

Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Monitoring Report (April 2020 to March 2021)

Report number:	OAS/WS/21/006	
Report to and date(s):	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 June 2021
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Decisions Plan: This item is not included in the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: All wards within West Suffolk

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- 1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and discuss the information outlined in the report.**

1. Background/Context

- 1.1 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 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 a three year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the partnership and
 - Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 1.3 A review of the WSCSP action plan and the strategic assessment was completed in June 2020 and following discussion with statutory partners the strategic assessment and action plan was formally agreed by the WSCSP Responsible Authorities Group in September 2020.
- 1.4 Based on the outcomes of the partnership discussions the following priorities remain as the focus for the WSCSP:
- a) **County Lines:** Widening the scope of county lines to encompass all types of criminal exploitation including modern day slavery. Workstreams including supporting victims, engaging with communities, agreeing an awareness and training programme, safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk and young people being criminal 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) **Hate Crime:** including the identification and support for victims of hate crime, working with partners to raise awareness and continue to build confidence in communities to report hate crime incidences.
 - d) **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 advice and support at an early stage.
 - e) **Domestic Homicide reviews:** Ensuring the WSCSP continues to carry out effective reviews, appropriate action plans and shares learning across organisations in Suffolk.

- 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 criminal exploitation, trafficking and modern day slavery.
- 2.1.2 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.
- 2.1.3 County Lines are operating in Suffolk and the number of lines varies at any given moment.
- 2.1.4 In West 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.
- 2.1.5 With the impact of COVID 19 restricting a lot of the proposed work over the last year the WSCSP has continued to work with partners to address the priority of County Lines and the wider issues of Criminal Exploitation.
- 2.1.6 Due to Covid 19 restrictions in place due all training was paused from March 2020 to June 2020. During this short time period a member of staff in the Families and Communities Team worked with partners to adapt the training to ensure this could move online and allow e training and awareness sessions to be resumed.
- 2.1.7 Training and awareness sessions were commissioned from July 2020 and have continued. Over the past year West Suffolk Council trained officers have delivered seven awareness sessions. Six of these have been to internal staff, engaging with over 50 council staff and one session has taken place within a school setting, engaging with 15 staff members.
- 2.1.8 The WSCSP has also worked closely with staff at Suffolk County Council to commission external partners to provide more in-depth training to staff. Over the last year the WSCSP has commissioned St Giles Trust to provide four sessions, engaging with over 80 individuals from a range of partners, both statutory and voluntary.
- 2.1.9 CYP First was commissioned to host two training sessions focussing on Disrupting Exploitation and made toolkits available to staff. These sessions were extremely well attended, engaging with 50 staff from West Council families and communities, licensing, environmental health and housing

teams, as well as Suffolk County Council, Youth Justice, Suffolk Police and VCSE.

2.1.10 A wide range of training and awareness sessions (available to staff as and when required) have been developed and continue to be delivered online including:

- The Children’s Society National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- NSPCC “Its your call”
- Exploitation workshop for semi independent living providers

2.1.10 Funding has been agreed for the next three year work programme which commenced in April 2021. Over the past six months the current County Lines action plan has been reviewed and a new Criminal Exploitation Action Plan adopted for April 2021.

2.1.11 The plan has been developed to reflect recent challenges relating to criminal exploitation which are ever changing, while also ensuring actions from the previous county lines plan that are still relevant continue to be addressed.

2.2 **Violence Against Women and Girls (including men and boys):** In 2018 the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls, Men and Boys (VAWG) strategy was adopted, and action plan agreed. The action plan is for three years and focuses on the key themes:

- **Commissioning:** understanding 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.

2.2.1 WSCSP collaborates on several projects that support victims of domestic abuse in West Suffolk. West Suffolk benefits from 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.

2.2.2 The following services are commissioned through Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner:

- Anglia Care Trust Domestic Abuse Outreach service; providing support for victims of domestic abuse. The team work with

individuals to build their resilience and reduce the risks to them. The help survivors access suitable services and can also offer financial advice.

- Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid: providers of refuge and support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Sage living accommodation for up to eight women and 15 children as well as a range of community services, freedom programmes, 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 experience 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.

2.2.3 **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. Throughout the COVID 19 pandemic the forum has continued to meet virtual, share best practice and provide local support.

2.2.4 **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 are also able to receive specialist support through a dedicated domestic abuse worker based within the West Suffolk Council Housing Team. Since April 2020 to March 2021 4 individuals with complex needs have benefited from specialist refuge in West Suffolk.

2.2.5 **Target Hardening:** Funding has been pooled and committed 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. Since the scheme was launched 80 properties have been supported in West Suffolk 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.

- 2.2.6 **Domestic Abuse Champions:** Funding is secured until 2023 to provide 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 450 people now trained as champions across a wide range of services.
- 2.2.7 **White Ribbon Campaign:** The White Ribbon Campaign was 16 days of action which took place in late November 2020. Working with the Human Resources Team, West Suffolk Council launched a dedicated staff page on the intranet aimed and providing support and guidance to staff and managers around domestic abuse. We also worked with Domestic Abuse Champion Trainers and provided three training sessions for staff during the campaign. The council commissioned three sessions with 40 members of staff attending the training.
- 2.2.8 **Sexual Violence Awareness Week:** During February 2021 the WSCSP took part in the campaign around raising awareness of sexual violence. The focus of the campaign was to raise awareness through our social media channels as well as providing staff with advice on how to support and signpost appropriately.
- 2.2.9 **Responding to COVID 19:** Lockdown restrictions changed the way services could interact with victims who needed support, however Suffolk responded quickly to the restrictions and adapted services to enable to continue to provide a level of support to victims. These included:
- In May 2020 the Suffolk 24/7 Freephone Domestic Abuse Helpline was launched (with funding secured until 2023). The helpline was launched in partnership with Anglia Care Trust.
 - Suffolk Public Health worked with refuge providers to implement effective infection control measures and to ensure that new referrals to the service could be accepted.
 - National and local resources were made available through a variety of mechanisms including information sheets sent to 561 pharmacies across Suffolk, text messages signposting support sent to GP surgeries, 80 awareness raising packs sent to supermarkets via Suffolk Police, podcasts developed and shared on Community Action Suffolk website and resources distributed to midwives and health visitors.
 - Domestic Abuse Champion Training was redeveloped and provided online.
 - As part of the Council's response to COVID 19 the council updated its webpage for communities to be able to access advice and information around support available.
- 2.2.10 **The Domestic Abuse Bill:** The Bill has now received royal assent and is now legislation. As part of the bill there is a statutory duty on upper tier authorities (in this case, Suffolk County Council), in partnership, to produce a needs assessment and subsequent strategy for safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children.

2.3 **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)** Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews is a responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership. A DHR 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.

2.3.1 A death in 2020 within West Suffolk triggered a DHR. The review is currently being drafted and any recommendations put forward will be considered by the WSCSP at a later date. WSCSP continues to support two reviews triggered by events in the Babergh/Mid Suffolk area.

2.4 **Hate Crime:** 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:

- race
- religion or belief
- physical or sensory disability
- learning disability or mental health
- age
- gender
- sexual orientation
- gender identity

2.4.1 West Suffolk Council continues to be an active partner within the Suffolk Hate Crime Network as well as supporting projects commissioned through the WSCSP.

2.4.2 In October 2021 WSCSP and West Suffolk Council supported the National Hate Crime Week. The Council supported the countywide campaign through our social media channels with messages around support and how to report a hate crime being promoted daily. The CSP commissioned a month-long campaign "Fearless" run by Crimestoppers.

2.4.3 In March 2021 the HOPE awards were launched by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police, supported by the WSCSP. This initiative is working with schools and partners to nominate a child, young person or group who has made an outstanding contribution to promoting diversity or building community cohesion.

2.4.4 Hate crime training and awareness raising sessions are actively promoted and have continued during the pandemic. 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.

2.4.5 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

- 2.4.6 Between September 2020 and March 2021 22 members of staff from West Suffolk Council have complete the online module. In total, since e-learning has been available 73 staff members have completed the training.
- 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.
 - 2.5.1 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.
 - 2.5.2 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.
 - 2.5.3 PREVENT training has been available to staff at West Suffolk Council since 2016. With the impact of COVID 19 these training sessions are now provided online. During 2020/2021 we provided three training sessions with a total of 20 staff in attendance.
- 2.6 **Modern Day Slavery:** WSCSP identified modern day slavery as an area of priority in September 2020. This coincided with the launch of Suffolk Police's Modern Slavery and Vulnerable Communities Team which was launched in October 2020.
 - 2.6.1 Through our Safeguarding Training 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 has also commissioned an e-learning module on My Learning that staff can also access.
 - 2.6.2 Prior to COVID 19 lockdown Unseen had been commissioned to provide training for staff, these training packages were then developed to be provided online and took place late 2020. 26 staff across the council received awareness training and how to report incidents of modern day slavery.
 - 2.6.2 Suffolk County Council successfully received funding from the Home Office, which was matched funded by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, to support two approaches:

- Practitioner training on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the duties on partners to refer.
- Development of two awareness raising/training films, filmed in Suffolk for frontline professionals to identify and refer potential victims of exploitation. Both these training opportunities have been supported by WSCP and will be promoted within the council.

2.6.3 West Suffolk Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed to carry out a review of the Council's approach to Modern Day Slavery. It has been agreed that this review will be undertaken once government guidance has been issued in relation to the expectations of public organisations, such as councils. As at May 2021, the Council is still awaiting publication of this guidance.

2.7 **Anti-social behaviour**

Preventing and responding to, anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains a priority for the WSCSP and Council. Council staff continue to chair monthly ASB Forums which bring together a number of organisations to co-ordinate responses to reports of ASB in communities across West Suffolk.

2.7.1 In 2020, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were reviewed and extended for a further three years. The ASB PSPOs are in place in Brandon, Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds, with a new PSPO introduced in the Moreton Hall area of Bury St Edmunds. Dog fouling PSPOs are in place across the district.

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

3.1 None

4. **Consultation and engagement undertaken**

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 associated with the proposals**

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 proposals

- 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. In addition, information can be legally shared if it is shared in order to prevent or detect crime.
- 6.4 Equalities: 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.
- 6.5 Crime and Disorder: covered in the main body of the report.
- 6.6 Environment or Sustainability: None
- 6.7 HR or Staffing: None
- 6.8 Changes to existing policies: None
- 6.9 External organisations (such as businesses, community groups): Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies with prescribed statutory partners who are required to be part of the partnership.

7. Appendices referenced in this report

- 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 associated with this report

- 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