

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	REPORT NUMBER: JOS/20/17
FROM: Cllr Derek Davis- Babergh Cabinet Member for Communities Cllr Sarah Mansel – Lead WSCSP Member for Mid Suffolk	DATE OF MEETING: 22 March 2021
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REVIEW OF WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 It is a statutory requirement of this committee to scrutinise the work of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 None.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To review and scrutinise the community safety activity of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from 01 September 2019 to October 2020

3.2 That the Committee note the contents of this report.

REASON FOR DECISION

For the committee to fulfil its statutory duties under 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 introduced in 1998 under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and amended by the Police Reform Act 2020.

4.2 The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) is made up of statutory representatives from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, West Suffolk Council, Suffolk Police, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Ipswich and East CCG, National Probation Service, Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company and the Elected Members from all four Districts and Suffolk County Council.

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 year the WSCSP discharges its statutory duties by:

- Carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area
- Continuing to deliver the three-year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the Partnership; and
- Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Strategic Assessment 2020-23

4.5 In the Autumn of 2019, the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) commissioned a Strategic Assessment to help members prioritise SMART, (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) outcomes that will support the reduction of crime and disorder across the Western Suffolk CSP area.

4.6 This Strategic Assessment set out an evidence base for decision making and recommendations for prioritising activity by the CSP.

4.7 The completion of an annual Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for CSPs, which assesses and prioritises all crime and disorder issues within an area. To support the discussions the Western Suffolk CSP was provided with the most up to date evidence in order to set strategic priorities for the forthcoming year and the development and revision of a rolling 3-year Partnership Plan to address those priorities.

4.8 It is not intended that the priorities identified in the Strategic Assessment are the only priorities which are addressed, emerging issues should be prioritised when there is an evidence base and resource available.

4.9 Based on the outcomes of partnership discussions the following priorities remained as the focus for the WSCSP with the addition of Modern Slavery.

WSCSP Priorities

4.10 **County Lines:** including supporting victims, engaging with communities, agreeing an awareness and training programme, tackling drug dealing and supply, safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk and young people being criminally exploited.

4.11 **Violence against Women and Girls** (including men and boys): This priority includes actions to address domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery and sexual exploitation.

- 4.12 **Domestic Homicide reviews:** including ensuring the WSCSP continues to carry out effective reviews, appropriate action plans and shares learning across organisations in Suffolk.
- 4.13 **Hate Crime:** including the identification and support for victims of hate crime, working with partners to raise awareness and continue to build confidence in our communities to report hate crime incidences.
- 4.14 **Prevent:** as part of the Government's CONTEST strategy to counter terrorism, "prevent" aims to raise awareness within our communities to stop people being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage.

Progress against the priorities

County Lines

- 4.15 County Lines activity underpins serious and organised crime, which results in links to other criminal activity such as child and adult sexual exploitation, trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- 4.16 County Lines activity is distinctively different to local drug activity due to the high levels of violence demonstrated and the involvement of young children groomed to be 'runners' and carry weapons.
- 4.17 County Lines are operating in Suffolk and the number of lines varies at any given moment.
- 4.18 The Suffolk Children's Safeguarding Board uses the following definition when identifying gangs and gang culture:
- 4.19 Urban Street Gangs are defined as a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:
- see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group;
 - engage in a range of criminal activity and violence;
 - identify with or lay claim over territory;
 - have some form of identifying structural feature; and
 - are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.
- 4.20 In Western Suffolk there is not currently an identified issue with urban street gangs (USG), but there does continue to be a focus on County Lines.
- 4.21 The Police in West Suffolk have created a network of officers whose aim is to develop intelligence, raise awareness amongst colleagues and take positive action in the form of misuse of drugs warrants and disruption visits. This approach has proven successful in focussing front line staff to this critical area of business.
- 4.22 As a result of this focussed work we have now been able to reduce the risk of new County Lines forming whilst still disrupting those that have traditionally existed.

- 4.23 A significant amount of Criminal Exploitation and County Lines training has taken place during the past year with WSCSP partners. Due to Covid this has, through necessity, developed as online training / awareness raising and ranges from St Giles STOP training, Keeping Children and Young People Safe from Criminal Exploitation; workshops delivered by the Children's Society on the National Referral Mechanism, the sharing of NSPCC resources 'It's your call' online safeguarding resource and multiple 'Disrupting Exploitation' training.

Violence against Women and Girls (including men and boys)

- 4.24 Following the adoption of the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls, Men and Boys (VAWGMB) Strategy, a multi-agency VAWGMB Steering Group was established. This group brings together the skills, expertise and resources across Suffolk to look at the whole agenda rather than specific issues in isolation.
- 4.25 The VAWGMB Steering Group has been established for over a year and has successfully developed a countywide Strategy and Action Plan and includes Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation. The Action Plan is a restricted document reviewed and amended at the meetings as new work streams develop.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2021

- 4.26 Partners across Suffolk came together to raise awareness of sexual violence and abuse, signposting to local specialist support services. There was collective social media activity as well as:
- Encouraging staff and colleagues to wear purple in meetings and share photos of this on social media
 - Individuals wearing purple and sharing on social media
 - Lighting up buildings or spaces purple and
 - Making our backgrounds on video calls purple.

Domestic Abuse Bill

- 4.27 The Domestic Abuse Bill is in its last stages of passage through Parliament before being enacted into Law. There will be a statutory duty on local areas to produce a needs assessment and subsequent strategy for safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children. In preparation for the new duty there will be a housing representative taken from Suffolk Housing Officers Group (SHOG) who will provide specialist support on the VAWGMB Strategic Group. Safe Accommodation will be a standing item on the agenda for both the VAWGMB Strategic Group and Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership (SVAP) to help shape the strategy. Funding to support the new statutory duty has been provisionally agreed by MHCLG but clarity is being sought in a few areas. SCC will work closely with Housing Option Teams across the County.

- 4.28 In line with the Domestic Abuse Bill, SCC are coordinating an update of the Multi Agency, Violence Against Women and Girls, Men and Boys Strategy and Action Plan later this year

Satellite Accommodation

- 4.29 With funding from Suffolk Public Health, satellite accommodation for victims of domestic abuse with complex mental health and substance dependency needs has been extended. The 19 bed spaces distributed across the County will now be available through to the end of March 2021.

Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (DAOS)

- 4.30 There was a 22% increase in referrals to the DAOS during 2020 across Suffolk. *A total of 711 referrals were made with 162 from the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Area.* Weekly new referrals may be indicating difficulties for people to access a safe space to disclose. Figures are low in comparison to what we would expect after Christmas and New Year when the children have returned to school; this is historically one of the busiest periods together with September. Home schooling, lock down, without the opportunity to make that call or get help from professionals to make that referral could be the reason.

Suffolk 24/7 Domestic Abuse Helpline

- 4.31 Partners have been heavily promoting the Suffolk 24/7 DA Helpline with materials sent to GPs, Pharmacies, Testing and Vaccine sites. *Since May 2020 through to the end of December 2020 289 calls had been received with 48 from Babergh and Mid Suffolk.*

Domestic Homicide Reviews

- 4.32 Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews is a responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and is triggered when the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a relative, household member or someone with whom he or she has been in an intimate relationship.
- 4.33 The DHR which occurred in Mid Suffolk (2017) was submitted to the Home Office in November 2019 and reviewed by their Pre-Quality Assurance Panel for assessment in November 2020 which highlighted some areas of the report needing further consideration. The areas were addressed, and the report resubmitted to the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel in December 2020 and is currently awaiting Home Office sign off. Although there have been delays with the Home Office reviewing and signing off the DHR Overview Report, WSCSP are overseeing the implementation of the recommendations detailed in the action plan, the majority of which have are complete.
- 4.34 Other than the Mid Suffolk DHR in 2017 there have been no further Domestic Homicide Reviews in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Hate Crime

- 4.35 The Suffolk Hate Crime Network co-ordinated by Suffolk County Council continues to be well attended. Suffolk response to Hate Crime Awareness Week resulted in a whole host of campaigns and materials that can be used throughout the year to encourage reporting – 2020 also saw the creation of The Hope Awards – a partnership initiative with schools aimed to promote and celebrate the good work of young people during a very difficult year.
- 4.36 A joint county-wide Hate Crime Improvement Plan has been developed by the Police and Suffolk County Council and focusses on the following five key themes:
- Governance, Leadership and Accountability
 - Preventing Hate Crime
 - Increasing Knowledge
 - Increasing reporting/improving support
 - Improve the quality of investigations
- 4.37 BMSDC supported National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October with a social media campaign highlighting hate crime, raising awareness of the impact of hate crime and how to access support.
- 4.38 Hate crime training continues and awareness raising sessions are actively promoted. Free hate crime e-learning continues to be available free of charge to all partners across Suffolk: https://suffolk.melearning.university/course_centre

Prevent

- 4.39 The Countywide PREVENT Delivery Group, is a strategic group which brings together partners, including, Local Authorities, prisons, probation, schools, university, colleges, health sector and Police – continues to meet and respond to threats and risks identified within the counter terrorism local profile.
- 4.40 Each quarter the group receive recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, and these are adopted into the rolling partnership action plan.
- 4.41 Two editions of the Suffolk Prevent newsletter have been released providing key information for front line officers – the most recent focussed on advice and guidance to parents and guardians around young people and radicalisation and also an in-depth look at Right Wing Extremism
- 4.42 In early April 2020 the Suffolk Khub was launched. This provides a secure place to share up to date information with our trainers and offer countywide support. It has also offered the opportunity to share best practice with some neighbouring local authorities as to the problems we are all experiencing in identifying people who are vulnerable to radicalisation during a period of lockdown. Suffolk currently has over 40 practitioners trained to deliver training from a wide range of organisations. Since 2015 19654 people have attended a workshop to raise awareness of prevent

- 4.43 Little staff training has been completed in the past year but this will be made a priority for 2021/22 and will be extended out to community groups. Plans to work with Community Groups and deliver PREVENT sessions in our communities during 2020 were put on hold due to Covid.

Modern Slavery

- 4.44 Although modern day slavery is not a standalone priority for the WSCSP, it is identified as a cross cutting priority and is evident within domestic abuse and County Lines.
- 4.45 Between December 2019 and June 2020 six half day multi-agency free workshops to raise awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking have been delivered across Suffolk by the charity Unseen following a successful PCC funding application to the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Fund. In excess of 100 delegates from 19 organisations, including delegates from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils attended the events. The impact of Covid on the workshops meant that the last 2 sessions were delivered to delegates using MS Teams
- 4.46 A number of training sessions on the National Referral Mechanism were delivered by The Children's Society in 2020 to frontline professionals and First Responders. First Responders are from organisations (which includes local authorities) authorised to refer potential victims of modern slavery into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Their role is to identify and refer potential victims of modern slavery into support, where appropriate.
- 4.47 October 2020, Suffolk Police launched a new Modern Slavery and Vulnerable Communities Team to tackle Modern Slavery and protect vulnerable people and pursue those who exploit the victims of Modern Slavery. In partnership with other agencies, the team are focussing on community engagement work to prevent Modern Slavery from taking place.
- 4.48 Following a further successful Home Office funding application to the Modern Slavery Transformation Fund in 2020 for Modern Slavery preventative work, two awareness raising/training films for frontline professionals to identify and refer potential victims of exploitation and trafficking will be developed in Suffolk. Covid has delayed the production of these films which will now be completed later in the year. As part of the funding bid, The Children's Society will be delivering more in-depth practitioner training on the completion of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Duty to Notify (DtN). Both activities will help to prevent Modern Slavery in the communities and sectors most at risk in Suffolk.
- 4.49 A Modern Slavery awareness raising campaign is scheduled to take place across Suffolk during April 2021. This is the first local 5-day campaign across Suffolk to raise awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Due to the current Covid restrictions this first campaign will take place over social media.

Anti-social Behaviour

- 4.50 The Districts are safe places to live however, we do recognise that some of our communities are not immune from crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour affecting the local community. Tackling issues when they arise, collaboratively and professionally remains a key priority for the partnership.
- 4.51 Effective partnership working on community safety is key to sustainable and safer communities and is crucial in effectively tackling the range of issues that ASB involves. In order to respond to the needs of victims and witnesses in an effective way, agencies must work together to identify their areas of expertise and to give a rounded solution to the problems our communities face.
- 4.52 ASB which is not assessed as high risk, can be referred by members of the community, Police or Councillors. This information is passed to our Community Safety Team and partners to resolve issues, support victims and investigate the use of our enforcement powers in the first instance. We recognise the need for adopting early, low level intervention in anti-social behaviour cases, as mild cases can often escalate if not addressed.
- 4.53 Our two ASB ‘professionals’ Panel focus on high risk, repeat and/or vulnerable victims and each case is managed through the shared case management system and data sharing protocol. From time-to-time high risk ASB incidents occur and it is imperative that both our partnership ASB arrangements and internal ASB arrangements are fit for purpose, well understood and effectively delivered.
- 4.54 Significant focus has been given to our ASB arrangements during the last six months which has led to many developments including the implementation of the E-CINs case management software, and the on-going development of a Council-wide ASB Policy.
- 4.55 We are confident that E-CINs will help us log and better manage our ASB cases, improving joint working both between Council teams, and with partner agencies. Several higher-level cases have already been uploaded onto the system, and some ‘super-users’ identified within our teams who will support their colleagues adopt to the new ways of working. E-CINs, if adopted widely enough, will improve communication, reduce silo-working, and produce much better outcomes for victims of ASB.
- 4.56 Alongside E-CINs we have been developing a Council-wide ASB Policy and accompanying procedures including a very clear escalation process to manage high risk ASB cases. Previously our ASB Policy has only referred to Council housing, but this initiative should enable us to deliver a tenure-neutral service. The Policy, and its many associated documents, are currently going through a process of internal consultation, with a view to have it approved by Councils later in the year.

5. LINKS TO JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

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

8.1 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
<p>The Statutory requirements of the Community Safety 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.</p>	<p>Highly Probable</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<p>Regularly review the Partnerships budgets, funding allocation and capacity. Seek alternative funding streams to ensure the Partnership is enabled to fulfil its statutory duties.</p>
<p>Risk to our communities around any reduction in partnership working, including appropriate information sharing in relation to community safety. This may arise due to loss of resources, return to silo working practices</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<p>This can be mitigated by the continued commitment of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Councillors to support Partnership working and to embed this into all areas of Babergh and Mid Suffolk</p>

and engagement partners.	non- of			District Council activities.
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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**

10.1 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 None

12. **APPENDICES**

Title	Location
Glossary of Abbreviations	Appendix 1
Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference	Appendix 2

13. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

13.1 The Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 published by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. This Plan is required to reflect the priorities of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Plan. The Plan is published on the Suffolk PCC website:

<http://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/the-commissioner/police-crime-plan>

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