



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 18 June 2020

ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY 2019-20

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is presented to Members in order to provide an annual Community Safety update.
2. It particularly refers to East Suffolk Council's statutory obligation to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder across the district. This work is progressed through the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's and Suffolk Constabulary's key priorities.
3. This report also provides an overview of the projects that have been delivered during the last twelve months, including those that have focussed on early intervention and prevention, enhancing an individual's sense of personal safety within their own community, building community resilience and modelling pro-social behaviour and good citizenship, providing young people with positive role model experiences and widening their support networks and ability to make positive choices.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Members:	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health Councillor Mark Jepson, Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety

Supporting Officers:	<p>Anita Humphrey Communities Manager, Communities Team, East Suffolk Council 01394 444 662 / 07789921133 Anita.Humphrey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Nicole Rickard Head of Communities 01502 523231 / 07766 998074 Nicole.rickard@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</p>
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 17 of The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it clear that a partnership approach should be taken to address crime, with key local organisations working together to achieve a shared strategy for the benefit of local communities.
- 1.2 Each Local Authority has a duty to take account of community safety in all its work and ensure that all policies, strategies, plans, and budgets are considered in terms of the potential contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder.
- 1.3 The East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (ESCSP) provides a multi-agency forum for this to take place. 'Responsible Authorities,' namely the Local Authority (East Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council), Fire and Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups, National Probation Service, and Suffolk Police representation make up attendance of the partnership. The meeting is chaired by the Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety who is supported by the Council's Communities Team which has designated Community Safety leads within its staffing. Attendance by the Communities team is representative of both north and south of the district to ensure alignment with the two Suffolk Constabulary Command areas (East and South).
- 1.4 Over the last few years, the Community Safety Partnerships in Suffolk have been refocusing their efforts to respond to changes in Local Government and budgets, and in the way crime and disorder presents itself.
- 1.5 In 2016, Suffolk County Council commissioned the University of Suffolk to undertake research into a rise in gang and drug related violence across the county and explore the multiple issues surrounding County Lines and the associated risks. This prompted the workstreams across Suffolk on Gangs and County Lines and for the past 15 months this has been the focus for all of the Community Safety Partnerships in Suffolk with the development and delivery of local Tactical Action Plans (TAPs) for each CSP area.
- 1.6 In July 2019, the Home Office announced a new duty on public bodies to tackle serious violence. The new public health duty covers Police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and the Youth Justice Service. It will ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence, and knowledge to understand and address the root cause of serious violence including knife crime. It will also allow them to target interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether. In addition, the Government will amend the Crime and Disorder Act to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships and that they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.
- 1.7 During the autumn of 2019, the ESCSP focused on considering the future of the partnership and how it can continue to add value to Community-Safety related issues in the district. An annual Strategic Assessment was commissioned. This is a statutory requirement for CSPs as it provides an evidence base for ongoing decision making, helps set and prioritise new objectives for the forthcoming year, and offers recommendations for the delivery of activity against these objectives. It is also intended that any emerging issues are prioritised when there is an evidence base and resource available to begin addressing them. The Strategic Assessment includes a comprehensive analysis of the level and patterns of crime, disorder and offending across the ESCSP area and is based on a high level of exception scanning involving a wide range of data and performance reports. This assessment was compiled from data covering between 01 July 2016 to 31 July 2019.
- 1.8 In February 2020, the Council hosted a multi-agency workshop to present the key findings of the strategic assessment to partners and other organisations with the aim of designing the next three-year ESCSP action plan. A key element of this workshop was to involve statutory and voluntary organisations in developing a response to each of the priorities

and consider how this activity would be delivered based on the resources we have and the use of our partner networks to support this.

- 1.9 This work provided an opportunity to refresh the ESCSP membership. Over time, it has been apparent that some ESCSP partners were more invested in the process than others, with the Council's Communities Team taking an active and leading role within the meeting and the work delivery. Suffolk Constabulary have also remained consistently involved in supporting the partnership via the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Locality meetings, and through annual community safety initiatives like Crucial Crew, Crucial Crew+, Summer activities programmes, Knife Crime awareness campaigns and Operation Camouflage.
- 1.10 The workshop resulted in the ESCSP membership list growing significantly to include Flagship Housing, Make A Change (MAC) (who work with children and young people vulnerable to criminal and sexual exploitation) and Domestic Violence forum representation. Border Force have also now agreed to join the partnership and work is continuing to increase this further with the addition of Education staff.
- 1.11 The ESCSP Action Plan for 2020-2023 was due to be agreed in March 2020 at the quarterly CSP meeting. This was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic and is a piece of work that will need to be finalised at the next meeting (scheduled to take place virtually at the end of June). The 2017-2020 action plan (Appendix A) was signed off by the Chair just prior to the Strategic Assessment being completed at the end of last year.
- 1.12 It is a requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to have due regard to other strategic bodies that have a remit for Crime and Disorder reduction in Suffolk. This enables the CSP to effectively operate without duplication and where possible adding value to areas of work that complement the priorities of the CSP.
- 1.13 The ESCSP action plan is informed by and complements the Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioners Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021 and the priorities of the Suffolk Safer Strong Communities Board which are:
 - Urban Street Gangs & County Lines (USG&CL)
 - Hate Crime
 - Prevent
 - Violence against Women & Girls, Men & Boys (VAWGMB)
 - Community Resilience

2 PROJECT WORK 2019-2020

- 2.1 Although funding is more difficult to obtain in the current climate, as previously reported, we still manage to provide several successful community projects each year. During 2019-2020 the following took place:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Locality Partnership meetings

- 2.2 These meetings continue to be held every 6-8 weeks across the three areas of Leiston & Saxmundham, Woodbridge and Felixstowe. Chaired by an ASB officer from the Communities team, the meetings encourage multi-agency information sharing and collaborative problem solving to address ASB. The meetings continue to be split into two sections – Tier 1 is attended by all partners and local councillors plus housing providers, mental health services, Suffolk Youth Justice Service, school representatives, homeless outreach workers, local youth group providers, Suffolk Police, Social Care, Town & Parish councils, Turning Point Drug and Alcohol services, Licensing and Suffolk Family Focus. The meeting enables general discussion around ASB and the options that may be available to address it. Tier 2 is only open to key partners with discussions managed through a strict

confidentiality agreement. Agencies or councillors are only permitted to stay if they have a vested interest in an issue. These discussions focus on specific individuals of concern and may result in a partnership approach to responding. During the period 2019-2020, there has been some increase in discussions during these meetings relating to groups of individuals and potential offending. It has been imperative to respond to these by working together with partners to share intelligence and agree consistent messaging and approach. Minutes of this part of the meeting are recorded but not circulated.

- 2.3 In Saxmundham last summer, this approach resulted in a vast amount of intelligence being shared by organisations leading to several arrests and convictions of young people involved in drug and violence related offending.
- 2.4 There have been some issues in Felixstowe caused by drug dealers taking over the homes of vulnerable people to sell or store drugs (cuckooing). The ASB meetings helped to ensure that all agencies involved in disrupting this activity were communicating and sharing what they knew quickly so that action could be taken.
- 2.5 In the North of the district, Communities Team officers attend the Waveney Action Group monthly meetings. These are chaired by Suffolk Youth Justice Service and have a similar format to the Council's ASB locality meetings.
- 2.6 Work has begun to develop similar multi-agency meetings in other areas of the North. The Communities Officer for Halesworth has had conversations with Suffolk Police about how an already established local meeting could be developed to include discussion around ASB and emerging issues to prevent escalation and maintain public confidence in the local area.

Interventions

- 2.7 This is the Lowestoft Rising led initiative to tackle ASB cases that place a high demand on agencies. Introduced in 2014, it initially provided intervention support for the street drinking community but then evolved to engage with local drug and alcohol users. Now the initiative primarily deals with those who are homeless. This has included Crime and ASB interventions. The monthly Interventions Case Conference is attended by a wide range of partner organisations which has resulted in dramatically reduced numbers of individuals rough sleeping in Lowestoft. At the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, there were 8 local people still rough sleeping who had all been offered help previously. Fortunately, they did take subsequent help offered to house them when lockdown measures began, and at one point there were no homeless people on the street in Lowestoft. As this period has gone on there has been a slight increase in reports of ASB, including drinking and congregating in groups and street sleeping in the town.
- 2.8 From April 2020 the Interventions process via Lowestoft Rising was to cease and the work on homelessness move solely to the East Suffolk Council Housing Needs Team after a successful bid by them to manage this piece of work. This transition has been delayed slightly due to the pandemic but continues to progress as much as possible including work to address the increase in ASB reports. It is hoped that a similar partnership approach will be used by the Housing Needs team to support these individuals as was developed by Interventions.

