

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	REPORT NUMBER: JOS/23/02
FROM: Cllr Derek Davis - Chair of the Western Suffolk CSP Cllr Sarah Mansel – Lead WSCSP member for Mid Suffolk and Vice Chair of the Western Suffolk CSP	DATE OF MEETING: 24/07/2023
OFFICERS: Vicky Moseley – Corporate Manager Communities Rachael Young- Assistant Manager Community Safety	KEY DECISION REF NO. Item No.

REVIEW OF WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WSCSP) AND BMSDC WORK ACTIVITY AROUND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on current work and projects completed during 2022/2023. The report is split into part one and part two. Part, one focuses on the work and projects delivered by the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP). Members will have a greater understanding of the work of the partnership, how the current priorities are being tackled and the breadth of joint working with the partners of the WSCSP. Part two of the report focuses on the work activity of BMSDC regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 1.2 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act requires every local authority to designate a committee to review and scrutinise the activities of crime and disorder partnerships and the activities of its partners. **The committee may examine the activities of partners but only in so far as these relate to the partnership.**

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and discusses the information outlined in the report. Part 1 refers to the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and part 2 the work activity around ASB for BMSDC.

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 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and amended by the Police Reform Act 2002. A CSP is a statutory body comprising of the following partner organisations: police, local authorities, probation, clinical commissioning group and fire and rescue services. The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) has in addition co-opted on representatives from the Youth Justice Service, Registered Social Landlords, and education.
- 4.2 The WSCSP covers Babergh and Mid Suffolk District areas and West Suffolk Council areas.
- 4.3 Over the past year the partnership has continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by:
 - a. Carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area
 - b. Delivering a three-year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the partnership and
 - c. Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 4.4 The partnership has a duty to consider the more strategic overarching issues which are affecting community safety in Western Suffolk. These are issues which may not affect our communities on a day-to-day basis but are a threat to overall safety in Suffolk and undermine families and communities. These are identified through the Strategic Assessment which is an in-depth analysis of crime and disorder across the area and allows the partnership to use practical intelligence led activity to set priorities and allocate resources.
- 4.5 Based on the outcomes of the Strategic Assessment and partnership discussions the following priorities remained the focus for the WSCSP during 2022/23 with the addition of Fraud.

WSCSP Priorities:

- **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.
- **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.

- **Violence against Women and Girls:** This priority includes actions to address domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery and sexual exploitation.
- **Modern Slavery:** Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude.
- **Criminal Exploitation:** including supporting victims, engaging with communities, agreeing an awareness and training programme, tackling drug dealing and supply, safeguarding adults at risk and young people being criminally exploited.
- **Fraud:** This priority includes actions to address Fraud. Fraud is an act of intentional deception designed to exploit a victim; this could include financial or personal gain.

4.6 In addition to the above priority areas that comprise the CSP action plan, the partnership maintains a close focus on anti-social behaviour (ASB); ensuring that the partnership continues to monitor ASB activity across the Western Area and Domestic Homicide Reviews; ensuring the WSCSP continues to carry out effective reviews, develop appropriate action plans and shares learning across organisations in Suffolk.

4.7 A review of the WSCSP action plan was completed in June 2022 and following discussions with statutory partners the plan was updated and formally agreed by the members.

4.8 The WSCSP Action Plan (Appendix 1) sets out how it will address local priorities to reduce crime and disorder across the area.

5. PROGRESS AGAINST PRIORITIES

Hate Crime

5.1 A hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's actual or perceived:

- a. race
- b. religion or belief
- c. physical or sensory disability
- d. learning disability or mental health
- e. age
- f. gender

- g. sexual orientation
- h. gender identity

- 5.2 In October 2022 WSCSP and BMSDC supported the National Hate Crime Awareness Week, giving us an opportunity to raise awareness of what hate crime is, how it effects individuals and communities, encourage reporting and promoting the support networks that exist in Suffolk. The week of action had a specific focus on individuals who do not realise they are victims of hate crime.
- 5.3 As part of the week re-assurance visits were made to specific businesses who have suffered repeat incidences of hate crime. A new poster designed by Suffolk Police was created and distributed during the week to encourage reporting of incidents and strengthen zero tolerance for hate along with the launch of a newly updated leaflet for the general public.
- 5.4 Encouraging people to report hate crime and encouraging people to seek help has been a priority for the WSCSP and BMSDC for some time. BMSDC continued to upskill staff through the delivery of lunch and learn sessions to assist with raising awareness of hate crime and how to report it.
- 5.5 Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk County Council launched the third Suffolk HOPE awards during National Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 2022) to recognise and celebrate the positive contributions that young people make within the county. Nominations were welcomed from any young person aged between 11-18 years old and the application window ended early March 2023.
- 5.6 A total of 18 applications from across Suffolk were considered by the Panel – 59 young people in total were nominated as part of the awards. 12 applications were awarded against the categories of Diversity, Teamwork, Respect and Kindness and Determination, including an overall Hope Winner for 2023

Prevent

- 5.7 Prevent is one part of the government's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of Prevent is to tackle the causes of radicalisation, respond to the challenges that terrorist ideology may present, provide early intervention to safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation and to support those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.
- 5.8 Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on specified agencies including district councils to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".
- 5.9 Suffolk has a multi-agency Prevent Delivery Group which brings together a number of agencies including local authorities, prisons, probation, schools, university and colleges, health sector and police to work together to meet the Prevent Duty. Each quarter the group receives recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, and these are adopted into the rolling

partnership action plan.

- 5.10 To meet the Prevent Duty there is a requirement to ensure that staff have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue, including making appropriate referrals to Channel.
- 5.11 All new employees at BMSDC complete an E-learning module on PREVENT as part of their induction. An additional e-learning module provided by the Home Office continues to be promoted internally.
- 5.12 Suffolk made a joint application with Norfolk CSP to The Home Office 'Preventing Radicalisation' funding stream which was successful in commissioning 'Shout Out UK' to run three Preventing Online Radicalisation and Extremism courses specifically for parents and carers. Attendees learnt how to spot misinformation and develop tools to mitigate and protect young people along with an understanding of new and emerging social media sites which pose a risk to radicalising young people.
- 5.13 84 parents and carers attended the sessions – following which attendees demonstrated a clear improvement in their ability to tell fact from fiction online and practical steps to keep young people safe online. Participants were supported to develop the necessary skills to prevent extremism in their own community by developing their media literacy levels.
- 5.14 Additionally, an Online Radicalisation and Extremism Conference was held on the 28th of March which reached 116 front line workers – these ranged from people working directly with young people at summer camps and in educational settings, to Police and NHS safeguarding officers.
- 5.15 In May, The Home Office completed their annual assurance exercise which evaluates the extent to which Suffolk is meeting the Prevent Duty. Against the 9 benchmarks Suffolk were assessed as either meeting or exceeding the statutory responsibilities.

Violence Against Women and Girls

- 5.16 The term *Violence Against Women and Girls* refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. These include; Domestic Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, Faith Based Abuse, Female genital mutilation (FGM), Revenge Porn, Sexual Harassment, Cyber Flashing, Forced Marriage, Coercive & Controlling Behavior, Prostitution & Trafficking, Up skirting, Sexual Harassment and Violence, and Stalking. Whilst we group these acts together using the term 'VAWG' – we refer to **all** victims of any of these offences no matter their sex or gender.

- 5.17 The Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk from 2022-25, co-produced with victims, practitioners, and decision makers. It reflects on the success during the lifetime of the last strategy, outlines new, robust governance arrangements, is cognisant of other key strategies and documents that are aligned/connected to VAWG and most importantly, provides a strategic direction for the next phase of this strategy which is to develop an action plan that will drive forward change through effective partnership working.
- 5.18 The VAWG Steering Group is responsible for coordinating and developing quality services to effectively meet the needs of Suffolk residents. This includes direct service provision for victims-survivors, perpetrators, and their children, holding abusers to account and reducing the prevalence of VAWG. Membership includes strategic managers from Adult and Children Safeguarding, Community Safety & Public Health, Police, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation, Health, Voluntary & Community Sector.
- 5.19 The WSCSP collaborates on several projects that support victims of domestic abuse in the area and residents can access specialist support that is commissioned countywide through Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as local support services that offer very localised support.
- 5.20 The following services are commissioned through Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner:
- a. **Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation -Refuge** provided by Lighthouse Women's aid, Bury Women's aid and Orwell Housing. This provides single gender or single sex accommodation where the address will not be publicly available. Victims, including their children, will have access to practical support and a planned programme of therapeutic support (accessed through the Accommodation Support Framework). Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.
 - b. **Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation - Dispersed** provided by Anglia Care Trust (ACT) and Orwell Housing; Self-contained accommodation with similar levels of support as refuge (which may not be suitable due to complex needs) or semi-independent accommodation where less support is required.
 - c. **Specialist support** provided by ACT; This is a service specifically for those within Suffolk's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodations. Recognising that one size does not fit all, a flexible, sessional-based service is offered, tailored for those in the following groups:
 - Protected characteristics (*for example, faith, immigration, LGBTQ+*)

- Complex needs (*for example, substance misuse, mental ill health*)
 - Children
- d. **Domestic Abuse Outreach Service** provided by Anglia Care Trust: The service offers an accessible, community based and digital service across Suffolk for medium risk victims of domestic abuse and their children - providing appropriate information, support and interventions to maintain their safety, enable them to recover and rebuild stability, resilience and wellbeing. The Service supports any person of any age, sex or gender identity who has, or is experiencing domestic abuse. Risk levels will be measured using the Domestic Abuse Stalking & Harassment (DASH) risk assessment tool (and professional judgement).
- e. **24/7 Helpline and Webchat** provided by Anglia Care Trust: The Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline is a 24-hour free, confidential service for support, advice and action - call when it's safe to do so. The helpline and webchat is available to anyone whether it be family members, friends or work colleagues, who has any concerns regarding domestic abuse.
- f. **Accommodation Triage Provider (ATP)** provided by Anglia Care Trust; The Accommodation Triage Provider oversees and facilitates access to the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodations in Suffolk. This includes; receiving referrals from professionals seeking accommodation for victims fleeing domestic abuse, having oversight of each accommodation type (including physical make up, location, nearby amenities, and liaising with the accommodation provider to agree a suitable placement subsequent 'warm handover' by the accommodation provider.
- g. **Sanctuary Scheme** (IDVA referrals only) provided by 24/7 Locks Ltd; The service installs physical safety measures (e.g. locks, bolts, chains, fire alarms/lock letterboxes, property marking kits, lighting timers, etc) in the homes of high-risk victims of domestic abuse (privately owned or rented accommodation only). This enables victims to remain in their own home –negating the need for multiple visits from different trades people, the upheaval of moving to a different location and away from essential family/friend networks.
- h. **Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care** give emotional and practical help to people who have been affected by crime in Suffolk. An independent charity which individuals can contact for support regardless of whether you've contacted the police, and no matter how long ago the crime took place. Help will last for as long as it takes to overcome the impact of crime. If you call your local Victim Support team, the organisation will make sure you get the information and support you need. This might be arranging a meeting for you to talk and receive emotional support in confidence, helping you to fill out a compensation form or get advice on

how to make your home more secure, or referring you to other specialist organisations that can also help.

- i. **Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)** Service provided by Leeway; work in partnership to address the safety needs of all referrals identified as at high risk of further serious harm, from their partners/ ex partners. IDVAs will identify ways to improve the client's safety and the safety of their children. IDVAs support their service users to engage with the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and will discuss the range of safety options, to create a personalised safety and support plan to address their immediate safety. This will include their emotional and practical needs to support the clients and their children, including longer term solutions. This support may include support through the Criminal and Civil Justice system, accessing safe accommodation, accessing health services and signposting or referrals to other services as required. Once the risk of harm has reduced the IDVA will offer the service user a referral to ACT or Victim Support for ongoing domestic abuse support as required

- 5.21 Housing Solutions have been awarded £34,421 in Babergh and £33,590 in Mid Suffolk from the MHCLG Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding and will help with supporting victims of domestic abuse. In addition to this BMSDC fund a dedicated Domestic Abuse Link Worker to support victims of domestic abuse.
- 5.22 The Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership (SVAP) is an information sharing network established to strengthen collaboration and encourage innovation across the Suffolk system. Membership includes 180+ interested individuals with a personal or organisational interest in Violence Against Women and Girls, including; victim/survivors; voluntary and community sector providers; academics; military; volunteers; By and For services; and elected members.
- 5.23 The Domestic Abuse Champions network continues to grow with over 1300 people now trained as champions across a wide range of services. The model provides a programme of training for champions within our communities helping more and more people in Suffolk feel confident to offer advice and support to their colleagues, friends, or family members. The Domestic Abuse Champions training offer is free and open to anyone living or working in Suffolk.
- 5.24 BMSDC have increased from 10 to 37 members of staff trained as champions and in November 2022 the council launched an internal dedicated domestic abuse network designed to develop a strong internal approach to domestic abuse- empowering staff from a range of services to work together to enhance and share best practice.
- 5.25 BMSDC actively supported the White Ribbon Campaign in November 2022. This year's campaign fell on the same week as the start of the FIFA men's World Cup. Partners joined the national campaign which encouraged people

to come together and start playing as a team to end violence against women and girls -That's #THEGOAL.

