as well as providing NYP with the required level of strategic analysis across a number of areas of law enforcement.

5.5 Common themes from the CSP level assessments will feed up into the county picture in the form of the Community Safety Agreement (CSA).

5.6 Safer Ryedale's Priorities for 2012 – 13 are based on the data published in the Ryedale JSIA 2011 and other, locally identified, priorities.

#### **6.0 POLICY CONTEXT**

6.1 Council Priorities 2009 – 2013 Aim 4: to have active communities where everyone feels welcome and safe.

#### **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 A variety of approaches are used by the Safer Ryedale Partnership to engage with communities, both face to face and through consultation exercises. These include:

- § Website [www.ryesafe.org](http://www.ryesafe.org)
- § Media opportunities – Safer Ryedale has a target of 12 press releases per annum
- § A 'media diary of events' has been drawn up to highlight community based events for the Partnership throughout the year
- § CAP (Community & Police) meetings – held quarterly at 5 locations in the district
- § Parish Liaison Forum
- § Voluntary Sector Forum
- § Bi-annual street surveys in all four of Ryedale's market towns
- § Targeted consultation with youth groups

- § The 'Rural Voice' project, co-ordinated by Ryedale Voluntary Action, contributes to the involvement of the voluntary sector in Safer Ryedale's processes
- § Ryedale's valued network of Watch Groups

## 8.0 REPORT DETAILS

### 2011/12 Partnership Plan

- 8.1 The Partnership Plan was published online in July 2011, on the Safer Ryedale website, [www.ryesafe.org](http://www.ryesafe.org). A summary leaflet was also printed and is distributed as appropriate.
- 8.2 The Performance Monitoring Report is also published on the Safer Ryedale website, and details progress under each of the four priorities. Annex B summarises highlights of delivery against the Partnership Plan 2011-12.

### Summary of the Ryedale JSIA 2011

- 8.3 The Ryedale JSIA 2011 contains a comprehensive picture of the work of Safer Ryedale, the context in which that work is carried out, and the problems of crime, disorder and substance misuse which the Partnership seeks to address.

- 8.4 The Key Findings in the JSIA:

- § highlight progress during the year,
  - Ryedale has the lowest crime rate compared to all other districts within North Yorkshire and also the lowest within its group of Most Similar CSPs.
  - Crime further decreased by 6% to 1,639 (total crimes) between 2009/10 and 2010/11.
  - Theft, Violence and Burglary Other (not dwellings) have had the greatest reductions.
  - Anti social behaviour (ASB) has fallen 8% this year, continuing a downward trend. The district has the lowest ASB levels within the county.
  - Killed and Serious Injury Collisions have remained stable although there has been an increase in fatalities.
  - There has been an increase in confidence in police ability. Ryedale is believed to be a safe place to live with crime levels below national levels,
- § summarise the operational context,
  - Theft, Violence and Criminal Damage account for the majority of crime in the district.
  - Crime is concentrated in the market towns throughout the year, changing only when prolific cross-border offenders target visitors and rural areas, this being mostly during the summer months.
  - There are intelligence gaps concerning property disposal routes and the impact of organised crime groups.
  - The majority of those arrested have been local males, and in most instances aged 29 years and under, although offenders from West Yorkshire and Humberside also affect Ryedale.
  - Alcohol is an under-pinning causative factor linked to youth ASB, domestic violence, night time economy violence and drink driving within the district.
- § and draw attention to ongoing causes for concern:
  - Drug offences and criminal damage have increased.
  - Ryedale District has the second highest youth re-offending rate in the county.
  - Child and adult vulnerability are both of concern. These are linked to sexual offences against under 17s, domestic violence, rural poverty and isolation of

vulnerable communities.

- Funding and structures of community safety are heading into a year of uncertainty as austerity measures take effect and the Police and Crime Commissioner election approaches.

- 8.5 The Executive Summary recommends that Safer Ryedale focus its activity and co-ordination with a range of agencies on:

**Reducing Offending**

- ⊗ Youth re-offending
- ⊗ Adult re-offending
- ⊗ Identifying and tackling troubled families and individuals (deprivation, crime, ASB, substance misuse, domestic abuse)

**Reducing the harm caused by alcohol and drugs**

- ⊗ Linked to domestic abuse, violence, binge drinking, ASB

**Supporting the existing North Yorkshire Police Control Strategy themes of**

- ⊗ Serious Acquisitive Crime (focus on burglary and theft from vehicle)
- ⊗ Offender Management (identification of organised crime groups)
- ⊗ Policing the Roads
- ⊗ Protecting Vulnerable People (child sexual crime, online vulnerability, elderly and remote communities, repeat targeting of vulnerable people for ASM/crime)

- 8.6 Following publication of the Ryedale JSIA 2011, a working party from Safer Ryedale met to discuss its recommendations, and to align these with concerns expressed locally, particularly through the twice yearly street surveys. The officers in the working party concluded that all the issues raised in the JSIA could be accommodated within the existing priority groups, and furthermore that there would be sufficient change in the coming year (2012/13) owing to changes in police personnel, further funding constraint and the election of the new Police & Crime Commissioner without major changes in the operational structure of the partnership.

- 8.7 The working party therefore proposed that Safer Ryedale's priorities for 2012/13 should be:

- ⊗ Domestic Abuse
- ⊗ Safer Roads
- ⊗ Community Priorities
- ⊗ Alcohol Harm Reduction

These were agreed by the Delivery Team and approved by the Ryedale Strategic Partnership Board (RSP Board) at its meeting on 26 January 2012.

- 8.8 The draft Action Plan is currently being reviewed by each of the four Priority Task Groups to determine what actions they will deliver in 2012/13. When this process is complete, officers will prepare the 2012/13 Safer Ryedale Partnership Plan. As in 2011/12, this will contain:

- ⊗ A review of activity in 2011/12
- ⊗ Key messages from the JSIA
- ⊗ Description of the Safer Ryedale Partnership structure
- ⊗ Statistical evaluation
- ⊗ Details of community engagement
- ⊗ Priorities for 2012/13

- ⌘ New activities or initiatives
- ⌘ Funding and resources

8.9 Due to continuing reductions in funding, and following the successful merging of Ryedale and Scarborough's Safer Roads groups in April 2011, the RSP Board decided in October 2011 that closer collaborative working should be sought for two of the other priorities, Domestic Abuse and Alcohol Harm Reduction. This will come into effect from April 2012, however Safer Ryedale will continue to set and work towards its own Action Plan.

#### **Arrangements being made for the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel for York and North Yorkshire**

8.10 Police and Crime Panels (Panels) are being introduced in every force area to scrutinise the actions and decisions of Police and Crime Commissioners (Commissioners). Panels will support and challenge the Commissioners in the exercise of their functions, acting as a critical friend. Panels will not replace police authorities and therefore will not have a role in scrutinising the performance of the force. This will be the role of the Commissioner.

8.11 Panels will comprise at least one elected representative from each local authority within the force area, and two independent members or co-optees. In York and North Yorkshire, work began in 2011 to establish the Panel. Ryedale District Council's representative on the Panel is Cllr Eric Hope. Panels will not need to exercise their functions until Commissioners come into post in November 2012.

8.12 District Council Crime & Disorder Committees (Overview & Scrutiny) will continue to hold the local police and other Community Safety Partnership agencies to account. Effective communication between each individual authority's crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committee, community safety partnership and Panel member will be important in enabling the Panel to take a strategic view.

### **9.0 IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The report is for information only, there are no significant finance or legal implications on the Council arising from the proposals.

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**Background Papers:**  
Safer Ryedale Partnership Plan 2011-12

**Background Papers are available for inspection at:**  
[www.ryesafe.org](http://www.ryesafe.org)