The Whitton Project

- 2.9 The Whitton area of Lowestoft was identified through Hidden Needs data to have three times the Suffolk average levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and twice the national average. There were reports of various incidents from local people of fireworks being thrown into shops, property being damaged, the emergence of gangs in the area and bullying and intimidating behaviour being used. Students from East Point Academy (EPA) had also nominated ASB and

Drugs as a key priority at the Waveney Youth Council. Increased reports of ASB in the area had been apparent since the Spring of 2018.

- 2.10 A community consultation event was held on The Green in early 2019 to gain residents views and find out whether they would be interested in taking part in local focus groups with partner agencies. All respondents reported issues linked to ASB as their main concern in the area.
- 2.11 Following this, work developed to explore the use of space in the area and how it could become a much more pleasant environment for all living and working within it. Local activities were set up for young people and bids were submitted to access funding to change the aesthetics of the area making it feel much safer and more pleasant for everyone to enjoy. This work is currently being progressed as Phase 3 of the project.
- 2.12 Work is also being done to establish a residents and business owner's group to ensure they are kept aware of developments and continue to have a say in what matters to them.

Rigbourne Hill, Beccles

- 2.13 In response to increasing reports of ASB in the Rigbourne Hill area of Beccles, work began to address this by building community cohesion and strengthening relationships between residents living there. Officers from the Communities team worked with St Luke's Church and the Town Council to plan a summer celebration event in partnership with Suffolk Police, Beccles Free School, local businesses, clubs and organisations.
- 2.14 Following an extensive consultation process to ascertain the views of residents, the celebration event took place during Summer 2019 and included activities, information stalls and further consultation work. The outcomes of this were to inform the planning for a further event with the hope that this could become a regular occurrence. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the event planned for 2020 has been cancelled.
- 2.15 A summer programme has also been planned to give young people the opportunity to take part in positive sporting activities. It was identified during consultation that location and cost of summer activities was a clear barrier for many families. The proposed programme will offer free activities across the market towns within the Community Partnership area. If this is unable to progress in 2020 it will take place in 2021.
- 2.16 Intergenerational events have also been a huge part of the work to address ASB in the area and improve older people's perceptions of young people living in the town. Six events have been held over the last 2 years.
- 2.17 In the last 12-18 months the number of ASB reports in relation to this area has decreased and it is felt that this is the result of strengthening the partnerships between agencies in the area, providing opportunities for young people to take part in activities, and improving community relationships between older and younger residents.

Suffolk Family Focus (SFF)

- 2.18 In the summer of 2019, the Council employed two part time Suffolk Family Focus Family Intervention Officers (FIOs) to continue to deliver against the Troubled Families programme which began in 2011. These posts have now been extended to May 2021.
- 2.19 Since being in post the Officers have worked with 15 families. Most of the referrals received have been highly complex and have required longer term intensive support alongside intervention from additional services. This mirrors reports from other agencies

and groups working with young people locally who are also seeing multiple needs coming through including individuals who have often faced a number of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and have limited positive support networks. Common themes evident in the referrals received by SFF are concerns around the emotional well-being of children and young people, and delays in obtaining assessments and potential Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in relation to additional needs like Autism or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

- 2.20 The FIOs continue to work with Social Care, Early Help, Schools, mental health services, drug and alcohol services and domestic violence support groups to provide a network around the families. Families are placed at the centre of the support provided and are integral to the development of their action plan. The FIOs work is strengths based and consistently seeks to empower the families they work with to create achievable and sustainable change.
- 2.21 During the Coronavirus response, the FIOs have used virtual methods to remain in touch with the families and ensure they continue to monitor progress and maintain the positive relationships they have built. They have also been able to offer the wider Communities Team support to respond to families that have been referred via Home But Not Alone who are experiencing financial hardship, concerns with keeping children occupied, and accessing essential supplies. They have created activity packs for children which have been delivered to families in the district and have also taken part in a proactive piece of work to identify and support families before they may need help using data drawn from the new Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT).