- 5.26 In February 2023 the WSCSP supported the National Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Week. The aims of the campaign were to raise awareness of sexual violence, empower survivors to speak out and seek support, send a clear message of #itsnotOK to commit sexual abuse/violence and to generate discussion among the public, statutory bodies and third parties.

Modern Slavery

- 5.27 Modern Slavery is an umbrella term used when someone is coerced or forced to do something they do not want to do, and another person gains from this exploitation. Modern slavery includes slavery, servitude, human trafficking and forced labour. Victims of modern slavery are held against their will and are often unseen or unheard.
- 5.28 Modern slavery includes a range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include, but are not limited to:
- Sexual Exploitation
 - Domestic servitude
 - Forced labour
 - Criminal Exploitation
- 5.29 The Modern Slavery Network continues to meet to share best practice across the Suffolk System, share data and information, develop training and awareness raising campaigns and communicate to wider partners about developments from central government. The network oversees the Suffolk action plan and strategy of which the CSP leads feed into.
- 5.30 The Modern Slavery Network and Suffolk Modern Slavery Awareness Week took place in June 2022. The focus for this campaign was two-fold. 1. Labour Exploitation and 2. Sexual Exploitation. Partners supported community engagement opportunities and a series of social posts were posted on Twitter and Facebook throughout the week raising awareness of the signs of labour and sexual exploitation and where to seek support using the hashtag #SuffolkLooksCloser
- 5.31 A partnership training package was developed and launched in October 2022 and available to all organisations within Suffolk. The package covers what Modern Slavery is, how to spot the signs and how to make a quality referral. The e-learning module has videos, Suffolk specific case studies and statistics as well as quizzes and links to further materials.

- 5.32 Additional bespoke one-hour Modern Slavery case study workshops are being delivered across the Modern Slavery Network organisations as part of the ongoing programme.
- 5.33 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking referral process flowcharts have been co-produced with Modern Slavery Network partners and SCC Safeguarding Leads.

Criminal Exploitation

- 5.34 Criminal Exploitation is a lesser-known type of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking that involves recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.
- 5.35 Over the past year the WSCSP has continued to work with partners to address the wider issues of criminal exploitation as well as monitoring county lines activity.
- 5.36 In Suffolk we have a system-wide work programme funded by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (2021-2024) to tackle Criminal Exploitation. This work is managed via a multi-agency action plan which is overseen by a Criminal Exploitation steering group.
- 5.37 The Criminal Exploitation Hubs are based within Suffolk Youth Justice and funded as part of the system wide work programme and continue to work with key partners, voluntary groups, communities, children, and families to support, disrupt, protect and empower children and communities from the risk of criminal exploitation.
- 5.38 The teams adopt a targeted outreach approach to work with children, families and communities. The outreach areas will be identified through police and community led intelligence, and the multi-agency panels (MACE).
- 5.39 The MACE panels meet with the purpose of identifying and disrupting the perpetrator of exploitation against children and young people in Suffolk. There are three MACE panels across Suffolk, which meet monthly to discuss cases and put in place actions to disrupt exploitation.
- 5.40 Working in partnership with The Criminal Exploitation Hubs and Suffolk Constabulary, BMSDC Community Safety Team completed two Community Engagement events in Great Cornard, which included undertaking a survey with residents on the themes of youth nuisance, crime, and anti-social behaviour, and discussing related matters and the various services available through the partners on a one-to-one basis.
- 5.41 The WSCSP continues to identify opportunities to engage with partners to provide diversionary activities. The Holiday Activity and Food programme

continues to run during the school holidays with a range of activities provided across the Western Suffolk area.

- 5.42 Training has continued to develop across the system identifying areas of need and development. Bespoke sessions and case-study based approaches have been created to strengthen practice and embed application of learning and resources.
- 5.43 Over the past year BMSDC in partnership with Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk County Council, delivered two Criminal Exploitation workshops to BMSDC staff. The sessions focused on understanding exploitation, what we're seeing in Suffolk, our collective contribution, and responsibilities to identify and disrupt it, as well as the tools and partnerships to support our responses - taking a contextual 'Places, Faces, Spaces' approach. A follow up workshop took place providing attendees the opportunity to put into practice what was learnt during the first session.
- 5.44 The partnership agreed to fund two projects to support the work around the priorities this included the Emotional support for children and adolescents through gaming and game design, with the purpose to build self-esteem, confidence and talk through anxieties whilst engaging in games and other interests and a youth project in Haverhill using the arts as a tool to reduce/prevent anti-social behaviour.

Fraud

- 5.45 The most recent Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment identified that the levels of Fraud and Cyber Crime have reduced significantly at a national level. Fraud returned to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels (no significant change); this suggests previous increases in fraud may have been specific to the coronavirus pandemic period, rather than a sustained change in trends. Looking at the levels of Fraud in Suffolk the reduction has been less significant however there have been reductions in the levels reported.
- 5.46 A review of the fraud priority in 2023/24 may be useful as most activity related to this priority is business as usual for Suffolk Trading Standards and Suffolk Constabulary.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

- 5.47 A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is 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 person he/she was related to or was or had been in an intimate personal relationship or a member of the same household as him/herself with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

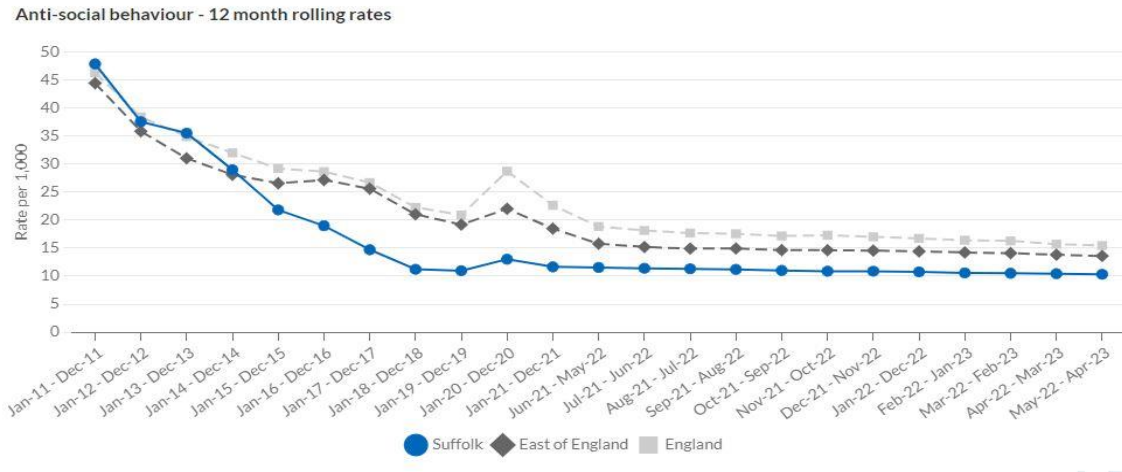
- 5.48 The purpose of conducting a DHR is to establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide, regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims. It is not about apportioning blame.
- 5.49 It is a statutory responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership to undertake DHR's.
- 5.50 During 2022/23 the WSCSP had four active cases. One in Mid Suffolk, one in Babergh and two in West Suffolk
- 5.51 A death in 2020 within West Suffolk triggered a DHR. Implementation of recommendations within the action plan are almost complete. A DHR Overview Report will shortly be resubmitted to the Home Office following feedback from the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel.
- 5.52 A death in 2021 within West Suffolk triggered a DHR. This paused pending outcome of an Inquest which concluded recently. The DHR Overview Report is currently being drafted and will be shared with the Review Panel members shortly.
- 5.53 A review into a death which occurred in the Mid Suffolk area is progressing.
- 5.54 A death in 2022 within Babergh triggered a DHR. The review is currently underway.

PART 2: BMSDC ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

6. This section of the report is separate to part one and will focus on BMSDC work activity around anti-social behaviour.
- 6.1 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household. There are three main categories for anti-social behaviour;
- **Personal** anti-social behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
 - **Nuisance** anti-social behaviour is when a person causes nuisance, annoyance, or annoyance to a community in general.
 - **Environmental** anti-social behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.
- 6.2 Preventing and responding to ASB remains a priority for the WSCSCP and the Council. BMSDC recognises that it plays a vital role in keeping people safe across our districts and is committed to reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB).

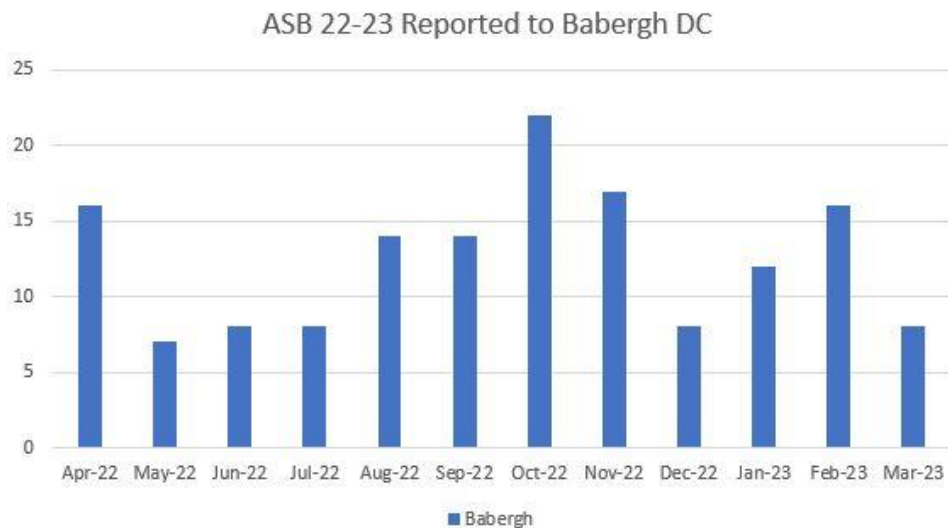
NATIONAL PICTURE

6.3 During 2022, England & Wales's police forces received 1,039,579 crime reports about anti-social behaviour. This is a decrease of 27% from 2021's figure of 1,416,946 reports of anti-social behaviour, giving an overall crime rate of 17 per 1,000 people in 2022 and a rate of 24 per 1,000 people for 2021.

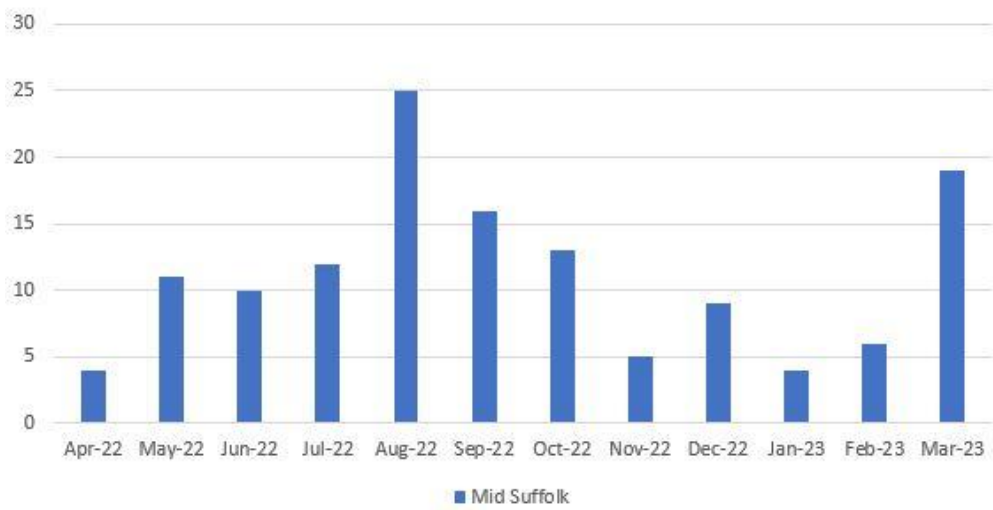


LOCAL PICTURE

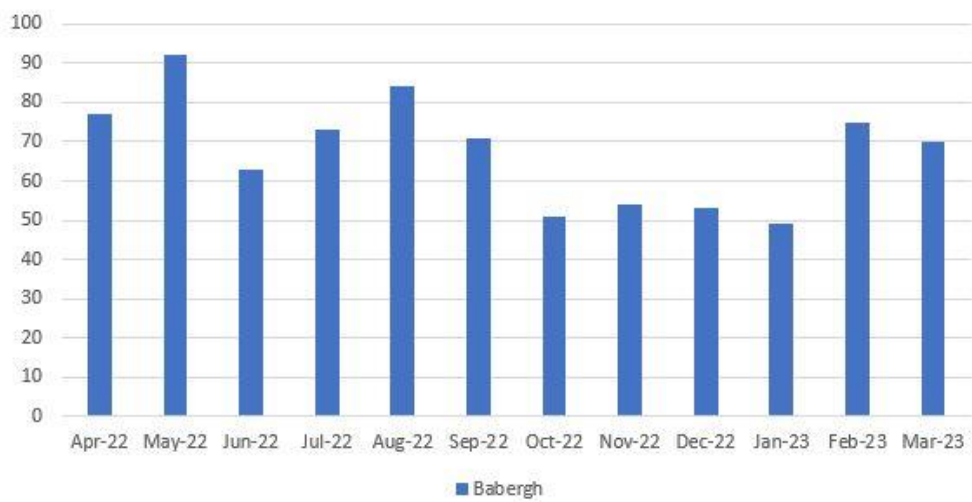
6.4 The following graphs, one for Babergh and the other for Mid Suffolk provide a snapshot of the ASB reported to both councils and Suffolk Constabulary across our districts.



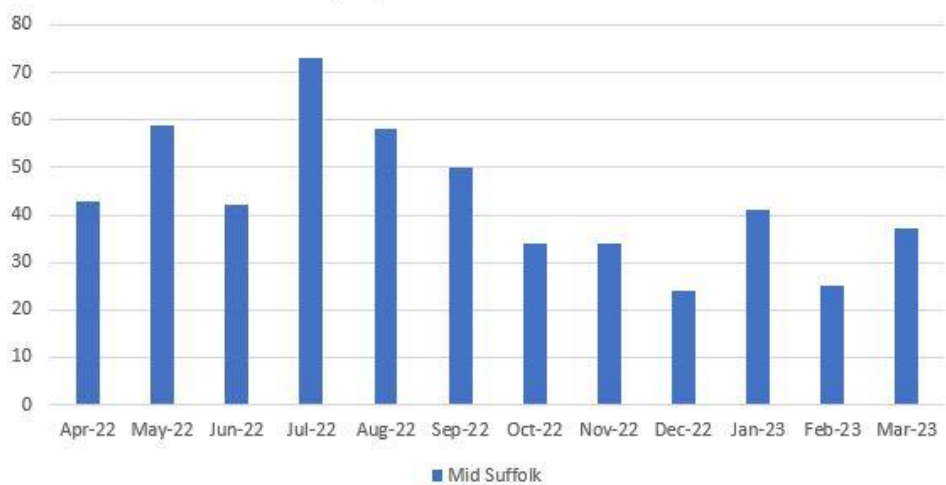
ASB 22-23, Reported to Mid Suffolk DC



ASB 22-23, Reported to Police in Babergh



ASB 22-23, Reported to Police in Mid Suffolk



- 6.5 BMSDC has a wide range of responsibilities and powers in respect of dealing with ASB, which exist across the Council departments namely, Communities and Wellbeing directorate with Community Safety, Public Protection with Environmental Health, Public Realm, and the Housing Tenancy Management Services.
- 6.6 Whilst these are four separately functioning areas, there are strong links between them, and close working arrangements have been developed and continue between them to protect communities from anti-social behaviour and to promote a safe living environment for our customers.
- 6.7 Suffolk has a countywide steering group for ASB including an action plan that brings consistency of response across all districts and borough areas. Tackling issues when they arise, collaboratively and professionally, remains a key priority for the partnership.
- 6.8 The community safety team places a strong emphasis on multi-agency working with the monthly ASB panel meetings hosted by BMSDC for each district and brings together professionals from several organisations including police, social services, health, and social housing. The panel meetings enable joint solutions to complex high-risk cases which better respond to the needs of victims and witnesses.
- 6.9 The table below provides data on the cases managed each month by the two district panel meetings for 2022/23. Due to the complexity of the cases, the cases often remain on the panel over several months.

	Babergh	Mid-Suffolk
Apr-Jun 2022	16	15
Jul- Sep 2022	16	10
Oct-Dec 2022	8	6
Jan-Mar 2023	11	6
Total Cases	51	37

- 6.10 The council continues to support ASB Case Reviews previously known as a Community Trigger. A case review is designed to give victims of ongoing ASB the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a collaborative approach in finding a solution. The ASB Case Review can be used if you have complained to the Councils, the police and/or your housing provider, and the following threshold must be met to initiate this review:
- on **three** or more occasions about separate incidents of ASB in the past **six** months, and
 - reported each incident of ASB within one month of it happening, and
 - requested a case review within six months of when you reported the incidents

- 6.11 During 2022-23, 10 applications were received across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. Of these, 5 were removed for various reasons. Of the remaining 5 applications 2 of these did not reach the threshold for a review.
- 6.12 In October 2022, The Home Office anti-social behaviour Strategic Board developed a set of principles which seek to describe a consistent approach to understanding and addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in local communities.

The principles are:

1. Victims should be encouraged to report ASB and expect to be taken seriously. They should have clear ways to report, have access to help and support to recover, and be given the opportunity to choose restorative approaches to tackling ASB.
 2. Agencies will have clear and transparent processes to ensure that victims can report ASB concerns, can understand how the matter will be investigated and are kept well informed of progress once a report is made.
 3. Agencies and practitioners will work across boundaries to identify, assess and tackle ASB and its underlying causes. Referral pathways should be clearly set out between services and published locally. This includes pathways for the anti-social behaviour case review and health services.
 4. The public's ASB concerns should always be considered both nationally and locally in strategic needs assessments for community safety. Best practice should be shared through a network of ASB experts within each community safety partnership, each policing area and nationally.
 5. Adults and children who exhibit ASB should have the opportunity to take responsibility for their behaviour and repair the harm caused by it. Agencies should deliver appropriate interventions, which may include criminal justice options, based on the seriousness, risks and vulnerabilities of the case.
- 6.13 Partners involved in responding to and reducing ASB across Suffolk including BMSDC have welcomed the principles and have formally adopted them as a guide to delivering the best possible outcomes to victims of ASB.
- 6.14 In July 2022 WSCSP and BMSDC supported the National ASB Awareness Week. Three events were held in Sudbury, Stowmarket, and Eye alongside the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. This year's focus is centered on '**Know Your Rights**' with a particular focus on the ASB Case Review which allows victims to have a voice concerning their complaints.

- 6.15 Over the past year, BMSDC have been involved in several community engagement events. The Great Cornard Survey held in March 2023 in partnership with Suffolk Police and the Criminal Exploitation Hubs team bringing together a collaborative approach to engage with the public and understand their issues and needs better.
- 6.16 Work activities and relationships continue to develop on the back of the Stella Maris review. A successful meeting with the developers for a Supported Living Scheme in Sudbury was held to enable officers from the Community Safety Team to provide an insightful guide on the experience gained from previous involvement. This was used to dovetail the risk assessment process and provide a platform to help reduce potential future like complaints occurring.
- 6.17 BMSDC commissions a professional mediation service as a tool to be offered as part of effective ASB management and as such offers the opportunity to utilise an independent mechanism before considering taking more stringent action on cases involving ASB. The arrangement makes efficient use for all parties and is a key component to our work.
- 6.18 Training opportunities continued to be presented throughout the year to ensure ongoing development for staff. In addition, officers will be offering training to Cabinet Members and Councilor's so to provide a further insight into our work and provide clarity on the complexities that some cases bring.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 As stated above the purpose of this report is to provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on current work and projects completed and ongoing during 2022/2023 by the WSCSP.
- 7.2 The WSCSP Action Plan demonstrates the significant amount of work that has taken place over the past year in support of its priority areas. It details how the current priorities are being tackled and the breadth of joint working with the partners of the CSP.
- 7.3 In addition, the reports also includes a Part Two for the purposes of updating the committee specifically on work undertaken by the Councils in relation to ASB.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies required to carry out a number of duties. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder in all their functions.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1 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.</p> <p>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 and non-engagement of partners.</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Significant</p>	<p>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 District Council activities.</p>

11 CONSULTATIONS

11.1 A range of consultations with relevant WSCSP partners and other partners relating to wide ranging community safety issues. The annual monitoring report draws on information from all partner agencies in relation to community safety issues. Due to the sensitivity, some information remains restricted.

12 EQUALITY ANALYSIS

12.1 The WSCSP focusses on those who are impacted by crime and particular types of crime such as Hate Crime. Equality issues are taken into consideration as part of the annual monitoring and agreeing the action plan.

13 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None

14 APPENDICES

Title	Location
Western Suffolk Community Safety Action Plan 2022/23	Appendix 1

15 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

15.1 The Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 published by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. This plan is required to reflect the priorities in the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Plan. This plan is published on the Suffolk PCC website. [Police & Crime Plan - Suffolk PCC \(suffolk-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/pcc/pcc-plan)