

Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Monitoring of Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership	
Report No:	OAS/FH/16/009	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 April 2016
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Lead officer:	Davina Howes Head of Families and Communities Tel: 01284 757070 Email: Davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To update the Committee on community safety activity in West Suffolk including the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) from April 2015 to March 2016.	
Recommendation:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee: It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that members consider and discuss the information outlined in this report.	
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:	The annual monitoring report draws on information from partner agencies relating to community safety issues. Due to the sensitivity some information remains restricted	

Alternative option(s):		Not required.	
Implications:			
Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). A decision was agreed through the Strong and Safe Communities Group (SSCG), that DHRs will be funded equally by the statutory partners of the CSP in the area where the review is being conducted. Funding for ECINs (case conferencing management system) A decision was agreed through the SSCG that Suffolk local authorities will contribute £2,000 each year until 2017 to enable ECINs to continue to be used. After this date, the Police Athena IT platform will be used. 	
Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies and are required to carry out a number of statutory duties. S 17 of Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder in all their functions. 	
Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
Strength of partnership working is lost due to changes and reorganisation of key statutory partners	High	Review role of partnership working and ensure all key partners have a key responsibility	Medium

Return to silo working within partners and withdraw from engagement	Medium	Members and leadership team to encourage and embed partnership working in all areas of business for the council(s)	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All wards across West Suffolk	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		The Police and Crime Commissioner Plan (2013 -2017): www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk	
Documents attached:		Appendix A – Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership project Plan 2015/16	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

- 1.1.1 Over the past year, the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) continued to meet and to discharge its statutory duties by carrying out an annual assessment of crime, producing an annual plan and carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews as required.
- 1.1.2 In May 2015, the WSCSP completed and published its partnership plan and project plan for identified community priorities for 2015/16. The project plan is attached as **Appendix A**. The progress of the identified community concerns will be evaluated at the April meeting of the WSCSP.
- 1.1.3 The WSCSP has completed a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) for the Babergh area. The draft report, compiled by an independent chair commissioned by the Partnership, has been shared with the Chair and has now been submitted to the Home Office for approval. It cannot be published until this approval has been given. The cost of the review will be in the region of £7,000 which will be shared equally among the statutory partners of the WSCSP.
- 1.1.4 The WSCSP commissioned a 'Domestic Abuse round table event' to clarify and coordinate Domestic Abuse activities in Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury areas. The event took place 30/4/2015. The purpose of this event was to reduce incidences of domestic abuse, respond better and reduce re-offending in West Suffolk. A draft action plan was drawn up; however this coincided with the formation of the Strong and Safe Communities Group (see 1.2) and the identification of domestic abuse as one of the areas of work that required a 'deep dive' exercise. Rather than have duplication of effort, the WSCSP round table action plan was put on hold until the outcome of the deep dive exercise is shared. The round table event was a useful mechanism for problem solving and further events may be held to take forward the findings from the 'deep dive' as necessary.

1.2 Strong and Safe Communities Group (SSCG)

- 1.2.1 Following a recommendation from the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in February 2015, it was recognised that there was a need to have countywide strategic coordination of community safety issues. As a result, the SSCG was formed from a number of partners across Suffolk. The Group's purpose is to:
- (i) provide a strategic steer and coordination in the key areas for community safety across the county;
 - (ii) reduce duplication; and
 - (iii) ensure that partners share one set of data and intelligence.
- 1.2.2 Chaired by Ian Gallin, the multi agency group has identified four key workstreams on which to focus as they are considered to present the greatest threat, risk and harm to our communities. These four workstreams are:

- (i) domestic abuse;
- (ii) sexual exploitation;
- (iii) cyber crime; and
- (iv) youth violence and gangs.

A lead from the SSCG has been identified for each workstream and a scoping exercise is underway for each issue which will determine the current intelligence/data situation, what action is being taken already, what else is required and what implications this may highlight. The SSCG reports quarterly to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.2.3 Membership of the SSCG includes: District and Borough Councils, Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, Police, Youth Offending Service, Adult Safeguarding, Children's safeguarding, Police and Crime Commissioner and chairs of Community Safety Partnerships.

1.3 **Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)**

1.3.1 The multi agency ASB group continues to meet fortnightly in the Forest Heath area.

1.3.2. The group considers only high risk (as identified by a risk assessment matrix), repeat victims or vulnerable victims and each case is managed through the shared ECINs case management system. All West Suffolk council services refer cases to this meeting where using ASB legislation is considered. To date it has not been necessary for FHDC to consider taking any ASB enforcement action. The group is also preparing to discuss Suffolk Family Focus cases where ASB is the most dominant feature of the referral.

1.3.3 Lower level ASB can be referred by members of the community, Police or elected members. This information would be passed to the relevant families and communities' officer who works with the community and partners to resolve issues in the first instance or move to refer to the ASB group to consider the use of ASB enforcement legislation.

1.4 **PREVENT**

1.4.1 The PREVENT strategy published by the government in 2011 is part of the country's Counter Terrorism strategy called CONTEST. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

1.4.2 The PREVENT strategy has three specific strategic objectives;

- (i) Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- (ii) Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- (iii) Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

In fulfilling the duty in S21 of the act, it is expected that all specified authorities, of which District/Borough councils are one, will participate fully in the work to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security.

1.4.3 Guidance specifically for local authorities was issued by the Home Office which includes:

- i. In two tier authorities, county and district councils will need to agree proportionate arrangements for sharing the assessment of risk and agreeing local PREVENT action plans.
- ii. Local authorities will be expected to ensure that all frontline staff have a good understanding of PREVENT and be able to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism.
- iii. Local authority staff will be expected to make appropriate referral to Channel (a programme which provides support to individuals who are at risk).
- iv. Use of Local Authority resources – In complying with the duty it is expected that local authorities will ensure that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.

1.4.4. In September 2015, the Home Office made an offer of a grant of up to £10,000 to be made available to each Local Authority to assist the roll out of action plans and enhance awareness raising activities. The grant, which had to be committed, spent and activities delivered by 31 March 2016, will be paid in arrears. FHDC registered to receive the grant funding. In kind costs for delivery of awareness raising workshops, will be made to FHDC and this funding will be ring fenced for use in strengthening families and communities work as per the Families and Communities strategy.

1.4.5 A county wide operational group agreed to pool some of the funding to reduce duplication of effort, ensure consistency of delivery across the county and to enable action to be taken within the tight timescale set by the government. The group coordinated the submissions for funding for projects across the areas.

1.4.6 The following projects have been commissioned and delivered for Forest Heath DC area:

- i. Awareness raising Home Office training sessions for internal and commissioned services frontline staff. (x4)
- ii. Participation in a county wide awareness raising conference for statutory and voluntary partners, held 22/3/2016.
- iii. Young People's DVD – talking heads DVD of Suffolk Young People talking about radicalisation, belonging, sense of belonging, being British (available on www.ltai.info the 'Let's Talk About it' website).

- iv. Dialogue conference and Materials for education settings, developing materials to share concerns about radicalisation, world events, being British, sharing solutions and ideas. 1 FHDC upper school at Newmarket volunteered to be involved in this project.
- v. Public poster to raise awareness has been developed.
- vi. A bespoke training session has been delivered in Newmarket for eleven people who have either learning difficulties, mental ill health or are low level learners.