

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to Council 25 October 2018

From Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Review of the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP)

On 20 September, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the WSCSP, including background papers from some of the partners who were represented at the meeting to give information and respond to queries from members of the committee. The partnership has four key priorities, to deal with the following:

- 1. County Lines** – so called because of chains of communication leading, often from the metropolitan area of London, to and between counties for the purpose of selling drugs. Distributing drugs is a very lucrative business for those in control. Use is made of vulnerable, and often young, people; violence, including use of firearms, is often involved. The committee heard about action being taken to disrupt the activity and, where possible, to arrest and take individuals to court. A strategy and a tactical action plan are currently being developed.
- 2. Violence Against Women and Girls, Boys and Men (VAWG)** The aim is to develop a co-ordinated quality service to meet the needs of victims, survivors and their families, working with perpetrators and holding abusers to account.
- 3. Hate Crime** The aim is to ensure all partners have an understanding of Hate Crime and, through effective data collection and sharing, are able to respond appropriately.
- 4. PREVENT** The aim is to support and protect those people who might be susceptible to radicalisation and extremism. This work will include training and WRAP – workshops to raise awareness of PREVENT.

The partnership has a statutory duty to carry out a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) to review the circumstances of a death which appears to have resulted from domestic violence, abuse or neglect. The purpose of a DHR is to establish what lessons can be learned regarding the way local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims of domestic violence. There were 2 DHRs in Mid Suffolk in 2017.

As a result of this review, officers will provide a briefing to all BMSDC Members on the priorities of WSCSP and the role Members can play in identifying people who may be involved in the distribution of drugs, identifying victims of domestic abuse and people who may be at risk, reporting instances of hate crime and looking out for persons who might be susceptible to radicalisation or extremism. A toolkit, including a list of contacts for reporting concerns, will be developed by members of the Communities Team.

Keith Welham
Chair, Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee