

## APPENDIX C

### Suffolk County Council, Community Safety

The Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) oversees a wide range of community safety priorities for Suffolk, which are delivered through a multi-agency governance structure, as detailed in Appendix A.

The Board's aim is to provide strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from the following agreed priorities:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Criminal Exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- Hate Crime
- Preventing Radicalisation
- Anti-social Behaviour

The Board has several key responsibilities, including:

- Receive exception reports on successes, opportunities, and progress
- Unblock system barriers
- Harness / unlock system capacity and resources
- Provide leadership and direction to tackle the wide determinant issues or causal issues such as health, education, and housing

The Safer Stronger Communities Board meets quarterly, and membership includes senior elected members and officers from a range of organisations including County, District and Borough councils, Suffolk Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships (CSOs), Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Norfolk and Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

It is supported by a programme office that oversees the delivery of issues that present the greatest threat, risk, and harm to Suffolk residents, and reports regularly to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Community Safety Partnerships.

East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership is a member of the SSCB, and information is fed up and down through the structure (see Appendix A)

Suffolk County Council Community Safety Team undertake a Strategic Assessment every three years as part of the statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (refreshed annually). The Last Strategic Assessment was undertaken 2020-2021 and as a result of the identified priorities, East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership developed their action plan.

For all the following areas of work, a strategy, action plan and working groups feed into the Safer Stronger Communities Board.

## Hate Crime

Hate crime can take many forms such as physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse. It can range from non-verbal intimidation to physical violence. We know that hate crime is significantly under-reported and we know the significant impact this type of crime can have on a victim.

Encouraging people to report hate crime and encouraging people to seek help has been a priority for Suffolk for some time. Working in partnership we have looked to increase visibility of what hate crime is and ensure there are effective routes for reporting and seeking support – this has been achieved through our Hate Crime Network and through representation on the Engaged Communities Group.

### **Hate Crime - recent updates**

**Hope Awards:** The HOPE Awards were created by Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council to celebrate the contribution young people make in Suffolk and to formally recognise all the outstanding things they do in the community.

In the first year of operation these awards have been hugely impressive with participating schools and the amazing examples of kindness, determination and teamwork expressed through the nominations.

**Hate Crime Awareness Week:** Every year partners across Suffolk come together for a dedicated week of action to raise awareness of hate crime, the affects it has and how victims can report and seek help. Previous focus of the campaigns has been on upskilling front line officers, raising awareness amongst young people and the creation of the Hope Awards. #NoHateInSuffolk

## Prevent

Prevent is about stopping people from being radicalised and becoming terrorists supporting terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding from other forms of harm.

Suffolk has a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on specified agencies to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Local authorities are included in this duty.

Suffolk has a multi-agency Prevent Delivery Group which brings together a whole range of agencies to work together to meet the Prevent Duty - they have a 3 year Prevent Delivery Group Strategy in place.

## ASB

Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household. There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Suffolk has a countywide steering group for ASB including an action plan that brings consistency of response across all districts and borough areas. In recent months we have established a robust community trigger process for those who have reported ongoing ASB but feel that no action has been taken to resolve it.

## Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic abuse, or domestic violence, is defined across Government as any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It can occur in both heterosexual and LGBTQ+ relationships, and can affect anyone, young or old, any ethnicity or sexual identity, any religion and social background.

We are fortunate to have strong partnerships across Suffolk that work together to address a number of key community safety issues which cause the greatest risk, threat and harm. Specifically, our priority to tackle VAWG is underpinned by robust governance that brings together the voice of victims and survivors, practitioners, service providers, decision makers and elected members. Those partnerships include:

### **Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB)**

The SSCB is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership on wider issues and determinants arising from agreed priorities. Members include Chief Officers and Elected members from Suffolk County Council, District & Borough Councils, Police, Police & Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships, Health, Probation, Criminal Justice Board.

### **Violence Against Women & Girls Steering Group**

The VAWG Steering Group is responsible for co-ordinating and developing quality services to effectively meet the needs of Suffolk residents. This includes direct service provision for victims-survivors, perpetrators, and their children, holding abusers to account and reducing the prevalence of VAWG. Membership includes strategic managers from Adult and Children Safeguarding, Community Safety & Public Health Police, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation, Health, Voluntary & Community Sector.

### **Suffolk Violence & Abuse Partnership (SVAP)**

The SVAP is an information sharing network established to strengthen collaboration and encourage innovation across the Suffolk system. Membership includes 180+ interested individuals with a personal or organisational interest in Violence Against Women and Girls, including; victim/survivors; voluntary and community sector providers; academics; military; volunteers; By and For services; and elected members.

### **Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**

The DAPB functions are undertaken by both the VAWG Steering Group and SVAP as above and are responsible for assessing the scale and nature of need, preparing and publishing a domestic abuse accommodation strategy, commissioning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress.

### **VAWG - Recent Updates**

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Action Plan**

This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk from 2022-25, co-produced with victims, practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on our success during the lifetime of the last strategy, outlines new, robust governance arrangements, is cognisant of other key strategies and documents that are aligned/connected to VAWG and most importantly, provides a strategic direction for the next phase of this strategy which is to develop an action plan that will drive forward change through effective partnership working.

#### **Suffolk Safe Accommodation Strategy**

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, upper tier local authorities have a requirement to undertake a Needs Assessment and publish a Safe Accommodation Strategy. The strategy for Suffolk was consulted on from 26 October to 13 December 2021 and was published on 5 January 2022.

The strategy sets out how Suffolk County Council and partners propose to meet the needs for domestic abuse accommodation and associated support services across the council over the next 3 years.

#### **Domestic Abuse Champions**

Many organisations struggle to support people experiencing Domestic Abuse and are sometimes not confident enough to talk to someone about it or encourage them to disclose. Our Domestic Abuse Champions offer consistent information, advice and support which is helping to bring lasting positive changes for victims across Suffolk. Reaching victims as early as possible will prevent further harm.

Suffolk County Council has set up a Network of Champions across the County with over 700 already trained. The Champions are provided with free training to have the skills to spread awareness to other colleagues and act as the 'Go to Person' for Information between their own agency and local support services.

## Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude. Victims are often hidden away, may be unable to leave their situation, or may not come forward because of fear or shame.

A new Modern Slavery Network which was formed in June 2021. This aims to share best practice across the Suffolk System, share data and information, develop training and awareness raising campaigns and communicate to wider partners about developments from central government.

The Modern Slavery Network is also working closely with two other priorities of the SSCB, Violence Against Women and Girls (including exploitation through prostitution) and Criminal Exploitation (including trafficking, forced or compulsory labour through organised crime relating to drug markets), both of which have strong synergies with Modern Slavery. This reduces duplication but also strengthens the system responding to issues through greater partnership working.

### Modern Slavery - Recent Updates

#### Modern Slavery Strategy and Action Plan

This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk, co-produced with practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on our current systems in place to mitigate risk and harm to those that are exploited.

The strategy sets out four key priorities:

- Identifying Victims
- Supporting Victims/Survivors
- Preventing Exploitation
- Protection & Enforcement

This strategy is supported by an Action Plan that is currently being developed by the Suffolk Modern Slavery Network.

## Criminal Exploitation

Criminal Exploitation is a lesser-known type of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking that involves recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.

In Suffolk we have a system-wide work programme to tackle Criminal Exploitation. The work programme, which is supported by data and evidence, has nine priorities:

- Leadership
- Prevention and Education
- Intervention and Exit

- Innovation and Learning
- Community Response
- Enforcement
- Safeguarding Adolescence
- Transitional Safeguarding

This work is managed via a multi-agency action plan which is overseen by a Criminal Exploitation steering group.

### **Criminal Exploitation - Recent Updates**

#### **Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation Panels**

Multi Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) panels were introduced in June 2021. There are three MACE panels across Suffolk with the objectives of protecting young people from harm due to exploitation and to disrupt perpetrators.

#### **Criminal Exploitation Hubs**

Criminal Exploitation Hubs were launched in May 2021 and build on the success of the Suffolk Gangs Against Exploitation Team. Working with key partners, voluntary groups, communities, children, and families to support, disrupt and empower children and communities from the risk of exploitation.

For more information about any of these priorities please contact [community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk)