

Supplement to Report ES/1383

East Suffolk Crime & Disorder Committee: Review of the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership

Introduction

Each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) develops an action plan based on a county-wide Strategic Assessment. The East Suffolk CSP action plan closely mirrors the strategic objectives set out by Suffolk County Council and the Safer Stronger Communities Board. However, it is important to note that the activity included in the updated East Suffolk plan has been designed so that it does not duplicate existing work delivered by the Police, Suffolk County Council and other Responsible Authorities but instead focuses on opportunities for new activity and collaboration.

East Suffolk Council ran a comprehensive workshop and established subsequent Task & Finish groups to create a new version of the CSP action plan earlier this year. As outlined, the idea was to specifically focus on areas for collaboration and activity that were not already being delivered or could be delivered more widely.

It is also important to note that the new action plan was only recently confirmed by all partners, with subsequent work completed to assign responsibilities to different partners. Therefore, the majority of activity in the plan is currently in planning stage and has not been commenced. In addition, the action plan is a living document, and more activity will be added as partnership discussion and collaboration continues.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

There is a large amount of activity that happens county-wide around VAWG. The vast majority of this happens outside of the auspices of the CSP and is driven by separate strategies and plans delivered by Suffolk County Council and the Police.

This year, the Safer Stronger Communities Board launched their new Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-25. Suffolk Constabulary also have an internal action plan, with a localised version created for East Suffolk and delivered by the Police.

For VAWG, the areas of focus identified in East Suffolk through the workshop process are:

- 1. Provide safer environments for women and girls**
- 2. Increase reporting of VAWG**
- 3. Support victims and the children of victims**
- 4. Change and shape men's behaviour**

Specific activity under each of these headings was then identified to be included in the East Suffolk CSP action plan, as follows.

Provide safer environments for women and girls

- **Promote the StreetSafe app and improve any areas where women report being unsafe**

The Police already promote the StreetSafe app. It is a location-based app designed to allow anyone (although primarily women) to anonymously report about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues – for example, street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism – and/or because of behaviours – for example, being followed or verbally abused.

The Police have asked for help in promoting the StreetSafe app, to get more people to use it and therefore to receive more reports and to build up a clearer picture of unsafe areas.

The Communities team will promote the app through ESC social channels, businesses (via Economic Development and licencing), relevant VCSE organisations and town and parish councils.

When a clearer data picture is available, we will work with the Police to co-ordinate improvements to unsafe areas, where it is possible, through new CCTV, increased lighting and changes to the built environment.

- **Collect data on the use of Ask for Angela and assess the experience of using Ask for Angela in licenced premises in East Suffolk**

Ask for Angela is the name of a campaign in England, started in 2016, that is used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a codeword to identify when they are in danger or are in an uncomfortable situation. When an establishment uses this program, a person who believes themselves to be in danger can ask for Angela, a fictitious member of the staff. The staff will then help the person get home discreetly and safely by either escorting them to a different room, calling them a taxi and escorting them to it, or by asking the other party member to leave the establishment. Posters are placed on the stall doors inside toilets of the establishments where the campaign is being implemented. The poster introduces "Angela" and asks several questions for the person to reflect on the current position they are in and whether they need help.

Ask for Angela is used widely across the country and has been rolled out across East Suffolk. However, a study by the Metro newspaper in London, where actors attended licenced premises appearing to be in distress and asked for Angela, highlighted a lack of consistency in response, with many employees in the premises not being aware of the programme or not responding in the correct manner.

Therefore, the CSP is running a programme of work to understand a) how often Ask for Angela is actually used (that is, how often someone physically asks for Angela), because there is no current data available and then b) what the experience of asking for Angela actually is for a member of the public in distress.

Members of the East Suffolk Communities Team have spoken to licenced premises in Beccles, Bungay and Lowestoft about the use of Ask for Angela, with feedback being it is very rarely used if at all. They will continue to do this, working also with licencing, to build up a more complete picture. Members of the team who are not known in Lowestoft and Felixstowe will complete unannounced visits to selected licenced premises in the New Year and will actually ask for Angela to assess the general response. The complete data will then

be collated and used to inform both campaigns to encourage the use of Ask for Angela and to institute further training for licenced premises if need be.

Increase reporting of VAWG

- **Promote reporting channels for sexual violence and domestic abuse in schools, businesses, organisations and online**

VAWG is a hugely underreported crime. Visibility of reporting channels and, crucially, reporting channels that work for different audiences, is one important element of increasing reporting.

The Suffolk Domestic Abuse Helpline is free on 0800 977 5690. There is also a nationally used Silent Solution, where if speaking or making a sound would put someone in danger and they need immediate help, they can call 999 and stay on the line, then press 55 when prompted, and the call will be transferred to the police who will know it is an emergency call. In schools, children who receive information about gender-based violence are informed they can speak to designated members of staff. There are, in addition, several charities to whom VAWG can be reported.

The more widely these reporting routes can be promoted, the more effective they will be. Suffolk County Council have a programme of promotion that is amplified by the ESC Communities Team. For example, the White Ribbon domestic abuse campaign was supported by the East Suffolk Communities Team through visits to locations across the north of the district and social media promotion. We will also work with businesses, via economic development, to disseminate messages around reporting. And we will work with schools to understand how effective their current reporting channels are.

- **Train organisations, VCSE and events planners in how to make women safer, how to identify VAWG and how to report it, including Domestic Abuse training.**

Domestic Abuse training is run by Suffolk County Council and is a rolling programme of engagement with, and training of, target audiences. The Domestic Abuse training is provided by Domestic Abuse Champions. Suffolk County Council have set up a Network of Champions across the County. Champions are within the Public, Voluntary and Private Sectors and include members of the public who have a personal interest. The Champions are provided with training to develop the skills to spread awareness to other colleagues and friends and family and act as the 'Go to Person' for Information between their own agency and local support services. In East Suffolk, there was significant promotion of the training although take up could and will be improved. Both the Felixstowe Town Pastors and the Leiston Town Pastors have completed the training.

Support victims and the children of victims

The feedback from the CSP Action Plan workshop was that not all victims of VAWG received the support they needed. Therefore, we will plan internal campaigns with CSP members and VCSE to increase awareness of and signposting towards support services for VAWG victims.

- **Complete all Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) and roll out learnings from findings**

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011.

Domestic Homicide Review means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by:

1. A person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship
2. A member of the same household as himself

Community Safety Partnerships have overall statutory responsibility for undertaking a Domestic Homicide Review.

The purpose of a DHR is to:

- Establish what lessons can be learned from the circumstances of the death and the way in which local professionals and organisations worked individually and together to safeguard victims (the victims also include bereaved children, parents and other kin);
- Identify clearly what those lessons are, both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
- Apply these lessons to service responses, including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate; and
- Help prevent homicides in domestic settings and improve service responses for all domestic violence victims and their children through improved intra- and inter-agency working.

ESC (also formerly SCDC/WDC) have received a total of five DHR's, one of which became a learning review instead of a DHR, and another DHR which the panel agreed did not meet the criteria, but the Home Office challenged this decision, so that case is now in progress as a DHR.

Action plans/recommendations for two of the DHR'S are published on the East Suffolk Council website ([Domestic abuse » East Suffolk Council](#)). One further DHR cannot be published in order to protect the victims involved. A lot of the recommendations from the DHR's County wide are included in the County-wide VAWG Strategy 2022-25.

DHR Guidance will soon include more focus on suicide related deaths and there will be a requirement for Local Authorities to undertake Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews as well as DHR.

Change and shape men's behaviour

There is a growing focus nationally on attempting to reduce VAWG by not just pro-actively keeping women safe but also by changing men's attitudes and behaviours.

- **Run healthy relationship scenarios in schools and find ways to continue to influence post-18.**

Crucial Crew is a rolling programme of training for pupils, run face to face in schools and also online. It includes information about County Lines, hate crime and also what a healthy relationship looks like. 1,100 pupils in Lowestoft received the training face to face with a further 800 receiving the training online.

There is a rolling campaign of school recruitment to the Crucial Crew programme, although there are issues with schools dropping out due to curriculum pressures and, in addition, Academies often design their own PSHE lessons.

While school students present a captive audience, it is much harder to continue to engage with young men around these issues as they move out of full time education. The CSP will work with businesses offering apprenticeships, sports clubs, higher education establishments and online communities to continue to disseminate key messages. We will also incorporate this messaging into mentor programmes.

- **Promote existing behavioural change campaigns**

There are a growing number of behavioural change campaigns focused on men's behaviours around VAWG, including the pioneering Scottish Constabulary campaign but also now ones delivered by central Government. The CSP will promote these campaigns through existing channels and will also work to identify the need for, and resource required, to create a more localised campaign, potentially at grass roots level.

- **Leverage fear of social approbation through restorative justice**

During the workshop process, we received feedback from the Police that the fear of people knowing they've been involved in VAWG can be a significant deterrent. The Police and Probation plan to work together to increase the use of restorative justice.

- **Increase take-up of DA programmes for perpetrators**

These schemes can be controversial because they can be seen as taking away much-needed funds from victim support. But the programmes can be successful in breaking the cycle of violence. The local programme is Venta. Developed by Iceni, in line with RESPECT guidelines, Venta offers 16 weeks of exploration, understanding, learning and personal growth for men who, currently or historically, exhibit behaviours that are considered violent, abusive, coercive or controlling. Venta can also act as a gateway to a range of further support for members of the programme, or for partners/ex partners. This may include counselling, further group work or support through child protection planning with the local authority. The Police will work with Probation and Suffolk County Council to understand the possibility of increasing take up of this programme by DA offenders.

Anti-Social behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour can affect anyone at any time and can range from annoying other people to serious violence and criminal activities, including but not limited to:

- Substance misuse, drunkenness
- Vandalism, graffiti
- Assault and threatening behaviour
- Harassment of residents or passers-by
- Intimidating groups of young people in public places
- Criminal damage

The East Suffolk Communities, Environmental Protection and Housing teams all work together to investigate reports of ASB and work with complainants and perpetrators to reach a satisfactory conclusion where possible. The Police also constantly work to identify and reduce anti-social behaviour. The specific areas of focus identified in the workshop for the CSP were:

- Increase reporting of ASB
- Align existing activity with diversionary activity
- Reduce incidence of ASB

The activity identified under each of these headings is as follows.

Increase reporting of ASB

ASB is underreported, sometimes due to apathy or sometimes simply because people don't know how to report it. Therefore increased reporting of ASB is a goal in itself, as it allows us to identify and deal with problems.

- **Use new County-wide data to map hot spots**

County-wide data will soon be available that shows ASB hot spots, based on reporting. This was only available due to local, on-the-ground intelligence previously. This will allow the CSP to have a clearer understanding of emerging areas of concern where communications, community engagement and diversionary activities can be focused.

- **Better share useful intelligence**

Intelligence about ASB comes from many different sources. There is a structured programme of ASB meetings across the District (outside of the auspices of the CSP) that allows professionals to come together to discuss ASB cases and provide support. The Police now have a central email address to report ASB. The CSP will work to continue to improve the flow of useful intelligence between partners.

- **Promote ASB reporting**

The CSP has a rolling programme of community engagement around ASB, including regular community roadshows and the annual ASB Awareness Week, both involving a range of partners working together to engage local communities face to face. This year, there were 28 events in ASB Awareness Week in libraries, schools and supermarkets. These initiatives increase ASB reporting and also encourage applications into the Community Trigger process, which is designed to give victims of ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem solving approach to find a solution. The Community Trigger process is advertised during the roadshows and ASB Awareness Week (as well as on an on-going basis).

The CSP funded and delivered two Community Ambassador events this summer. Held in two locations, they provided key information on personal safety to over 60 front line workers engaged with older people, including how to report ASB.

To continue to increase ASB reporting, the CSP will engage with communities who traditionally are reluctant to report ASB. A good example of this is this summer's CSP-funded events, delivered by the Police and the ESC Communities team, on the Gunton and Whitton estates. In total, 58 sessions were delivered over the 2 venues, with 87 hours of activities being offered in Lowestoft during this period, including four mobile climbing walls, the SOS bus, Catch 22 and the fire service. The project attracted 156 different young people, with 1343 visits from those young people and some fantastic feedback on increased feelings of confidence and a likelihood to engage.

We will also continue to deliver regular ASB roadshows and intend to build on the success of this year's ASB Awareness Week to develop an even bigger programme of events and activities for 2023.

Align existing activity with diversionary activity

There are several initiatives that fund diversionary activity in problem ASB areas. The CSP will ensure that this activity aligns with the diversionary activity it delivers to maximise impact.

- **Ensure the HAF (Holiday Activity and Food), Community Partnership and other projects align with problem areas**

The HAF programme is designed to support families whose children are in receipt of free school meals during school holidays with free physical and creative activities and free food provision. The ESC Communities Team will deliver holiday activities in at least 20 (potentially up to 30) locations this December, including eight locations in Lowestoft as a traditionally high ASB area. The HAF budget now comes with 15% assigned to deliver diversionary activities and will be used to deliver initiatives specifically in ASB problem areas from Easter 2023 onwards, working closely with the CSP to target activity.

The eight East Suffolk Community Partnerships are in the process of finalising updated objectives for 2023. The CSP will work with the Community Partnerships to build into their

commissioning process the need for projects to align with ASB hotspot areas where appropriate.

Reduce incidence of ASB

Reducing the incidence of ASB is the goal of all ASB-related activity, ultimately. While ASB is often seen as an intractable problem, the best chance to combat it is to work effectively together.

- **More partnership working and use of data**

The new East Suffolk CSP action plan includes an over-arching objective of increased data sharing between partners. This is particularly true of ASB where there are many different reporting routes, both formal and informal. The CSP will work to enable and encourage partners to share data more effectively, to ensure that it is clear who should be leading on specific ASB cases and when partners should be working together through multi-agency meetings to resolve complex, multi-faceted ASB complaints.

- **Increase use of formal and informal powers**

Rachel Tucker in the Communities Team has been engaged to lead a year-long ASB transformation project, with the aim of reviewing and updating our policies and procedures around ASB and creating a standardised and effective approach across the District. She is working closely with the Police and Suffolk County Council, using her extensive and expert knowledge to identify areas for improvement but also of best practice locally.

This has included the development of a comprehensive training programme for the eight Communities Officers to enable them to better support ASB victims (and perpetrators) in each of the eight Community Partnership areas. The focus has been on appropriate use of powers such as Acceptable Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, and Community Behaviour Orders. Learning and polices developed in East Suffolk have been adopted at a Suffolk level and vice versa. Rachel has identified an increase in the use of formal and informal powers by all agencies involved in ASB as an area of improvement and is creating documentation and procedures that will be rolled out to all partners.

- **Conclude long running ASB cases**

It is often the long-running ASB cases that cause the most upset and harm, with people's lives affected over an extended time period. The CSP will identify long-running cases and use the agreed Police Problem Solving Plan approach to effectively conclude these cases.