PREVENT / WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) Training

- 2.22 These workshops are designed to raise awareness of the Prevent Strategy including developing an understanding of the PREVENT aims, outlining the role and responsibilities of front line officers in identifying those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, how the process works to reduce the risk of them becoming involved or supporting terrorism, and how and where to refer individuals who may be causing concern.
- 2.23 During 2019-2020, 18 training sessions were facilitated across the district by Council Officers. These workshops have been delivered to both internal teams including frontline staff and external partners (landlords and school staff) and amounts to a total number of 273 individuals being trained.
- 2.24 Due to the Coronavirus, workshops that had been scheduled for early 2020 were cancelled. This work continues to be led by the Communities Team will use alternative formats to ensure that key messages can be disseminated even though face to face sessions cannot be held.

Operation Camouflage

- 2.25 Operation Camouflage took place over four days in the school summer holiday of 2019 at Rock Barracks, MOD Woodbridge. This initiative is managed by East Suffolk Council in partnership with the MOD Army Welfare Team.
- 2.26 68 young people aged between 8 – 16 took part, with 51 of those living in East Suffolk. 7 referrals came from the community for young people that met the Suffolk Family Focus criteria and 42 of the young people were from military families. The young people were divided into six teams, mixing any siblings or friends, and they remained in these teams for the full four days. The consistency of teammates and leaders helps to develop teamwork and leaderships skills and builds confidence and self-esteem. The young people took part in 24 different activities, which were a mix of physical, mental, and creative including drama, crime scenes,

skateboarding, collage making, laser tag and dodgeball. All the activities are ones that young people may not have experienced before therefore offering the chance to learn and develop new skills.

- 2.27 23 volunteer staff were leaders for each of the 6 teams and gave extra support to some of the more challenging young people. The leaders stay with the same teams over the four days to help build trusted relationships between the young people and adults. The staff come from a variety of backgrounds including the Council's Communities team, youth workers, MOD youth service, ex police officers and some serving military personnel.
- 2.28 Operation Camouflage continues to grow year on year and consistently demonstrates its value to the local community by bringing together young people from a variety of social and economic backgrounds, offering a safe environment in which they can explore new activities and opportunities. With the experience gained from previous years, the project is built on solid foundations and consistently receives outstanding feedback from both participants and staff.

Summer Activities

- 2.29 The annual Lowestoft summer activities programme ran for its sixth year in 2019. This programme is facilitated by the Council's Communities team in partnership with Positive Futures, Catch22.
- 2.30 Last year's event was developed alongside Suffolk County Council's Fit and Fed initiative enabling young people who have access to free school meals to attend 4 weeks of summer activities for 4 days every week and for 4 hours every day. As a result, 3 new locations of Lowestoft were used to hold additional activities to ensure as many young people as possible had the opportunity to attend. The activities available included a climbing wall, dodgeball, football, netball and rounders. The four weeks concluded with a celebration event on the beach where young people received awards for their participation. In total 312 young people took part.
- 2.31 Summer activities were also organised for Leiston and Saxmundham covering 2 days per week in each area. This incorporated several different activities including sports, arts and crafts and performing arts. 20 spaces were available for each session. Providers identified more of a need in Saxmundham and regularly exceeded expected numbers but were able to safely accommodate additional young people rather than turn them away.

Crucial Crew

- 2.32 Crucial Crew is organised by the Council's Communities team and the Suffolk Coastal Rotary Clubs and supported by a number of partner agencies including Suffolk Police, Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service, East Suffolk Communities Team, Suffolk County Council, Turning Point, Make a Change Team and Onelife Suffolk.
- 2.33 In 2019, the scenarios included first aid, fire safety, internet safety, healthy eating, sun safety, road safety, anti-social behaviour, bullying and alcohol & drug misuse. 27 primary schools from across the district signed up with a total of 850 children taking part.

Crucial Crew Plus

- 2.34 The project was piloted in 2017 for years 9, 10 and 11 at Alde Valley High School to address and highlight issues that were affecting young people within the community.
- 2.35 6 high schools took part in 2019 and 7 more schools have signed up to receive the programme. Some schools have chosen to concentrate on delivery of the scenarios to years 9 and 10 students only, and other smaller schools have opted for a whole school approach. Scenarios covered during this reporting year are self-harm, cybercrime, sex education, substance misuse, exploitation and healthy relationships, consent, sexting, road safety, gangs and county lines and the realities of crime. Each scenario is delivered by the partner agency who has the most knowledge of the subject area. This is a great opportunity for them to ensure that they are reaching as many young people as possible to raise awareness of key issues. Approximately 1800 - 1900 young people were involved in the first cohort.

Night-time economy

- 2.36 Work continues to support the town pastors. This is progressing well and Leiston are now in the process of applying for charity status. All these groups receive funding from the PCC and CGC. Nightsafe/Pubwatch groups meet on a regular basis and continue to make use of banning committees to discuss how to respond to problematic individuals.
- 2.37 Conflict Management training is being organised to further support some of the groups and it is hoped this will progress later this year.

3. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTIONS ORDERS (PSPOs)

- 3.1 PSPOs were introduced in Suffolk Coastal between 2007 and 2008 following extensive research and consultation which supported these orders in Woodbridge, Martlesham, Rushmere, Kesgrave, Leiston, Saxmundham, Kelsale, Felixstowe, Wickham Market and Framlingham.
- 3.2 Following consultation in 2019 with the Council's legal department, Suffolk Police and parish and town councils it was agreed there was not sufficient evidence to support the continuation of the PSPO's. Partners supported the cessation of these and agreed that making use of other legislative powers available such as Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Dispersal orders could be much more efficient and effective. Alongside ASB legislation, the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 is a further tool that the Police can use to combat alcohol related ASB.
- 3.3 As a result, NORSE were commissioned to remove all PSPO signs. This work was completed at the start of 2020.

4. DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA)

- 4.1 Coastal Action Against Abuse (CAAA) facilitated a social media campaign for White Ribbon in November and a further campaign at Christmas. These were very successful in terms of

the numbers that viewed the information online. A further campaign in Easter was cancelled due to Coronavirus.

- 4.2 The Council has commissioned four satellite accommodation units which are located outside of the district but within Suffolk. As of March 2020, these units were all occupied.

5. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS (DHRs)

- 5.1 Since 2011, Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory duty under Section 9(3) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).
- 5.2 The ESCSP Chair, supported by a Community Officer (with community safety specialism), leads on East Suffolk DHRs in line with Suffolk County Council Suffolk Domestic Homicide Review Guidance, 2018.
- 5.3 Since 2016, there has been one death which, although initiated the DHR process, became a local learning review instead via the Suffolk Local Safeguarding Board. The action plan was signed off by the ESCSP chair in early 2020.
- 5.4 A DHR report for another death in 2016 remains with the Home Office so an action plan is yet to be agreed. This report will not be published.

6. URBAN STREET GANGS & COUNTY LINES (USG&CL)

- 6.1 As mentioned previously, in response to an increase in gang and drug-related violence amongst vulnerable young people in Ipswich in 2017, research was commissioned to explore the extent of the issue. This research resulted in the development a Suffolk Strategic Action Plan (SAP). Each CSP area then developed a Tactical Action Plan (TAP) which reflects the content of the SAP through five key workstreams. Each workstream identifies specific activity that will be carried out within the area.
- 6.2 In East Suffolk the focus has been solely on addressing the issue of County Lines. The National Crime Agency definition of County Lines is:

'where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.

- 6.3 This activity relies heavily on the exploitation of young and vulnerable people to store and move drugs between and around areas to minimise detection and maximise the areas that they infiltrate. During 2019, it was reported that there was 1 active line working in the East Suffolk District and this was categorised by Suffolk Police as Low risk.
- 6.4 Seven Council staff have been trained in the Train the Trainer programme meaning that they are able to deliver the Gangs and County Lines training package. Two training events were organised to take place in May 2020 to upskill more Council staff however, these were cancelled due to the Coronavirus restrictions. This work will resume when it is safe to do so.
- 6.5 Last year, 13 awareness raising sessions took place across the district and were delivered to school staff, school students, town pastors, town and parish councils, housing providers and volunteers.

- 6.6 2,928 High School students also had the opportunity to watch the County Lines performance by the AlterEgo youth theatre group in November 2019 which was organised by the ESCSP. Wrap around support for the schools was also provided in the form of resource packs for the students, there was an offer for awareness raising sessions for parents and supplementary knife crime awareness events delivered by the PCSOs for the area.
- 6.7 Strong partnerships have been developed with Suffolk Police's Youth Gang Prevention Unit during the last year which is enabling effective information sharing, pro-active responses being taken to individuals of concern, and the offer of preventative diversionary activity for young people at risk of exploitation by County Lines.
- 6.8 **Police SNT priorities** – There are 7 SNT's covering the East Suffolk area which have identified priorities based on issues evidenced in the locality. These priorities include:
- Addressing the issue of rough sleepers in Felixstowe
 - County Lines – Drug trafficking from the homes of vulnerable people
 - Working with partner agencies to address mental health
 - Anti-social behaviour and crime reduction
 - Domestic violence
 - Engagement with young people
 - Direct work with schools

7. EAST SUFFOLK CRIME DATA

- 7.1 In 2019, the report *State of Suffolk: How we stay safe* confirmed that overall, Suffolk has lower crime rates than the England average. However, there is variation between the Community Safety Partnership areas, with the recorded crime rates in Ipswich and Waveney being higher than and comparable to England. Nationally, average crime rates tend to be lower in rural areas than urban.
- 7.2 Following a long-term reduction, levels of crime have remained broadly stable in recent years. However, a lack of change in overall levels of crime can hide variations seen in individual crime types. For example, there have been continued increases in fraud, vehicle offences and robbery but decreases in burglary and homicide. The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) show continued rises in fraud offences, with a 9% increase in the year ending September 2019, driven by an increase in bank and credit account fraud.
- 7.3 For the year ending September 2019 in England and Wales the data demonstrates:
- a 6% decrease in the overall number of homicides following a period of increases
 - no percentage change in the number of police recorded offences involving firearms
 - a 7% increase in the number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments (although the picture across force areas is varied)
 - In addition, the number of homicides where a knife or sharp instrument was involved decreased by 20%. This decrease was mainly driven by falls in London.
- 7.4 The Office for National Statistics show that offences rose in Suffolk by 4% between December 2018 and December 2019 with 56,616 recorded crimes in the county (excluding fraud). Offences of violence against the person rose by 13%, sexual offences by 11%, Robbery by 3%, drug offences by 24% (this is higher than the national average but can likely be attributed to the County Lines drug dealing networks operating in the county and increased availability of substances), and possession of an offensive weapon by 20% (again potentially linked to the heightened risk surrounding County Lines activity). Theft was

down 5%, with Burglary (residential and non-residential combined) seeing a fall of 18% compared to the preceding 12-month period.

- 7.5 However, Suffolk remains one of the safest places to live, with recorded crimes at 65 crimes per 1,000 persons which remains below the national average.
- 7.6 The Suffolk Observatory website provides further localised information which shows that between April 2019 and March 2020 recorded crime in Suffolk was 49,499 with crimes in East Suffolk recorded at 13,577 (55 crimes per 1,000 persons). Of those, the highest reported crimes were 6,261 violent and sexual offences with the crime rate being 25.2 per 1,000 persons (In England this rate is 30 per 1,000 persons). The lowest recorded offence during this period was Robbery with a rate of 0.4 per 1,000 persons. Again, this is under the England average of 1.4 per 1,000 persons.
- 7.7 At the time of writing this report, we are awaiting further data that will provide more comparative analysis of these crimes in relation to the Community Partnership areas. This will enable us to identify hotspots and work with partner organisations to address local crime concerns.
- 7.8 Suffolk Police have provided substantial preventative measures across the district including a focus on addressing violence in our communities. They have encouraged individuals to use amnesty bins for knives and have worked hard to change the narrative for young people in relation to carrying weapons for protection. Work of the Youth Gang Prevention Unit within Suffolk Police in the Southern Command area has assisted in diverting young people away from county lines activity and reducing the risk of exploitation by drug dealers. Proactive work by them has been taking place in Felixstowe in recent months.
- 7.9 Overall, ASB reports have been falling steadily for several years across Suffolk. There has been a 12% reduction in ASB within the ESCSP area with a drop of 84 reports of Nuisance ASB, 130 less reports relating to Personal ASB and 111 less reports relating to Environmental issues than had occurred during 2017/18.
- 7.10 The rate of ASB recorded is 0.99 per 1,000 persons in the ESCSP area. This is low compared to 1.96 for Ipswich. The 3 years trend indicates that ASB levels tend to go up in the summer and during the school holiday (the peak day being Saturday). The council's Communities team is currently working with other agencies to consider the upcoming summer break in light of Coronavirus and how activities can be offered in a safe way to minimise any increase of ASB during the summer months.

8. HATE CRIME REPORT

- 8.1 A Hate Crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability and against a person who is transgender or perceived transgender.
- 8.2 A Hate Incident is any non-crime incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability and against a person who is transgender or perceived transgender.
- 8.3 In Suffolk the levels of recorded Hate Crime have been increasing steadily over the last three years. In East Suffolk the levels of reported Hate Crime have been reducing which is contrary to West Suffolk and Ipswich CSP areas. Across the county, the number of recorded crimes is low at 2% of all recorded crime. Hate Crime is likely to be under reported, due to the vulnerability of the victims and the fear of reprisal. Hate crimes are recorded mostly

within Violence Against the Person and Public Order offences. The top five locations for these offences in the ESCSP area between 2016 and July 2019 were the wards of: Harbour & Normanston, Kirkley & Pakefield, Western Felixstowe, Martlesham & Purdis Farm and Bungay and Wainford. These five wards accounted for 60% of all Hate Crime recorded in East Suffolk (This information is taken from the East Suffolk CSP Strategic assessment completed by Suffolk County Council).

8.4 Recorded quarter 3 data for the financial year 2019-2020

Table 10: East SPC Hate Crimes and Incidents by Type per Month				
Hate Type	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hate Crime - Disability	2	0	2	4
Hate Crime - Racial	7	4	1	12
Hate Crime - Racial or Religious	1	2	0	3
Hate Crime - Religion	2	1	1	4
Hate Crime - Sexual Orientation	2	7	3	12
Hate Crime - Transgender	0	1	0	1
Hate Incident - Disability	1	0	0	1
Hate Incident - Racial	1	0	1	2
Hate Incident - Religion	0	0	0	0
Hate Incident - Sexual Orientation	0	0	0	0
Hate Incident - Transgender	0	1	0	1
Total	16	16	8	40

Of the total number of hate crimes reported in East Suffolk over the 3 months October to December 2019, 37% was racial, 30% related to sexual orientation and 10% related to disability. Lowestoft saw 26 hate crimes, and two hate incidents in the quarter, accounting for 65% of all crimes and incidents reported in the East.

9. RECORDING SYSTEMS

- 9.1 The Athena (partnership) platform that was being developed to enable partners to case manage using the same system as Suffolk police, did not progress. It was therefore agreed that ECINS would continue to be used to record all ASB incidents across the county with a view to encouraging its wider use across district and borough council departments. Suffolk County Council are in the process of developing an information sharing agreement and data protection impact assessment template to enable the districts and boroughs to update their paperwork and ensure consistency across the county. ECINS training has been provided in the last 6 months to ensure that staff using the system are doing so in the same way. Suffolk County Council will be providing ongoing monitoring of the use of the system and providing councils with detailed reports of local activity.

10. HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 10.1 By working in partnership we can contribute more effectively to ensuring the East Suffolk Council's Business Plan vision of enabling our communities to identify opportunities and

challenges, and empowering them to make a difference; we will support our communities to enhance the places we live and work for the well-being of all.

11. FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In 2018, three years of funding was agreed through the Safer Stronger Communities Group from the Transformation Challenge funding for each CSP in the county. This funding of almost £10,000 per year has been used to support various community safety initiatives, with a focus initially on the county lines work. The CSP has terms of reference and as outlined above, a review of the membership of the partnership was undertaken last year.

12. OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken two years ago when the equivalent report was presented to the commission. Upon review, it has been agreed that it would be more relevant to undertake EQIA's in relation to individual projects as new projects come on stream. The community safety programme includes a number of projects that are about reducing negative impacts on protected characteristic groups e.g. the hate crime work and the county lines work to reduce the risk of cuckooing vulnerable individuals.

13. CONSULTATION

None.

14. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None - this report provides an overview of the Council's work in relation to community safety and anti-social behaviour

15. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 15.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is updated on the work of the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and the Council's continued leadership and ongoing contribution to this work.

RECOMMENDATION

That, having received the Annual Report for 2019/20, the Scrutiny Committee comments upon and notes its contents.

Appendix A

CSP Action Plan 2017-20

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

