

Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Monitoring Community Safety Activities including Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership	
Report No:	OAS/FH/18/010	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 April 2018
Portfolio holder:	Councillor Robin Millar Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities Tel: 07939 100937 Email: Robin.millar@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Davina Howes Assistant Director – 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 2017 to March 2018.	
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 relation 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), the 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 £2000 per year; 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to enable ECINS to continue to be use. This has been included in existing budgets. The Police Athena IT platform was planned to be operational from April 2018, however this timeline has slipped and the use of ECINS has been extended to cover the time delay, resulting in further financial support required from each authority which will be found from existing budgets 	
Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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. Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 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"/>	
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 Forest Heath		
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>	The Police and Crime Commissioner Plan (2017-2021): www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk		
Documents attached:	Appendix A – Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Project Plan 2017-2018		

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)

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 discharge its statutory duties by:

- Carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area
- Continuing to deliver the three plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the partnership
- Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews as and when required

1.1.2 In May 2016, the WSCSP considered its priorities for 2017-2018.

Based on the outcomes from a partnership workshop the following priorities were identified as the focus for the WSCSP;

- Supporting vulnerable people from becoming targeted by criminals from out of the county. This includes victims of substance misuse, drug dealing and supply, vulnerable adults at risk of 'cuckooing', young people being used to 'run' drugs and sexual exploitation.
- Violence against women and girls. This includes domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery, sexual exploitation.
- Emerging issues, including rural crime, homelessness and street begging, E safety, hate crime and Prevent.
- Domestic Homicide reviews including ensuring that the WSCSP continues to carry out effective reviews, refines processes and shares learning.

1.1.3 The council continues to support the police in relation to the targeting of vulnerable people targeted by criminals. In particular, cases are discussed at both the Anti-Social Behaviour meeting and the Housing Forum. It is recognised that the criminals adapt their behaviour and that the issues involved are complex.

1.1.4 The Police, Suffolk County Council and district councils across Suffolk are developing both an overarching plan, and local responses to the issue of drugs and criminal gangs, known as 'County Lines'. Local priorities will be developed which in turn will be adopted by CSPs and a local action plan implemented (see section 1.2.3 – 1.2.6 below for further information).

1.1.5 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs): WSCSP has completed a DHR for the Babergh area in respect of an incident which occurred in November 2014. The report was commissioned by the WSCSP and compiled by an independent chair. The report was published in October 2016, following approval by the Home Office.

1.1.6 An action plan relating to the recommendations in the report has been monitored throughout 2017-2018 by the WSCSP. All actions were completed to the satisfaction of the partnership in January 2018. The Home Office has been notified.

1.1.7 Over the past 12 months the WSCSP have been informed of three further potential DHRs in the Mid Suffolk/Babergh area:

- Mid Suffolk: Incident occurred in February 2017 with a formal request to conduct a DHR received in March 2017. The DHR report and action plan was completed and sent to the Home Office in December 2017. The WSCSP are awaiting Home Office decision and the outcomes of the review was discussed by the WSCSP in March 2018. The action plan will be instigated and monitored by the WSCSP until complete.
- Mid Suffolk: Incident occurred December 2017. The DHR is progressing.
- Mid Suffolk: Incident occurred in November 2017 and following a police investigation was not deemed a DHR. However the WSCSP is considering the benefits of a "light touch" review to be conducted by Suffolk County Council and this was discussed at the WSCSP meeting in March 2018.

1.2 Strong and Safe Communities Group

- 1.2.1 The Strong and Safe Communities Group continues to meet and is chaired by Ian Gallin. Representatives from a number of organisations attend the meeting including: seven borough and district councils, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk NHS, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Probation and Suffolk Fire and Rescue.
- 1.2.2 The group focusses on a number of key areas: The current work streams are: (i) violence against women and girls (VAWG), also encompassing domestic abuse, (ii) sexual violence and sexual exploitation, (iii) County Lines and (iv) youth gangs and violence.
- 1.2.3 VAWG: A countywide VAWG strategy is currently being drafted and will form the basis of a countywide action plan. To date a number of projects have been commissioned and partnership work is continuing to tackle violence against women and girls, including:
- Domestic Abuse Link Worker: will work within the West Suffolk Housing Team and offer support and advice to victims of domestic abuse when present as homeless. The post is hosted by Anglia Care Trust and funded by the government.
 - Specialist Domestic Abuse Refuge -Through a successful funding bid to government, Suffolk County Council and the seven district and borough councils are piloting a project to make 23 bed spaces available across Suffolk for victims of Domestic Abuse available for women who are not eligible for support through the existing refuges. Five beds are located in West Suffolk. There is also a bed space available for a female victims who have no recourse to public funds
 - West Suffolk Domestic Abuse Forum: meet on a bi monthly basis and cover the whole of West Suffolk. Supported by partners across a range of services.
 - Target Hardening - a pooled pot of funding from a range of statutory partners has been established. This will be managed through the Safe

Partnership who will conduct security and fire risk assessments and undertake any necessary security measures. This service will commence in April 2018. Referrals will be through the commissioned Independent Domestic Violence Advisors service.

- Additional support for specialist services: Through the West Suffolk Community Chest grant scheme we have supported the following services within West Suffolk:
 - Survivors in Transition – to provide sexual abuse support services within St Edmundsbury.
 - Suffolk Rape Crisis – to provide a counselling service within St Edmundsbury.
 - Women’s Aid – to provide training to staff in order to establish a family support project within St Edmundsbury.
 - Fresh Start New Beginning – to provide sexual abuse support services (for young people) within Forest Heath.

1.2.3 Youth Gangs and Violence including county lines: This work is being led by the Youth Offending service in conjunction with partners across Suffolk. Initially the focus has been on Ipswich which has an urban street gang culture with associated County Lines. County lines refers to the number of identified mobile ‘phone lines’ which are managed by those involved in organised crime groups from out of the area for the purposes of establishing and running drugs markets in market towns. Of those targeted, in terms of running/dealing drugs, many are vulnerable or are young people. It is closely associated with gang formation and turf wars and escalating violence.

1.2.4 A partnership strategy is in place and underway for Ipswich and this has been used as the template for a county wide strategy. Local partners including youth offending service, Police, and West Suffolk councils are already meeting to refine the strategy to reflect the nature of the issues in this area.

1.2.5 Whilst the west of Suffolk is seeing the rise in prevalence of county lines, (Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Newmarket and Stowmarket in particular), the issue around gang violence, involving young people, is at a much lower level than that in Ipswich. Those young people already involved are being managed through children and young people’s service and youth offending services.

1.2.6 It is in the preventative space that the new work will be initiated. This will feature in the WSCSP action plan as this will provide the local response approach with and through our communities and will be the most effective. This was formalised at the WSCSP meeting in March 2018.

1.3 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

1.3.1 The multi-agency ASB group continues to meet fortnightly in the St Edmundsbury area.

1.3.2 The group considers only high risk (as identified by a risk assessment matrix), repeat and/or vulnerable victims and each case is managed through the shared case management system. All West Suffolk council services refer cases to this

meeting where use of ASB legislation is considered. In 2017 -2018 two community protection notices have been issued by West Suffolk councils in the Bury St Edmunds area.

- 1.3.3 ASB which is not assessed as high risk, can be referred by members of the community, Police or councillors. This information is 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 enforcement legislation.

1.4 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

- 1.4.1 On 1 October 2017 PSPOs were introduced in Newmarket and Brandon town centres to combat alcohol related. These orders will remain in place for a period of up to three years after which time they will be reviewed.
- 1.4.2 No actions have been taken with the PSPO area in Newmarket or Brandon.
- 1.4.3 Work is continuing, in partnership to look at best practice from around the country, to initiate alternative giving mechanisms for the public who want to support those who are rough sleeping.
- 1.4.4 Whilst some members of the public will always wish to give money or provide food or drinks directly to those who are begging, we are aiming to give a positive message around re-directing that giving, to support the charities and organisations who can provide more sustainable solutions. It is important to be aware that many people who are begging in the town are not actually homeless.
- 1.4.5 It should be noted that West Suffolk homeless prevention team are well sighted on those who are on our street and the Rough Sleeper liaison officer maintains regular contact with them and works with them to find more permanent solutions to their rough sleeping. Two further outreach posts have recently been recruited.