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NSW Police Force

Community Safety Precinct Committee Policy

Crime Prevention Command

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Summary

Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPC) are multi-skilled community-based groups which address issues of public safety, crime and fear of crime. CSPCs are formed by the police and consist of volunteers from the local community, including residents, council, business owners, community leaders and representatives from community groups. They work in partnership with local police to increase community awareness of crime and the strategies that police and community can develop to combat crime.

CSPC meetings provide the opportunity to:

- Develop solutions to local crime in partnership with local stakeholders.
- Promote accurate information and improved education about local crime issues.
- Local Councils and community members to meet with Police Local Area Commanders and share perspectives.
- Exchange information and build inter-agency relationships.

Document Control Sheet

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0.2	27/02/2024	Crime Prevention Command	This document replaces the 'Community Safety Precinct Committees Crime Prevention Framework Policy Document 2008' (NSWP/D/2008/79563). Major amendments to every section, new sections added, obsolete government policy removed and simplified policy name. Changes in line with Procedure for Corporate Policy Documents and policy review D/2023/1307809

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1. Purpose

Crime prevention is not solely the responsibility of New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF), it requires community collaboration to effectively address safety issues. Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) meetings provide the opportunity for all parties to come together and address local crime concerns. CSPCs allows Police Area Commanders to share accurate local crime information and raise awareness of crime prevention approaches. CSPCs foster collaboration among individuals, communities, businesses, organisations and government to develop and execute coordinated strategies aimed at the immediate and underlying causes of criminal activity.

The purpose of CSPCs is to:

- Ensure Police Area Commanders are communicating with their local communities.
- Encourage community partnerships to promote the reduction of crime.
- Collaboratively develop tailored solutions to local crime in partnership with local stakeholders.
- Provide opportunities for local stakeholders to engage in developing solutions to address crime at the community level.
- Improve public safety to reduce the fear of crime.
- Enhance awareness of the correlation between policing and crime reduction.
- Ensure Commanders consider local community perspective regarding police visibility, deployment and crime hotspots when deciding police tasking and deployment.

2. Planning and operation of the CSPC

It is **mandatory** that a CSPC is established in every Police Area Command (PAC) or Police District (PD) across NSW.

- CSPCs are to be held quarterly with the dates to be determined 14 days prior by the PAC/PD.
- The PAC/PD Commander, or their delegate, chair all CSPC meetings.
- The meetings should be held at the local police station or a neutral location.
- CSPC agendas are determined by the PAC/PD and should include the following standing agenda items:
 - Crime hotspots.
 - Police visibility and deployment.
 - Issues and decisions of the previous meeting.
 - Action taken in respect of working groups being established to tackle local crime issues.
- Following the CSPC, the PAC/PD arranges for a Meeting Report to be completed. The Meeting Report is to include the issues raised and decisions of the CSPC.
- The Meeting Report is to be distributed within 14 days of the meeting.

3. Sub CSPCs

Sub CSPCs may be set up in geographically large PACs/PDs which contain several regional centres, multiple Local Government Areas (LGAs) or more than one State Electorate. Sub CSPCs are chaired by the Commander or their delegate. Sub CSPCs have the same level of accountability as the PAC/PD main CSPC, while overcoming the problems of distance. The Sub CSPC provides a Meeting Report of issues and decisions to the Commander, for the information of the main CSPC. It may be useful for a Sub CSPC to elect a police representative to attend the main CSPC.

4. Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Responsibilities

The CPO will typically be responsible for many CSPC related activities including:

- Formulating agendas and inviting attendees.
- Organising the logistics of the meetings, e.g. venue, refreshments, etc.
- Recording and circulating meeting minutes within 14 days.
- Co-ordinating the appropriate response for issues raised.
- Attending each quarterly meeting.
- Participating in community education days or other community engagement events.

5. Committee Members

NSWPF encourages leading stakeholders and local people who know the community best to join the Committee. CSPCs are made up of volunteers from the local community, including residents, business owners, community leaders, and representatives from various community groups. They work in partnership with local police to address safety issues. This inclusive approach increases community awareness of crime, while enhancing the understanding of the relationship between policing and crime prevention.

Suggested Committee members:

- Local MPs or the Local Mayor or other Council members.
- Chamber of Commerce.
- Shopping Centre Management.
- Managers of group homes/ hostels/ refuges.
- Licensees / Liquor & Gaming NSW.
- Community Organisations e.g., Sporting club, Rotary club.
- Other government agencies or stakeholder that meet the needs of the agenda items, e.g. Dept of Housing, Health, Education.