

Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Monitoring Report (April 2019 to March 2020)

Report No:	OAS/WS/20/012	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 September 2020
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Robert Everitt Cabinet Member for Families and Communities Tel: 01284 769000 Email: robert.everitt@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Davina Howes Assistant Director (Families and Communities) Tel: 01284 757070 Email: Davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: N/A

Wards impacted: All

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (1) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and discuss the information outlined in this report.

1. Background / Context

- 1.1 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 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. Western Suffolk CSP covers West Suffolk Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk council areas. Representatives from Youth Justice Service, Registered Social Landlords and Education have been co-opted to the partnership.
- 1.2 Over the past year the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) has continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by:
- carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area;
 - delivering the three-year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the partnership and
 - carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 1.3 In June 2019, the WSCSP considered its priorities for 2019-2020. It was agreed a review of the current action plan and a more in-depth strategic assessment would be conducted over the year, with a draft to be presented to the WSCSP Responsible Authorities Group in March 2020. This meeting was cancelled due to COVID 19 and it is now anticipated the review of the action plan will be completed by the end of September 2020.
- 1.4 Based on the outcomes of partnership discussions the following priorities remained as the focus for the WSCSP:
- a) **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.
 - b) **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.
 - c) **Domestic Homicide reviews:** including ensuring the WSCSP continues to carry out effective reviews, appropriate action plans and shares learning across organisations in Suffolk.
 - d) **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.
 - e) **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.

- 1.5 Section two of this report provides more detail of the progress made to implement and/or address these priorities.

2. Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Priorities

2.1 County Lines

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.

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.

County Lines are operating in Suffolk and the number of lines varies at any given moment. In Western Suffolk there is somewhere between 14 and 25 lines operating at any one time.

The Suffolk Children's Safeguarding Board uses the following definition when identifying gangs and gang culture:

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.

In Western Suffolk there is not currently an identified issue with urban street gangs (USG), but there are emerging gang culture behaviours seen within the cohort of young people who are involved, or on the periphery of being involved in County Lines.

2.1.2 Western Suffolk CSP Tactical Action Plan (TAP)

Over the last year the WSCSP has continue to work with partners on the six objectives that were identified in year one of the TAP (these were previously reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2019): Below is progress for the second year of the plan (April 2019 to March 2020)

- 1) Communications – the agreed communications strategy was reviewed in November 2019 and continues to manage incident and media enquiries and where appropriate raise awareness of success. The WSCSP continues to use consistent messaging to reassure communities that agencies are working together. Sharing of intelligence and information is through monthly update meetings and the WSCSP has a clear pathway for reporting and sharing information. We worked successfully with local media in January 2019 when hosting, in partnership with West Suffolk College, a large-scale awareness raising event for partners and again in March 2020,

in partnership with Newmarket Academy, when hosting a parent awareness session.

- 2) Training and awareness – a training and awareness partnership plan has been developed. Raising awareness of County Lines has been undertaken to ensure that appropriate levels of training is being delivered across the partnership. Over the last year sessions have included training and awareness packages for school staff with a total of 22 schools in West Suffolk engaging with the partnership, totalling 611 members of staff and governors; training to a variety of partners including housing associations, NSFT, Catch 22 young people mentors and West Suffolk GPs a total of 14 training sessions were provided engaging with over 400 members of staff and volunteers.

West Suffolk Council provide training and awareness sessions to councillors and our parish and town councils, over the last year we have provided four sessions with 86 councillors and staff engaging.

The partnership also commissioned training and awareness through St Giles Trust hosting two full day awareness sessions for over 140 people including adult social care, children and young people services, voluntary sector, police, social workers and designated safeguarding leads.

- 3) Engagement - during the first year the partnership concentrated on engagement with schools through the Alter Ego sessions and knife crime sessions provided by Suffolk Police. Over the last year the WSCSP has mainly offered training for staff within schools but also designed a bespoke package for use in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). The partnership has provided engagement within two PRUs, this was funded through Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

Suffolk Police launched One Stop Cop in November 2019 providing a police link to schools who support pupils with a host of community safety issues as well as providing advice and assistance to pupils through awareness raising.

West Suffolk Council, for a second year, included exploitation within Crucial Crew through the 'Bad Friend Good Friend' scenario allowing pupils to understand the importance of healthy relationships and identify potential harmful or coercive relationships. Crucial Crew was attended by 43 schools across West Suffolk and over 1400 year six pupils took part.

The partnership has also hosted a number of engagement sessions for parents through the school setting. 13 sessions have been provided successfully engaging with parents from both primary and secondary schools. This included two large events held at West Suffolk College in November 2019 and January 2020. In total we have engaged with over 1,000 parents and carers within West Suffolk.

These events were a combination of engagement, awareness and the opportunity to speak to partners working within the County Lines arena.

The partnership held two community awareness events engaging with over 50 residents. Areas where community awareness is offered are identified through the community themselves and provides concerned residents with the opportunity to talk and engage with council officers and police. The ability to hold more community awareness events was limited by Covid-19.

- 4) Information, data and intelligence – it is important to ensure that appropriate and time critical information is shared across the Community Safety Partnership. To this end a central knowledge and information hub for practitioners has been developed to create a central 'library' of supporting materials for partners to ensure that consistent messaging is being delivered and reduce duplication. Information provided through the hub is also linked to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Police continue to collect intelligence to identify county lines activity and those involved at every level of the organised crime group. Monthly panel meetings are conducted where partners can raise concerns about areas or individuals and adopt a co-ordinated approach to tackling the issues.
- 5) Diversion and exit – The county-wide Youth and Gangs Team have developed three multi agency case conferencing panels across Suffolk. The West Suffolk Panel continues to meet monthly to case manage high risk individual young people associated with County Lines. This enables a multi-agency consistent and coordinated approach when responding and supporting those who are already involved or at risk of becoming involved in County Lines activity.
- 6) Enforcement – Enforcement activity of Class A and County Line crime continues to be managed via the monthly Operation Velocity meeting chaired by the Western Area Superintendent. All intelligence is assessed, and active county lines are prioritised. This allows the Police to direct resources to those drug dealing gangs causing the greatest threat and harm. Typically, there are between 14 to 25 County Lines will be operating within Western Suffolk, frequently moving between towns and requiring a flexible and rapid policing response.

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.

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.

The proactive West Scorpion Team, new Sentinel Team and the Constabulary's Serious Crime Disruption Team employ a range of tactics to monitor, arrest and prosecute drugs operations and supplement localised work.

Specifically, in the past 12 months (until April 2020) 146 persons have been arrested in relation to County Lines drug dealing in Western Suffolk; 165 searches have been conducted of either a person or a vehicle; 97

warrants/disruption visits to addresses involved in County Lines drug dealing; drugs worth a minimum of £44,257 have been seized; cash totalling £23,252 has been seized; and 2,089 intelligence reports have been submitted by Western Area staff.

2.2 **Violence Against Women and Girls (including men and boys)**

2.2.1 **Violence against Women and Girls National Strategy**

In 2018 the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls, Men and Boys strategy was adopted, and action plan agreed. The action plan is for three years and focuses on the following key themes:

- **Commissioning:** understanding the local need and designing services that meet that need whilst providing value for money.
- **Insight:** understanding the scale and nature of threats Suffolk faces and effectively collating and analysing data.
- **Prevention and Education:** raising awareness of VAWG crime types and encourage disclosure and early help.
- **Coordination and Communication:** continue to promote the good work and services available and ensure everyone knows how to access support.
- **Protection and Justice:** be an advocate and influence decision makers to ensure victims are supported.

2.2.2 **Suffolk wide projects which support victims of domestic abuse.**

WSCSP collaborates on a number of projects that support victims of domestic abuse in West Suffolk. This year the following projects have been commissioned and provide a service across the district.

1) **Specialist Support (commissioned through Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner).** The following services are commissioned to support victims of domestic abuse within West Suffolk:

- Anglia Care Trust Domestic Abuse Outreach Service: providing an outreach support service for victims of abuse. The team work with victims to build their resilience and reduce the risks to them. They help victims access suitable services and can also offer financial advice.
- Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid: providing refuge and support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Safe living accommodation for up to eight women and 15 children as well as a range of community services, freedom programme, courses and counselling for women and children.
- Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care: providing emotional and practical help to anyone affected by crime.
- Leeway Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service: providing support and help to those identified as high risk of domestic abuse
- Survivors in Transition: providing support to men and women who have experienced sexual abuse, exploitation or violence in childhood.

- Suffolk Rape Crisis: providing trauma-informed support to women and girls affected in any way by sexual violence.
 - Fresh Start New Beginnings: providing free specialist support for young people who have experienced sexual abuse/assault
 - The Ferns Sexual Assault Referral Centre: specialist centre for victims of rape and sexual assault regardless of whether they have reported the crime to the police
- 2) **West Suffolk Domestic Abuse Partnership:** The partnership consists of statutory and voluntary practitioners who are working within the area of domestic abuse. The forum provides an opportunity for all to meet, network, share best practice and support local projects such as White Ribbon Campaign, freedom programmes, educational support and local awareness raising. West Suffolk Council support this partnership and take an active role in the meetings and provides feedback to the Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership.
 - 3) **Specialist Refuge: Satellite Accommodation:** Following on from a successful bid in 2018 which established 23 specialist satellite beds across Suffolk; four of these beds across West and Central Suffolk, this satellite refuge continues to provide sanctuary for victims fleeing domestic abuse who are unable to access refuge due to complex needs. Individuals who access this service is also able to receive specialist support through a dedicated domestic abuse worker based within West Suffolk Housing Team. Since January 2018 to March 2020 33 individuals with complex needs have benefited from specialist refuge in West Suffolk.
 - 4) **Target Hardening:** Funding has been pooled and committed for three years by partners across Suffolk to provide a countywide target hardening scheme for victims of high-risk domestic abuse. This scheme ensures the victim can remain as safe as possible within their own home. During 2019 – 2020 the scheme supported 48 properties with target hardening measures to help the victim remain in their home. The national charity Safe Partnership provide a crime reduction and fire risk survey, undertakes any security or arson reduction measures in one visit and within 48 hours from referral.
 - 5) **Domestic Abuse Champions:** Funding secured in 2018 provided Suffolk with a Domestic Abuse Champions Network. This model continues providing a programme of training for champions within our communities. The Network continues to grow with 224 people now trained as champions across a wide range of services, additionally 323 people have received bespoke awareness raising sessions to embed a community response to Domestic Abuse across Suffolk. It is anticipated that the programme will be independently evaluated in 2020.
 - 6) **Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership:** The Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership is a group of professionals (statutory and voluntary sector) who work in the area of domestic abuse either with victims and/or perpetrators. The partnership meets up to four times a year and allows partners to share best practice, network, receive specialist

