

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP)	REPORT NUMBER: JOS/18/14
FROM: BDC Cllr Margaret Maybury – Cabinet Member for Communities MSDC Cllr Julie Flatman – Cabinet Member for Communities	DATE OF MEETING: 20 SEPTEMBER 2018
OFFICER: Melanie Yolland Communities Officer (Safe)	KEY DECISION REF NO. Item No.

REVIEW OF WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For the committee to fulfil its function under Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009 to scrutinise the work of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3. RECOMMENDATIONS
3.1 To review and scrutinise the community safety activity of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from 24 October 2017 to 31 August 2018
3.2 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents.
REASON FOR DECISION
For the committee to fulfil its function under Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were previously known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). They were introduced in 1998 under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002. It is a statutory body of different organisations who work together to reduce crime and disorder across the District.
- 4.2 The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) is made up of statutory representatives from Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Forest Heath District Council, St Edmundsbury District Council, Suffolk Police, Suffolk

County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Ipswich and East CCG, National Probation Service, Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and the Elected Members from all 4 Districts and Suffolk County Council (SCC). Co-opted non-voting members include Youth Offending Service (YOS) and a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) representative.

4.3 The aims of the Partnership are:

- To work collaboratively to prevent and reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime, following an evidence-based approach, to promote the sharing of good practice and divert people away from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To promote a wider understanding of the contributions and responsibilities of individual agencies and develop a shared commitment to partnership working.
- To encourage and support collaborative partnerships between local communities, statutory and non-statutory organisations.
- To support non-statutory, voluntary and community groups in accessing funding to deliver community safety projects that address the strategic priorities across the Western Suffolk CSP area.

4.4 Over the past 11 months, the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) continued to meet and to discharge its statutory functions. This includes producing an annual Strategic Assessment of community safety issues, which is reviewed and refreshed annually. The purpose of this strategic assessment is to inform partners of WSCSP about the scale and scope of crime, disorder and community safety issues within all 4 Districts – Babergh, Mid Suffolk, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. It informs the Partnerships plan for 2018/2019 and contributes towards the overall strategic assessment for Suffolk and the Police and Crime Plan. It is not a police document and should not be confused with police strategic assessments. The annual Strategic Assessment is produced by SCC on behalf of the CSP and is a restricted document for WCSP members only.

4.5 The following priority areas of work have been identified as the focus for the WSCSP for 2018/2019:

1. **Tackling County Lines.** Develop a partnership response to County Lines in West Suffolk.
2. **Violence Against Women and Girls, Men and Boys (VAWG).** Effectively undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). Promoting and developing local Domestic Abuse Forums. Promote Domestic Abuse training opportunities. Learning from perpetrator programmes. Support campaigns in Suffolk such as White Ribbon which in 2018 will focus on Domestic Abuse policies for Businesses.
3. **Hate Crime.** Support the identification of 3rd party reporting sites. Ensure that the CSP understands and responds appropriately to Hate Crime through effective data collection and sharing.
4. **PREVENT.** Supporting and protecting those people that might be susceptible to radicalisation or extremism. Promote Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training and workshops.

- 4.6 WSCSP Strategic Priority 2018/2019 County Lines. A 'County Line' describes a situation where an individual, or more frequently a group, establishes and operates a telephone number in an area outside of their normal locality in order to sell drugs directly to users at street level. This generally involves a group from an urban area expanding their operations by crossing one or more police force boundaries to more rural areas, setting up a secure base and using runners to conduct day to day dealing.
- 4.7 County Lines are operating from the London Boroughs into more rural areas outside of London such as county or coastal towns to sell class A drugs – heroine and crack cocaine. Drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine and cannabis are also seen, although the numbers are very small. It would appear that groups target two types of areas, either small coastal towns that suffer from issues relating to deprivation and unemployment or in contrast more affluent areas with decent transport links to London. A 'County Lines' enterprise almost always involves exploitation of vulnerable persons; this can involve both children and adults who require safeguarding.
- 4.8 Users ask for drugs via a mobile phone line used by the gang. Couriers (gang members and/or groomed young people) travel between the gang's urban base and the county or coastal locations on a regular basis to collect cash and deliver drugs. Phone numbers can be used for a number of years, or even decades, and can be sold for a significant amount.
- 4.9 County Lines typically involves gangs grooming and using children and young people to deliver drugs to customers out of their areas – this often involves deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. They are increasingly exploiting children - often boys aged 14-17 - to act as runners and to conduct the day-to-day dealing. The gangs impose high levels of violence, including the prevalent use of weapons and firearms to intimidate and control members of the group and associated victims.
- 4.10 Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) held a workshop in June 2018 for partners to inform a County Lines Strategy and Tactical Action Plan for the West Suffolk CSP area. The WSCSP Strategy and Tactical Action Plan is currently being developed and once endorsed by the WSCSP will be shared with key partners and those required to support the delivery of the actions. The Tactical Action Plan will be a restricted document and will not be in the public domain. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will be required to support the delivery of key actions in the Tactical Action Plan.
- 4.11 WSCSP Strategic Priority 2018/2019 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). A Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls, (which includes Men and Boys), VAWG Strategy and Action Plan has been produced, endorsed by the VAWG Steering Group and published on the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards websites. This strategy includes Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation. The Action Plan focuses on five main areas; Commissioning, Insight, Prevention and Education, Coordination and Communication and Protection and Justice. The Action Plan is a restricted document and will be reviewed at quarterly meetings and amended as new work streams develop.
- 4.12 VAWGs overall aim is to co-ordinate and develop quality services to effectively meet the needs of Suffolk residents. These include direct service provision to VAWG, victims/survivors, perpetrators, and their children, holding abusers to account and

work to reduce the tolerance of VAWG issues amongst the public. The vision is to reduce the likelihood and personal impact of becoming a victim of VAWG in Suffolk.

- 4.13 VAWG have also undertaken a mapping exercise against the national expectations which has identified some gaps in provision, including work with perpetrators and victims from hard to reach communities. An action plan is being developed to address these and once finalised, District forums will be encouraged to support the delivery locally.
- 4.14 Body cameras are now worn routinely by police officers which has meant positive action can be taken when the victim of Domestic Violence or Abuse is unable or unwilling to give evidence.
- 4.15 Since 13 April 2011, CSPs have had a statutory duty to undertake a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).
- 4.16 Under section 9(1) of the 2004 Act, Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by—

(a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or

(b) a member of the same household as himself,
held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

Intimate personal relationships include relationships between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This can also include suicide.

Where the definition set out in this paragraph has been met, then a Domestic Homicide Review should be undertaken.

- 4.17 The purpose of conducting a DHR is to establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide, regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims. DHRs are not inquiries into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate.
- 4.18 The WSCSP Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Action Plan for the DHR which occurred in the Babergh District in 2014 is now complete and all recommendations completed to the satisfaction of the partnership. The WSCSP is currently undertaking 2 DHRs in Mid Suffolk, both of which occurred during 2017. The total cost of one of these Mid Suffolk DHRs was £7,500 and the cost has been split equally across the WSCSP key statutory partners. The other Mid Suffolk DHR is still underway and the total cost is not yet known.
- 4.19 In addition a homicide occurred in Mid Suffolk during 2017, which did not meet the threshold for a DHR. However, as there was a history of domestic abuse and involvement with service providers, the WSCSP took the decision that a ½ day facilitated workshop should be undertaken to explore if there were any lessons to be learnt from the case. The Home Office Quality Assurance Panel commended the

partnerships' intention to undertake this workshop and share the findings with the Home Office as this will help inform national policy and practice. The workshop took place on 16 August 2018 and the findings from the facilitated workshop will be shared with the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel in due course. An Action Plan detailing the key recommendations from the workshop is currently being developed and the WSCSP will take ownership of the Plan to ensure implementation of the recommendations. There have been no DHRs in the Babergh District since 2014.

