

Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Monitoring Report (April 2022 to March 2023)

Report number:	OAS/WS/23/012	
Report to and date(s):	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2023
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Decisions Plan: This item is not included in the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: All West Suffolk Council wards.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Consider and discuss the information outlined in the report.

1. Background

- 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, health and fire and rescue services. Representatives from Youth Justice Service; registered social landlords and education have been co-opted to the partnership.
- 1.2 The Western Suffolk CSP covers West Suffolk Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk council areas.
- 1.3 Over the past year the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) has continued to meet and discharge its statutory duties by:
 - a) Carrying out an assessment of crime and disorder in the area;
 - b) Delivering a three-year plan and action plan to reflect the priorities of the partnership; and
 - c) Undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 1.4 The WSCSP action plan is reviewed throughout the year and where appropriate is updated to reflect emerging issues and trends.
- 1.5 Based on the outcomes of the partnership discussions the following priorities remained as a focus for the WSCSP:
 - a. **Criminal Exploitation:** encompassing all types of exploitation including county lines. Workstreams include raising awareness, dedicated training programmes for each area, safeguarding vulnerable adults, supporting victims and young people being criminally exploited.
 - b. **Violence against women and girls:** This priority includes actions to address domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation (links closely with criminal exploitation priority).
 - c. **Modern Slavery:** including support for victims, training and awareness programmes and awareness of reporting mechanisms including the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).
 - d. **Hate Crime:** including support for victims, working with partners to raise awareness and build confidence in communities to report incidents.
 - e. **Prevent:** as part of the Government's CONTEST strategy to counter terrorism "prevent" aims to raise awareness within communities and places a statutory responsibility on local authorities to provide a training programme for staff and communities on counter terrorism and stop people being drawn in and ensure they are given support and advice at an early stage.

- f. **Anti-Social Behaviour:** This priority links to the national Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and includes working with partners to address anti-social behaviour, undertaking community triggers and working with victims, and raising awareness of the impacts of anti-social behaviour and how to report.

1.6 As part of the annual review of the action plan and identifying emerging issues it was also agreed to adopt Fraud as a priority for 2022-2023.

1.7 Section two of this report provides more detail of the progress made to address these priorities.

2. **Update on the work streams of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership**

2.1 **Criminal Exploitation**

2.1.1 Over the past 12 months the WSCSP has continued to work with partners to address the wider issues of criminal exploitation as well as monitoring county lines activity.

2.1.2 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 slavery.

2.1.3 County lines are operating in Suffolk and the number of lines varies at any given time, but it should be noted that in West Suffolk there is not currently an identified issues 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.

2.1.4 In Suffolk we have a system wide work programme funded by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to tackle criminal exploitation. This work is overseen by the Criminal Exploitation Steering Group. The WSCSP works closely with partners on two of the funded projects:

- a) Criminal Exploitation Hubs
- b) Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation Panels.

2.1.5 **Criminal Exploitation Hubs:** based throughout Suffolk and overseen by Suffolk Youth Justice Team, the hubs are funded to work with key partners, voluntary groups, communities, young people and families to support, disrupt and protect young people and communities at risk of exploitation.

- 2.1.6 The team adopts a targeted outreach approach, which allows youth workers the flexibility to work directly with young people in their communities, ensuring engagement is undertaken in a safe and familiar environment. These areas are identified through both partner and community led intelligence. West Suffolk Council works closely with the team to ensure local information is shared as well as identifying opportunities for joint working including Skate Jams, community events and sign posting to community groups.
- 2.1.7 **Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation Panels (MACE):** Monthly meetings with the purpose of identifying and disrupting perpetrators of exploitation against young people in West Suffolk. The panel meet to discuss individuals and areas of concern and put in place actions to disrupt exploitation.
- 2.1.8 WSCSP continues to work closely with Suffolk County Council to provide a more in-depth training and awareness programme in relation to criminal exploitation. Countywide training offered to staff and partners have included Criminal Exploitation Refresher Workshops and "Places Spaces Faces" Contextual Safeguarding training.
- 2.1.9 Alongside the countywide training programme West Suffolk Council trained officers have delivered awareness sessions. one session has taken place for staff, engaging with 15 officers and two sessions has taken place within a school setting engaging with 20 staff members.
- 2.1.10 These training sessions are available throughout the year and will continue as part of the WSCSP commitment to raising awareness amongst staff, partners and communities.
- 2.1.11 As part of Criminal Exploitation #Lookcloser Week partners across Suffolk were present in railway stations as part of a wider collaboration with Greater Anglia, British Transport Police, The Railway Children and Missing People with the aim to raise awareness of Child Exploitation, missing children and modern slavery. This dedicated operation engaged with members of the public, taxi drivers and station staff.

2.2 **Violence Against Women and Girls**

- 2.2.1 The Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and action plan sets out key objectives for Suffolk from 2022 – 2025, this strategy has been co-produced with victims, practitioners and partners and focusses on the following themes:
- a) Prevention
 - b) Supporting victims

- c) Pursuing perpetrators
- d) Strengthening the system

2.2.2 The WSCSP collaborates on several projects that support victims of domestic abuse in West Suffolk and residents are able to access specialist support that is commissioned countywide through Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as local support services.

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

- a. Anglia Care Trust Domestic Abuse Outreach service: providing support for victims of domestic abuse, working with individuals to build resilience and reduce the risks to them. Working with survivors to access suitable services and offer financial advice. Anglia Care Trust also operate the Suffolk 24/7 Domestic Abuse Helpline for anyone with concerns, including victims, friends, family members and professionals.
- b. Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid: providers of refuge and support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. As well as providing living accommodation a range of community services, freedom programmes, courses and counselling for women and children.
- c. Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care: providing emotional and practical support to anyone affected by crime.
- d. Leeway Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service: providing support and help to those identified as high risk of domestic abuse.
- e. Survivors in Transition: providing support to men and women who have experienced sexual abuse, exploitation, or violence in childhood.
- f. Restitute: providing assistance to families of those supporting victims of sexual abuse or violent crime.
- g. Suffolk Rape Crisis: providing trauma informed support to women and girls affected in any way by sexual violence.
- h. Brave Futures (formerly Fresh Start New Beginnings): providing specialist support for young people who have experience sexual abuse or violence.
- i. The Ferns Sexual Assault Referral Centre: specialist centre for victims of rape and sexual assault regardless of whether they have reported it as a crime.

- j. Three-year funded scheme from Ministry of Justice grant for dedicated emotional and practical support services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and providing additional IDVAs and dedicated Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA).
 - k. Domestic Abuse Link Worker within West Suffolk Council Housing team: a dedicated point of contact to support victims and encourage disclosure whilst seeking support for housing needs.
- 2.2.4 Domestic Abuse Champion Network continues to grow, providing a programme of training for champions within our communities. At the end of March 2023, 1,250 champions are now trained across Suffolk.
- 2.2.5 West Suffolk Council have eight members of staff trained as champions who provide support to staff in relation to domestic abuse and respond to disclosure of abuse to ensure individuals have the right tools to stay safe and get the right support.
- 2.2.6 The White Ribbon Campaign 2022 was 16 days of action with a national campaign encouraging people to come together and start playing as a team to end violence against women and girls, launching at the start of the men's football world cup.
- 2.2.7 Suffolk also supported the first Child to Parent Abuse awareness day, including social media campaigns and webinars for staff to raise awareness of this type of abuse.
- 2.2.8 Specialist Refuge Satellite Accommodation remains in place across the partnership area and provides a range of accommodation across Suffolk for people who are unable to access communal refuge due to complex needs.
- 2.2.9 Suffolk partners continue to provide Target Hardening across the county, a scheme for victims identified as high risk. This scheme ensures the victim can remain as safe as possible within their own home. Between April 2022 to March 2023 five properties have been supported in West Suffolk with interventions such as door locks, window bolts, personal alarms as well as adaptations to properties to ensure safety is increased.
- 2.2.10 The West Suffolk Domestic Abuse Partnership continues to meet on a quarterly basis, bringing together both statutory and voluntary practitioners working within the area of domestic abuse. The partnership provides an opportunity for all to meet, network, share best practice and support local projects such as campaigns, freedom programmes, education support and local awareness raising.

2.3 **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)**

- 2.3.1 Undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) is a responsibility of the CSP. 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 they have been in an intimate relationship.
- 2.3.2 There are currently two DHRs being undertaken in West Suffolk. A death in 2020 within West Suffolk triggered a DHR and subsequently an action plan and review has been completed. The review is currently with the Home Office for consideration and once notification has been received by the partnership the review will be published. A death in 2021 within West Suffolk triggered a DHR. The review is currently being drafted, the delay in completing the review and action plan occurred due to court case and inquest into the death. Any recommendations put forward will be considered by the WSCSP at a later date.

2.4 **Modern Slavery**

- 2.4.1 The Suffolk Modern Slavery Network continues to meet to share best practice across Suffolk as well as share data, information and develop countywide training programmes and awareness raising campaigns.
- 2.4.2 Through the council's safeguarding training module, modern slavery is detailed in terms of raising awareness of the National Referral Form. West Suffolk Council has also commissioned an e-learning module which staff have to complete as part of induction and then on a biannual basis.
- 2.4.3 In October 2022 Suffolk County Council launched a partnership training package available to all partners across Suffolk. This training package defines modern slavery, how to spot the signs and how to make a referral, along with specific case studies and short webinars to continue professional development.
- 2.4.4 Suffolk Modern Slavery Awareness Week took place in June 2022 and the focus of this year's campaign was labour exploitation and sexual exploitation.
- 2.4.5 As part of the week a social media campaign was launched and encouraging communities to seek support for concerns and adopted the #SuffolkLooksCloser campaign.

2.5 **Hate Crime**

2.5.1 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:

- a. Race
- b. Religion or belief
- c. Physical or sensory disability
- d. Learning disability or mental health
- e. Age
- f. Gender
- g. Sexual orientation
- h. Gender identity

2.5.2 The National Hate Crime Awareness week was held in October 2022 and the council supported the countywide campaign through social media channels and reassurance visits to specific business who have suffered repeat incidences of hate crime. A new publicity campaign was launched to encourage reporting and strengthen zero tolerance to hate crime.

2.5.3 In October 2021 the Third Annual HOPE Awards were launched. This initiative was again open to all young persons between the age of 11 and 18. The awards were created to celebrate the contribution young people make in Suffolk and formally recognise the outstanding achievements they make to the community. As in previous years there were four categories including: diversity; respect and kindness; teamwork and determination.

2.5.4 Suffolk received a total of 18 applications with 59 young people nominated. There were three applications from West Suffolk

2.6 **Prevent**

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

2.6.2 West Suffolk Council play an active part in the Suffolk PREVENT Delivery Group which brings together partners to acquit that duty which include, local authorities, prisons, probation, education, health sector and police.

2.6.3 In order to meet the Prevent Duty there is a requirement to ensure that 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 referrals to

Channel. This training is provided through Prevent trained officers and council staff can access throughout the year. In total 43 members of staff completed this course between April 2022 and March 2023

- 2.6.4 In addition to the Prevent statutory training, West Suffolk Council provide staff with an essential Prevent e-learning module, providing ongoing awareness in relation to Prevent duty. This module is completed by all staff on a biennial basis.
- 2.6.5 On behalf of the network Suffolk County Council, together with Norfolk CSP were successful in applying for funding from the Home Office Preventing Radicalisation funding. Shout Out UK were commissioned to run three parenting online radicalisation and extremism courses, aimed at parents and carers. In total 84 parents and carers from across Suffolk attended the sessions.
- 2.6.6 In addition to the three courses, Suffolk also held an Online Radicalisation and Extremism Conference in March with over 110 staff from across Suffolk in attendance.

2.7 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 2.7.1 Preventing and responding to anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains a priority to both the WSCSP and the council. Council staff continue to chair and support monthly forums which bring together a number of organisations to co-ordinate responses to reports of high risk ASB in communities across West Suffolk. The council continues to support the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review process. This process provides victims of ongoing anti-social behaviour a right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to ensure a joined up approach is taken to provide a solution. [Antisocial behaviour \(ASB\) case review \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-case-review)
- 2.7.2 West Suffolk Council is a partner on the Suffolk Anti-Social Behaviour Steering Group, meeting on a quarterly basis to keep updated with new legislation, share best practice and co-ordinate awareness raising and campaign materials.
- 2.7.3 In October 2022 the Home Office developed and launched a set of principles which seek to describe a consistent approach to understanding and address anti-social behaviour in local communities. The steering group adopted these principles as a guide to deliver the best outcome to victims of ASB.
- 2.7.4 The principles in full along with further information can be found: [Antisocial behaviour \(ASB\) principles \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour-principles)

2.8 **Fraud**

2.8.1 The priority of fraud was identified through the strategic assessment conducted in March 2022 and was formally adopted as a priority by the Safer Stronger Communities Board in June 2022, WSCSP reviewed the current action plan and adopted fraud as a priority in July 2022.

2.8.2 The main focus of this priority is increasing resilience in communities and business, victim support and investigation. Suffolk Trading Standards has agreed to lead on this priority and has established the Suffolk Anti-Fraud Partnership which will work with a number of partners and formulate an action plan to support the work.

2.9 **Serious Violence Duty**

2.9.1 The Serious Violence Duty introduced through the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 placed a legal duty on specific organisations across health, justice, local authorities, policing, fire and rescue to work together to understand, prevent and reduce serious violence.

2.9.2 The new duty came into effect on 31 January 2023 and to ensure the duty is met, a Serious Violence Duty Steering Group was established in October 2022. The steering group have until 31 January 2024 to conduct a strategic needs assessment and publish an action plan. This work is underway and reported back to the WSCSP on a quarterly basis.

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 continued commitment of the

council 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. Where required and appropriate Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken by the lead partner.
- 6.5 Crime and disorder: addressed in the main body of the report.
- 6.6 Safeguarding: addressed in the main body of the report.
- 6.7 Environment or sustainability: None
- 6.8 HR or staffing: None
- 6.9 Changes to existing policies: None
- 6.10 External organisations (such as businesses, community groups): Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies with prescribed statutory powers who are required to be part of the partnership.

7. Appendices referenced in this report

- 7.1 None

8. Background documents associated with this report

- 8.1 The Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 published by 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: [Police & Crime Plan - Suffolk PCC \(suffolk-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk)
- 8.2 Serious Violence Duty: [Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- 8.3 Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Action Plan: [Community safety \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk)
- 8.4 Suffolk Violence against women and girls strategy: [suffolk-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-2022-25](https://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk)