



WfCAP are responding to the PCC consultation as part of our role in supporting and advocating the work of Community Area Partnerships. WfCAP exists to support, promote and represent Community Area Partnerships and act as an advocate for Community-Led-Planning in Wiltshire

Background on CAPs:

The Community Area Partnerships (CAPs) are independent, non-political organisations that are working to identify and develop a common vision for the future of their own local area. They are open forums for community planning and involvement, seeking to draw in the widest possible range of partners from across a given community area in order to fully represent those living and working there.

Due to the variation across the Community Areas in terms of geography, population, make-up of towns and villages and localised issues, the CAPs have developed to suit the people, community and place they operate in and therefore have differing names, structures and ways of working. However they are all bodies which work across the whole of their designated community area, are volunteer led and seek to improve the wellbeing of their community.

The CAPs are an integral part of the Wiltshire Council model, having a direct link into their Area Board. The Community Plan is a document illustrating needs and aspirations of the community and the Area Board have a commitment to incorporate the priorities set out in the document when planning and delivering its own services, allocating resources and when negotiating with partners and national agencies. The set-up has been established since the formation of unitary council (although many CAPs pre-existed this) and the ethos is to have empowered, resilient communities developing new ways of addressing local priorities in collaboration with Wiltshire's public services.

1. Below I have detailed how some of the key roles and activities of the CAPs relate to the objectives of the PCC plan; to policing in Wiltshire, community safety and the wider issues around prevention and partnership working in the county. We would like to see recognition throughout the PCC plan of the CAPs place in the Wiltshire set-up. For the wording of the document it would be more beneficial to refer to working with Community Areas as opposed to specifying the board on all occasions. Within the Community Area there could then be the differentiation of emphasising that the Area Board meetings will be the place where the PCC maintain that regular level of official communication but in addition to that an emphasis should be put on joint working with the Community Area Partnerships on a more practical level to establish a channel for the CAPs to push up local knowledge, priorities and concerns and to aid in delivering initiatives that either prevent, monitor or address crime.

In reference to the six priorities of the plan there are two of which the objectives relate strongly to CAP working and areas where the partnerships are already helping to address issues:

- 1. Working with communities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour**
- 2. Protecting the most vulnerable in society**



1. Working with communities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

- ***Communities playing a pivotal role in policing and crime issues through greater levels of ownership and volunteering***

The CAPs have a volunteer base and an extensive network of fellow groups they work alongside and communicate with, all of which increases capacity for supporting the statutory services. There is an established record of CAPs working closely with their Neighbourhood Policing Teams and supporting their work in the community. There could also be scope for the Police to use the Community Planning evidence of local priorities when deciding on Community Service Order projects. CAPs have been involved in many of the successful initiatives already operating around the county such as Speedwatch, bringing in Speed Indicator Devices, the Good Neighbour scheme, Community Safety Partnerships, Pubwatch, Street Angels & pastors. Speeding is the highest reported issue to the Area Board and likewise has always been key on CAPs agendas. It is important now that the Area Transport Group has delegated authority to deploy the mobile speed indicator devices and the continued support and encouragement is needed for the Speed watch groups. Neighbourhood Watch has proven quite successful in terms of establishing local groups but there is a perception of disconnect with neighbourhood police and if this scheme is to be pushed forward then efforts should be made to improve this relationship and to recognise and build on local interest.

The Touch 2ID scheme was instigated by TCAF and MCAP, the Trowbridge and Melksham Community Partnerships, and has been a hugely successful example of how through consultation the CAPs discovered the issues young adults were facing with the pressure of being expected to carry valuable and vulnerable ID around with them. The CAP then working with the police delivered on a solution which alleviates the need for physical, personally identifiable ID ensuring less vulnerability for the users and their belongings and progressive ways of monitoring underage drinking.

- ***Focus to be on partnership, pro-activity and prevention***

Partnership: By nature the CAPs operate as partnerships and more increasingly as wider networks, linking to individuals, groups and businesses, both in their own community area and through WfCAP across the county, sharing support and best practice.

Pro-activity: With all established CAPs having recent full updates of their Community Plans and following the co-hosted planning events on the Joint Strategic Assessments, CAPs have been increasingly active in their community in taking forward projects to address the local priorities. CAPs encourage interest and action from groups work with within their community.

Prevention: Although Community Safety is a key issue with all CAPs, they also consult on and address issues across all of the common themes of community planning. Sports festivals, arts projects, youth groups all help to provide activity, culture, education and socialising, especially for young people in rural areas where isolation due to poor public transport is a major concern. The smaller local projects, although not resolving issues in entirety, can have vast local impact.

- ***Appropriate community and victim focused restorative justice outcomes to become the norm for less serious offences***

The Westbury CAP BA13 has been working closely with Matravers School, its feeder primaries, the NPTs and local residents to encourage the idea of embedding Restorative Practices into the community as a cultural way of working and thinking. The CAP has received Area Board funding to further the initial work with a pilot project, bringing in professional trainers to train



teachers and community members in RP methodology and then train them to disseminate the training further, to colleagues.

2. Protecting the most vulnerable in society

- **To raise awareness of vulnerability within communities**
- **To improve information on support services available to vulnerable people**
- **Focus to be on partnership, pro-activity and prevention, ensuring that cases do not fall between gaps in provision**
- **Vulnerable people and their advocates to be more involved in shaping their support**

These objectives relate to local knowledge, channels of communication and access to wide community representation. The CAP should be seen as a social asset; a group of local people, from within the community that therefore have close ties to other community members and through their networks can reach people or their representative bodies.

In Westbury the Crosspoint Welcome Centre in the town is a place where people can drop in for a chat, receive help to fill in forms, be signposted to other groups who may be able to assist them and collect food bank parcels. Many CAPs work closely with Credit Unions, Food Banks, Housing Associations, Link schemes etc and so have an awareness of who the vulnerable people are, what their concerns and issues are and how and who can be turned to for further support. All of this is information that can help raise profile of people's needs and requirements.

In relation to some of the new initiatives and ways of working in Wiltshire:

ABCD – WfCAP are working closely with the Area Board team at Wiltshire Council to develop working around Asset Based Community Development. This will have varying strands from social asset mapping in order to further enforce connections and recognise gaps in communities, to developing resources that enable communities to share best practice, take on extra responsibilities to deliver services as well as learning from local case studies of projects to address the small scale needs as well as realising the more aspirational projects. Again some of these initiatives will not be directly related to community safety but address the wider issues of community engagement, provision of activities, combating isolation etc.

RSA – The Corsham Community Partnership CCAN will be integral to the social mapping aspect of the RSA project as they were to the consultation period on the campus which is obviously the instigation for the research. Again this just illustrates the way that CAPs are able to assist partners by utilising their local connections to ensure the community are fully engaged in any changes and developments that will affect them.

Community Campuses – As the campus process is rolled out across the county the local CAPs are playing vital roles in the consultation period, working with local residents, groups and schools and businesses to find out the facilities that are required as well as hearing the fears regarding traffic, ASB, noise, safety issues. The CAP's way of collecting qualitative data through face-to-face consultation often provides expansion on some of the statistical reporting; giving the story behind the fact. This can work two ways, by being able to add evidence to statistics to use as a base for improving or altering services and challenging issues. But also the evidence can be relayed back to the community and can give more information on difficult issues such as the perception of fear and help illustrate to the



community the real situation regarding crime levels and start conversations on how as an extremely safe county we can help allay the fears of the more vulnerable that live here.

The key broad additions we would like to see to the PCC Plan are:

- The reference to CAPs as one of the future working partners with the PCC.
- The differentiation between Community Areas and then the Area Boards and Community Area Partnerships that operate within them.
- Regard given to the valuable evidence of local Community Plans to further enlighten the statistical results of the Joint Strategic Assessments and other factual data and the commitment to using this as an evidence base for the PCC in the way it is used by the Area Boards and Wiltshire Council.
- The recognition of CAPs as potential deliverers where appropriate of action to address local needs.