5. LINKS TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN

- 5.1 Continued support for health and wellbeing outcomes that prevent interventions.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Revenue/Capital/ Expenditure/Income Item	Total	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)		£7525.58 (Cost to be reimbursed from WSCSP key statutory partners)	TBC	N/K
Target Hardening for High Risk DV Victims		£0	£4,000 (£2,000 per District)	N/K
E-CINS/Athena Partnership Platform		£5,000 (£2,500 per District)	£5,000 (£2,500 per District)	N/K
Net Effect				

- 6.1 Suffolk CSPs do not receive any funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to commission services and award grants that contribute to the CSP Strategic Priorities as PCC funding ceased in March 2014. From April 2014, the PCC devolved the Home Office Crime and Disorder Grant to Suffolk Community Foundation (SCF) as the Safer Suffolk Fund (SSF). Bids to the fund can be made by community and voluntary organisations but not by statutory bodies including CSPs. Community Safety Partnerships can support these organisations with applications to access funding from SCF to deliver community safety projects and initiatives that address the CSPs strategic priorities. WSCSP has previously supported organisations with funding applications to the SCF in 2017 which include funding for Mediation for tackling anti-social behaviour neighbour disputes and target hardening for high risk victims of domestic abuse across the 4 Districts. This funding has now ended.
- 6.2 Funding for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). A decision was agreed through the Safer and Stronger Communities Group (SSCG), that the cost of employing an Author and Overview Report writer and the cost of any Local Authority additional administrative provision in the District where the Review is being conducted, will be funded equally by the statutory partners of the CSP. The Local Authority have

invoiced the WSCSP statutory partners, including the National Probation Service for one DHR and are currently awaiting imbursement. Following invoicing for a DHR in East Suffolk, the National Probation Service have stated that they will not contribute to DHRs. This is a Probation National Policy decision and therefore it is unlikely the SSCG will have any influence.

- 6.3 This funding arrangement has been in place since 2017 and the SSCG will be reviewing a paper in October to inform a further discussion on how this is working in practice and a way forward. The paper will include the cost of a central DHR Resource (similar to the SCC Emergency Planning Team), where this could be hosted and how this could be funded.
- 6.4 Funding for target hardening for high risk victims of domestic abuse. A decision was agreed through the Safer and Stronger Communities Group (SSCG), that a pooled funding pot of £20,000 would be made available to partner organisations to co-ordinate this activity across the County. Target hardening is the provision of locks, fireproof letterboxes, door chains and personal alarms to the properties of high-risk domestic abuse victims across Suffolk where the perpetrator is not resident. This service, provided by a specialist organisation, is specifically for victims who are deemed as high risk and have or are at MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and have an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) assigned to them. From April 2018, each of the seven District and Borough Councils contributed £2,000, Suffolk County Council (SCC) contributed £4,000 and £2,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This was funded from existing budgets and is a pilot which will run for 18 months. For the period April 2018 – June 2018, total expenditure was £2,417 which has supported 15 high risk victims across Suffolk. Of the 15, 2 victims in Mid Suffolk District have been supported and 1 in Babergh District. At the current rate of spend, the budget will have been spent by March 2020. External funding continues to be sought, which includes seeking a contribution from Housing Associations as some victims are Housing Association tenants. Robust monitoring information is being collated, particularly around outcomes for the victim as this will be essential in securing funding and services for the future.
- 6.5 Empowering Communities Inclusion and Neighbourhood Management System (E-CINS), is a case management conference system used for recording and sharing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) complaints with partner agencies requiring multi-agency involvement. This system was used by Police until the introduction of the Police Athena software system in 2016. Access to Athena is restricted to Police forces who are members of the Athena Consortium and Government partners who are subject to comparable privacy regulation.
- 6.6 A Partnership Platform to enable Partner agencies to access Athena for the purposes of recording and sharing information for ASB complaints has been under development since 2016. Until the introduction of the Partnership Platform, a decision was agreed through the Safer and Stronger Communities Group (SSCG) that Suffolk Local Authorities will contribute £2,500 each, per year in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 to enable E-CINS to continue to be used. The £2,500 each, per year is for licensing fees and has been included in existing budgets.
- 6.7 By mid-2018, the Police Athena IT Partnership Platform was planned to be operational, however the timeline has slipped and the use of E-CINS will be extended to cover the time delay. This has resulted in further financial support required from

each Local Authority for 2018/2019 which has been found from existing budgets. E-CINS case management system is now funded until March 2019.

- 6.8 Funding of £66,000 has been agreed by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and set aside to develop and train Domestic Abuse Champions. This is a model used in Norfolk and provides a support structure for potential victims and training for local professionals and those in the community. Training is needed to raise awareness with local businesses.
- 6.9 Suffolk County Council working alongside District and Boroughs have been awarded £516,244 over two years to provide 23 bed spaces across Suffolk for female victims of Domestic Abuse who are currently not eligible for support through the three women's Refuges in the County. This could be due to substance dependency, mental health issues or having a male child over the age of 16 which would prevent them from accessing Refuge. There is also a bed space available for a female victim who has no recourse to public funds. The specialist Refuge is offered alongside Domestic Abuse and Housing Options support. The University of Suffolk will be evaluating the project which will help us understand some of the barriers to accessing services as well as the monetary benefits of invest to save which in turn will help inform any future bids for funding.
- 6.10 Funding of £100,000 for Suffolk Domestic Abuse Coordination Centre. The Suffolk Coordination Centre model aims to create a single point of access for victims of domestic abuse as well as for family, friends and professionals who have concerns, ensuring people can get the right support, first time rather than 'bouncing' in and out of services which is ineffective both for their recovery and in terms of costs.
- 6.11 Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have supported a funding application from SSCG This funding is from 2 pots; Transformation Challenge and Business Rates retention. £500,000 over 2 years; 2018 - 2020, has been awarded for strategic work on County Lines and Urban Street Gangs and to support the Tactical Action Plan in Ipswich.
- 6.12 Funding of £30,000 per year over 3 years, 2018 – 2021, has also been awarded to CSPs by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders from Business Rate retention. This has been match-funded by SCC, Localities and Partnerships Team over the same timeframe. This funding will not automatically be split equally across all CSPs. How CSPs will be able to access this funding will be determined at the next SSCG October meeting.
- 6.13 Updates on spend and progress against these awards will be made to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders by the SSCG Chair on a regular basis.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Community Safety Partnerships were created in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which gave local authorities and the police new responsibilities to work in partnership with other organisations and the community to draw up strategies to reduce crime and disorder.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

This report does not link directly to the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risks however there is an operational Risk:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
The Statutory requirements of the Community Safety (Crime and Disorder agenda) continues to increase. This, together with the rising need to tackle County-wide issues places significant additional pressures on Partnerships in terms of resources and capacity.	4 - Highly Probable	3 - Bad	Regularly review the Partnerships budgets, funding allocation and capacity. Seek alternative funding streams to ensure the Partnership is enabled to fulfil its statutory duties.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 A range of consultations with relevant WSCSP partners and other partners relating to wide ranging community safety issues, including the production of the WSCSP Strategic Assessment, County Lines and Domestic Homicide Reviews. Due to the sensitivity it is not appropriate for public consultation.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

The content of this report is such that there are no equality issues arising from this report although the review itself may consider any equality impacts.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 N/A

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Plan 2016 - 2019	Appendix 1
(b) SSCG Safer and Stronger Communities Group Governance	Appendix 2
(c) Multi-Agency Working Groups	Appendix 3
(d) Violence Against Women and Girls including men and boys) (VAWG) Strategy	Appendix 4

(e) SPCC A Local Police Service for Suffolk's future (PDF)	Appendix 5
(f) Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Communication (PDF)	Appendix 6

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 13.1 The Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021)
www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSPs – Community Safety Partnerships

WSCSP – Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

CDRPs – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

CRC – Community Rehabilitation Company

SCC – Suffolk County Council

RSL – Registered Social Landlord

YOS – Youth Offending Service

VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls (including men and boys)

DHRs – Domestic Homicide Reviews

WRAP – Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent

E-CINS – Empowering Communities Inclusion and Neighbourhood Management System

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour

PCC – Police and Crime Commissioner

SCF – Suffolk Community Foundation

SSF – Safer Suffolk Fund

SSCG – Safer and Stronger Communities Group

MARAC – Multi- Agency Risk Assessment Conference

IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor