

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 3 September 2020

Report number:	CAB/WS/20/053	
Report to and date(s):	Cabinet	22 September 2020
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Councillor Ian Shipp Overview and Scrutiny Committee Telephone: 07368 134769 Email: ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: **This item is not required to be included on the Decisions Plan.**

Wards impacted: **All wards**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that Report number: CAB/WS/20/053, being the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 On 3 September 2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held its virtual TeamsLive meeting, at which it considered the following items:
1. Western Suffolk Community Safety Monitoring Report (April 2019 to March 2020)
 2. Reflections on the Community Response to Covid.
 3. Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee (8 July 2020);
 4. Decisions Plan: 1 September 2020 to 31 May 2021; and
 5. Work Programme Update 2020-2021.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 **Western Suffolk Community Safety Monitoring Report (April 2019 to March 2020) (Report number: OAS/WS/20/012)**
- 2.1.1 It was the duty of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee designated under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to scrutinise the work of the Partnership.
- 2.1.2 The Committee received and **noted** the report, subject to comments made during the meeting. The report was presented to the Committee by the Chair of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP), Councillor Joanna Spicer, and Councillor Robert Everitt, Cabinet Member for Families and Communities.
- 2.1.3 Over the past year the WSCSP continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by carrying out an annual 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.
- 2.1.4 Attached at Appendix A to the report, was the WSCSP Plan 2019-2022, which was required to reflect the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan published by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.1.5 In June 2019, the WSCSP considered its priorities for 2019-2020. It was agreed that 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. However, this meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19, and it was now anticipated the review of the action plan will be completed by the end of September 2020.

2.1.6 Based on the outcomes of partnership discussions and a strategic assessment of crime, the following priorities were identified as the focus of the WSCSP:

- County Lines;
- Violence against women and girls (including men and boys);
- Domestic homicide reviews;
- Hate crime; and
- Prevention.

2.1.7 Detailed discussions were predominantly held on county lines. The Committee was informed that the number of county line drug supply operations frequently changed, with a number active in West Suffolk, despite activity being severely reduced during the Covid-19 lockdown.

2.1.8 Discussions were also held on domestic abuse and working with perpetrators of domestic abuse; hate crime and training; modern day slavery with a suggestion of putting a motion to council, and the postponement of crucial crew and its future delivery.

2.2 **Reflections on the Community Response to Covid-19 (PowerPoint Presentation)**

2.2.1 The Committee received a presentation on West Suffolk Council's community response role to Covid-19. The presentation provided an overview of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) Covid-19 response; reflections from our communities and VCS; the impact on our VCS and funding allocated to VCS groups.

2.2.2 The presentation also included recommendations/actions identified by officers as follows:

- Our investment over many years in the Families and Communities approach meant there was a solid foundation on which to build and respond very quickly. Continue to support and develop relationships with our communities through our Families and Communities Approach, working in partnership with the West Suffolk Alliance and Community Action Suffolk.
- Co-produce the Volunteering Strategy with partners and volunteers to build on the volunteering we have seen throughout the pandemic, so to capture this new wave of socially minded good neighbours. Out of this developing a Volunteer Passport/Pool scheme for West Suffolk.
- Work with parish and town Councils, emergency planning groups and other interested volunteers/groups in the community to rework community emergency plans in light of the recent pandemic. This work to be led by the Emergency Planning team and supported by

the Families and Communities team with local intelligence and connections.

- If we need to restart 'Home but Not Alone', we should facilitate 'connecting group sessions' to support one another and to share ideas. We could also look at how we bring some of the larger support functions across the area into the conversation at an earlier point, so there is more local ownership.

2.2.3 The Chair stated the investment made in families and communities had really paid dividends during the lockdown period, and also applauded the excellent work carried out in our communities across West Suffolk.

2.2.4 The Committee considered the presentation in detail and asked a number of questions to which comprehensive responses were provided. In particular, discussions were held on social distancing not being observed and how the Council might be able to influence and educate children on the importance of wearing masks so they can persuade their parents to do the same; the need to continue supporting those vulnerable in our communities and how this would be funded; the Home but Not Alone Scheme and food parcels; accessing data and data sharing of vulnerable persons; digital isolation and community emergency plans.

2.2.5 The Committee **noted** the presentation and supported the four recommendations identified by officers as part of the reflection process, in particular to rework community emergency plans in light of the recent pandemic.

2.3 **Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee – 8 July 2020 (Report number: OAS/WS/20/013)**

2.3.1 The Committee received and **noted** the report, prepared by Councillor Margaret Marks setting out what was considered at its meeting held on 8 July 2020. The focus of the meeting largely related to the effects of Covid-19 on services.

2.3.2 The Committee did not raise any questions.

2.4 **Decisions Plan: 1 September 2020 to 31 May 2021 (Report number: OAS/WS/20/014)**

2.4.1 The Committee reviewed and **noted** the latest version of the Cabinet Decisions Plan, covering the period 1 September 2020 to 31 May 2021. Members did not raise any issues.

2.5 **Work Programme Update 2020-2021 (Report number: OAS/WS/20/015)**

- 2.5.1 The Committee received Report number: OAS/WS/20/015, which provided information on the current status of its forward work programme for 2020-2021.
- 2.5.2 The Chair referred to an email sent to committee members in August 2020, outlining plans for the work programme, and also explained he had been made aware that a number of members were interested in the current and future operations of the West Suffolk markets.
- 2.5.3 Councillor Diane Hind also referred to discussions held earlier on during the meeting under the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and her suggestion about developing a motion/proposal to Council on modern day slavery.
- 2.5.4 The Committee discussed its work programme and was supportive in principle of reviewing the operation of West Suffolk markets and a motion on modern day slavery.
- 2.5.5 The Committee, **noted** the current status of topics currently scheduled in its rolling work programme for 2020-2021 (Appendix 1) and also:
1. **Resolved** to support in principle, to look at the 'Operation of West Suffolk Markets', subject to the Chair of the Committee holding discussions with the Cabinet Member for Operations, the Assistant Director (Operations) and the Chief Executive on the scope of the review, and presents the proposal back to the Committee in November 2020 for further consideration.
 2. **Resolved** to support in principle, looking at a motion for 'Modern Slavery', subject to Councillor Hind holding discussions with the responsible Cabinet Member and the Assistant Director (Families and Communities) and the Chief Executive on the scope of the review, and presents the proposal back to the Committee in November 2020 for further consideration.

3. **Alternative options that have been considered**

- 3.1 Please see background papers.

4. **Consultation and engagement undertaken**

- 4.1 Please see background papers.

5. Risks associated with the proposals

5.1 Please see background papers.

6. Implications arising from the proposals

6.1 Financial:

Please see background papers.

6.2 Equalities:

Please see background papers.

7. Appendices referenced in this report

7.1 Please see background papers.

8. Background documents associated with this report

8.1 Report number: [OAS/WS/20/012](#) and [Appendix A](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Western Suffolk Community Safety Monitoring Report (April 2019 to March 2020)

8.2 [PowerPoint Presentation](#) and [SWOT Analysis](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Reflections on the Community Response to Covid.

8.3 Report number: [OAS/WS/20/013](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk County Council: Health Scrutiny Committee (8 July 2020)

8.4 Report number: [OAS/WS/20/014](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet Decisions Plan (1 September 2020 to 31 May 2021)

8.5 Report number: [OAS/WS/20/015](#) and [Appendix 1](#) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work Programme Update 2020-2021