talks from providers and provide a consistent Suffolk approach to domestic abuse.

2.3 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

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.

A death in 2020 within West Suffolk has triggered a DHR. The review is in the initial stages, with an independent chair and report writer commissioned and initial gathering of evidence and information is currently taking place. WSCSP continues to support two reviews triggered by events in Babergh/Mid Suffolk area.

2.4 Hate Crime

West Suffolk Council continues to be an active partner within the Suffolk Hate Crime Network.

We 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. As part of the campaign the WSCSP also contributed to the Hate Crime video launched at the Hate Crime Conference held on 17 November 2019.

Over 150 people attended the conference and heard personal stories from people affected by Hate Crime as well as partners tackling hate crime across Suffolk.

Hate crime training continues and awareness raising sessions are actively promoted. Suffolk County Council provide a **Free E-learning "Hate Crime" module**. A short E-learning training module available free of charge for all partners in Suffolk.

The module has three elements: - "What is Hate Crime?", "The Law" and "How to Respond" and is accessible online, providing partners with an overview and good understanding of hate crime. The course can be accessed through: www.suffolkcpd.co.uk

Since its launch in 2017 over 300 officers from partner organisations have completed the module, with 90 officers completing the training from August 2019 to August 2020.

2.5 PREVENT

West Suffolk Council continues to execute its statutory duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and to consider local threat levels.

The Suffolk PREVENT Delivery Group brings together partners to acquit that duty which include, local authorities, prisons, probation, schools, university

and colleges, health sector and police. Each quarter the group receive recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, and these are adopted into the rolling partnership action plan.

In order to meet the Prevent Duty there is a requirement to ensure that frontline 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.

PREVENT training has been available to staff at West Suffolk Council since 2016 and to the end of February 2020 over 140 members of staff have received awareness training. During 2019 – 2020 we provided two training sessions to staff with 19 officers in attendance.

This last year we have also been providing awareness raising to community groups and have held one session with seven people in attendance. Plans to run more sessions were impacted by Covid.

A Suffolk Prevent newsletter has also been developed and the first edition released. The newsletter provides key information for front line officers.

The Home Office is due to release further details on training requirements in 2020. Suffolk County Council continues to support our trained officer whilst awaiting this updated training. Support includes refresher training, alternative materials specific to the threats Suffolk face, access to resources and amended evaluation sheets so it will be possible to identify geographically where in Suffolk training is taking place.

A knowledge hub, similar to the information hub for County Lines is also due to be released in 2020 which will provide a secure place to share up to date information with our trainers.

2.6 Modern Day Slavery

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. West Suffolk Council have taken certain actions in terms of modern-day slavery during 2019 – 2020 including the following:

Training: Through our Safeguarding Training (which is compulsory for staff) modern day slavery is covered in terms of the National Referral form, definition of modern-day slavery, how staff can address concerns and how to complete the referral form. West Suffolk Council have also commissioned an e learning module on My Learning that staff can also access.

Awareness Raising: Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner have commissioned training courses, and these have been sent to internal departments who have accessed the free training courses. These were provided by Unseen.

3. Alternative Options

3.1 None

4. Consultation and engagement

4.1 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.

5. Risks

5.1 There are high to medium risks 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. This can be mitigated by the continued commitment of the leadership team, and elected members, to support partnership working and, to embed this into all areas of West Suffolk Council's activities

6. Implications arising from the proposal (delete where either they are not relevant to the report or are already covered in the main report)

6.1 Financial - none

6.2 Legal Compliance – 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

6.3 Personal Data Processing – Information sharing protocols are in place with Suffolk Police. In addition, information can be legally shared if it is shared in order to prevent or detect crime

6.4 Equalities – N/A

6.5 Crime and Disorder – covered in the main body of the report

6.6 Environmental or sustainability – N/A

6.7 HR / Staffing – None

6.8 Changes to existing policy - None

6.9 Impact on other organisations (e.g. community groups, businesses, partner organisations) – Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies with prescribed statutory partners who are required to be part of the partnership

7. Appendices

7.1 **Appendix A** – Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019 – 2022. This plan is required to reflect the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan published by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

8. Background documents

- 8.1 The Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 published by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. This plan is required to reflect the priorities in the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Plan. This plan is published on the Suffolk PCC website.

www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/the-commissioner/police-crime-plan