

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 12 July 2018

**ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY 2017-18 (SCR 04/18)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is presented to Members to provide the annual Community Safety update, particularly in regards to the Council’s statutory obligation to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder, this work being progressed through the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership.

It provides information on particular funded projects and work highlighting early intervention, personal safety, good citizenship and positive role model experiences for many children/young people, who may lack a positive family influence. It also supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Suffolk Police key priorities.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Steven Gallant, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Richard Best East Suffolk Communities Manager, Communities Team 01502 523605 <a href="mailto:richard.best@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">richard.best@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It remains a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to work in partnership with the Police and partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We achieve this through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), where 'responsible partners' namely the Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation and the Police, work collaboratively in partnership. Although Suffolk Coastal and Waveney still lead their own sovereign CSPs, they do hold joint meetings and work very closely together to promote community safety across East Suffolk. The meetings are supported by the council's community safety officers, through the Communities team and chaired on an alternate basis by the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney respective Cabinet Members for Community Health. We have a joint Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Action Plan that compliments the Police & Crime Commissioners Police & Crime Plan for Suffolk. (Appendix A)
- 1.2 Some CSP partners take a more leading role than others, as with most partnerships, and it is recognised that the Council's Communities Team certainly take the leading role within the East Suffolk CSP's, with the Police also providing positive support through the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Locality Meetings and annual community safety initiatives, such as Crucial Crew, Crucial Crew Plus, Summer Activities and Operation Camouflage. Work continues to ensure greater engagement and partnership contribution in 2018/19.
- 1.3 The CSP Chairman, supported by the Community Officer (with community safety specialism), also takes a lead on East Suffolk Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's), regarding potential homicides that occur within their relevant district. Suffolk Coastal has had two such occurrences in the last three years, with the first review completed and signed off by the Home Office in 2016 which was held up as good practise. The current review being progressed is with regard to a homicide in Felixstowe in 2016. After a number of delays the perpetrator was recently found guilty by the courts of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility and further judgement is awaited in terms of the sentence term and where the sentence will be served. A further death in Suffolk Coastal has been found by the Police not to be a domestic homicide and therefore a criminal investigation will not pursue, however the CSP partners have decided to conduct a learning review to establish the lessons to be learnt from the death. East Suffolk is now leading on its third DHR review in as many years. The Suffolk Countywide DHR protocol was recently updated to reflect good practise based on the West Suffolk and East Suffolk practical experience of DHR's. The Second case is at the stage where the report is in progress.

## 2 PROJECT WORK 2016-17

- 2.1 Although funding is more difficult to obtain in the current climate, as previously reported, we still manage to provide a number of community projects each year as follows:-
- **Anti-Social Behaviour place-based Partnership meetings** have continued in 2017-18 in Felixstowe, Woodbridge & Leiston. These meetings are held monthly, and jointly chaired by the Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. The meetings are split into two sections – Tier 1 is attended by all partners and local councillors. All issues are discussed that affect the area from an ASB perspective. The meeting also discusses options that councillors can pursue where we assist to address their own/community issues. Tier 2 is open to partners only, discussions are under a strict confidentiality agreement and SLA and no agencies or councillors are permitted to stay unless they have a vested interest in an issue. Discussions focus on individuals of concern, this may result

in a partnership approach to dealing with an issue, minutes of the meeting are taken but not circulated

- **Suffolk Family Focus** – the team are working with some of the most chaotic families in the district as part of the Government’s Troubled Families initiative. The Family Intervention Officer Post in Suffolk Coastal is now secured until 2020. In the past 12 months referrals have been received from social services, early help team, mental health practitioners, school and the education welfare service and there is a waiting list. There have been 6 cases closed within the last 12 months; none of which have been reopened by SSF or social services with 9 families on current case load. The Officer has worked with 37 families since August 2013
- Government’s **PREVENT / WRAP Training** – A number of training Workshops have again been delivered to both internal service team frontline staff and external partners including taxi drivers, Landlords and the Suffolk Coastal pub watch partnership. The workshops are designed to raise awareness of the Prevent Radicalisation strategy to understand the PREVENT aims, the role and responsibility front line officers have in identifying those who may be vulnerable to terrorism and radicalisation, how the process works to prevent them becoming involved or supporting terrorism and how to report individuals who may be causing concern and are delivered by the east Suffolk Communities Team. Approximately 350 frontline staff and Councillors have attended this workshop and the workshops will continue in 2018/19.
- **Operation Camouflage** held at Rock Barracks over four days, again provided challenging activities, confidence building and social skill development to over 80 young people. This is the eleventh year of Op Cam in partnership with the MOD and continues to support young people, some of whom have returned to support the event as young volunteers. Some of the young people attending were from Suffolk Family Focus families supported by the East Suffolk Communities Team Anti Social Behaviour officer and Family Intervention officer.
- **Crucial Crew** The event provided learning and advice again this year regarding young people’s personal safety. The event included hot topics such as road safety, internet safety and consequences of committing ASB. This programme was delivered to 800 year 6 pupils (25 schools) with the support of the local rotary clubs.
- **Crucial Crew Plus.** The project was introduced 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. Scenarios this year included self harm, cybercrime, sex education, substance misuse, grooming, healthy relationships, sexting and realities of crime, consent, gangs and self esteem. Years 7 & 8 were also included at the second workshop. Positive feedback was received from children and the attending agencies. Some of the intelligence gathered from the attendees resulted in support being provided to one family by the Police Gangs Unit. Discussions are underway to design and deliver a similar event to the Saxmundham school and then to approach Felixstowe high school.
- **County Lines** - Class A Drug dealing related gang activity remains a key threat for Suffolk. ‘County lines’ and the supply of class A drugs, from urban hubs to county hubs using mobile phones as deal lines are in existence in our Towns. These gangs pose a significant threat to vulnerable adults and children upon whom they rely to conduct and or facilitate this criminality. These gangs can impose high levels of violence, including the use of weapons and firearms to intimidate and control members of the group and associated victims. The East CSP’s are holding a joint workshop with partners in July 2018 to discuss County Lines issues and concerns and

develop a local Action Plan to raise awareness and to keep our communities safe from this threat.

- 2.1 **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)** - Under the new Anti-social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014, a review will be taking place with regard to existing Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs). The review and consultation will be undertaken with each of the effected Town and Parish Council areas to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to justify continuing with the new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) which automatically replaced DPPO's 20 October 2017. If there is no justification and evidence for retaining the PSPO's, some may not be retained going forward as the Police have alternative and preferred acts that they can use more effectively and in a more timely manner including Dispersal Orders and Community Protection Notices.
- 2.2 **Domestic Abuse (DA)** 'say no more' campaign is linked to the international ongoing campaign and the CAAA (Coastal Action Against Abuse) have officially joined as are the first forum from Suffolk to do so. Funding has been secured for Countywide Satellite accommodation and specialist support for DA victims. 3 places have been secured in Suffolk Coastal and have been filled.
- 2.3 **Police SNT priorities** currently include County lines, rough sleepers (Felixstowe & Woodbridge) and ASB.

### **3 CRIME REVIEW UPDATE**

- 3.1 In general terms the Office of National Statistics show that offences rose in Suffolk by 18.6% between January 2017 and December 2017 with 52,524 recorded crimes in the county (excluding fraud) compared to the previous 12 months where there were 44,294 recorded crimes in Suffolk. However, Suffolk is in the top 20 forces for the safest places to live, with recorded crimes at 69.9 crimes per 1,000 populations compared to the national average 82.3 crimes per 1,000 populations. Whilst there is an increase in the East - Leiston and Felixstowe in particular in regards to Violence against the Person (VATP), this is in regards to a rise in 'Assault with Less Serious Injury', rather than more serious violence offences. All reported crime is judged against the new assessment of THRIVE which enables calls to be assessed under threat, harm and risk criteria. This new assessment has provided an improvement in accuracy of incidents recorded and thought to be a factor in the increase of 'assault with less serious injury' incidents.
- 3.2 Suffolk Police have reported that "Analysis of the figures indicates that the key driving factors for the increases include a tighter focus on crime data integrity, new emerging crime categories such as malicious communication offences, more third party reporting and that more so than ever before, a belief that victims of crime feel confident reporting crimes to us, particularly those involving the most vulnerable and reports feel confident reporting crimes to us, particularly those involving the most vulnerable and reports relating to sexual offences."
- 3.3 However Violence against the person (VATP) occurring during the night time economy (NTE) across the major towns in the East accounted for 7% (231 offences) of offences. The most impacted wards in Suffolk Coastal were Felixstowe West, Leiston and Saxmundham, which saw increases of 34% (43 incidents), 36% (31 incidents), and 39% (26 incidents) respectively.
- 3.4 In 2017 there were a total of 44,294 crimes in Suffolk, a rise of 1% compared to 2015. In the East there has been a decrease in crime of 2,161 offences (15%) between 2015 and 2016. However, this reduction is not across all crime categories, for example there has

been an increase in Violence against the Person and in 2016 it was the most recorded crime across the East.

- 3.5 In regards to ASB, county-wide statistics show a 38% reduction on the 3 year rolling average with 2,688 fewer incidents over this period, however there are some areas where ASB levels rose. The main areas showing increases in ASB for Suffolk Coastal were Felixstowe South, Martlesham and Kesgrave East, with a rise of 36, 16 and 15 incidents respectively. This rise was mostly due to congregating groups and vehicle nuisance.
- 3.6 County-wide has seen an increase in sexual assault with an increase of 32.6% (485 more crimes) compared to the national average a 25% increase. Theft offences increased by 8.4% (1,441 more offences) compared to a national increase of 10.5%. Vehicle offences have increased by 11.8% (392 more crimes) compared to an increase nationally of 16.2%. Total burglaries have increased by 5.7% (225 more offences) compared to a 8.6% increase.
- 3.7 A spike in burglary offences is attributed to a prolific burglar in Woodbridge, who carried out a spate of offences during 2016. The culprit, as reported in the local media at the time, was apprehended, charged and convicted last year.
- 3.8 Arson offences slightly increased in 2016, which is attributed to a spate of criminal damage to beach huts in the Felixstowe area this period.
- 3.9 Some of the increases in incidents, as outlined in 3.1, are likely to be down to changes in recording and reporting data. Two of the crime types showing increases are low in terms of actual numbers - Arson and Robbery - with increases of 6 and 4 respectively. However, Violence Against the Person and Burglary clearly show more significant increases in terms of a year on year comparison and therefore the Council has asked the Police to provide further information in terms of the current outturns.

#### **4 HATE CRIME REPORT**

- 4.1 The Suffolk Police boundaries are not coterminous with the District boundaries, so some Suffolk Coastal wards fall into the South policing area, which includes Ipswich; and some wards fall into the East police boundary which includes Lowestoft. Therefore, a summary and an overview are included in this report, to provide both the context in terms of hate Crime County wide and an indication of hotspots within Suffolk Coastal.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the date the crime is submitted to Athena is the date that the crime or incident is added to the system. It is therefore accepted that late reporting or the reporting of historic incidents may add to the overall numbers during the reporting period.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

#### 4.5 Recorded quarter 4 data for the financial year 2017-2018

HATE TYPE	East SPC	South SPC	East / South Totals
Hate Crime - Disability	26	24	50
Hate Crime - Racial	17	52	69
Hate Crime - Religion	1	0	1
Hate Crime - Racial or Religious	2	0	2
Hate Crime - Sexual Orientation	19	21	40
Hate Crime - Transgender	1	3	4
Hate Incident - Disability	0	4	4
Hate Incident - Racial	3	10	13
Hate Incident - Religion	0	1	1
Hate Incident - Sexual Orientation	1	3	4
Hate Incident - Transgender	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>191</b>

The data has only been supplied by Suffolk Police at present in terms of East Strategic Police Command (SPC), West SPC (not shown) and South SPC. Therefore, due to the SPC boundaries, the table includes hotspot areas outside the Suffolk Coastal District including Lowestoft and Ipswich, which have comparatively high incident rates and it should be noted that in terms of racial and religious hate crimes and incidents, 25% occurred in Ipswich, which was the most in the county and 3% occurred in Lowestoft. Overall total hate crimes recorded for the above areas are down by 9 reports compared to Quarter 4 total of 200 recorded crimes.

- 4.6 In terms of hotspot areas in the Suffolk Coastal District, the Suffolk Police report highlights the following issues, reported to Scrutiny Committee March 2018:

##### **Saxmundham**

A small cluster of hate crimes occurred in this area. Two hate crimes occurred here both of which were racially motivated. One occurred in a residential address along Market Place and the other occurred at Saxmundham Primary School.

##### **Felixstowe**

A cluster of hate crimes have occurred in Felixstowe, though this was not considered a hotspot. Seven hate crimes, four of which pertain to persons with disabilities and one hate incident occurred here. Typically crimes were committed in the residential addresses along Undercliff/Hamilton Road and Grange Road / Grange Farm Avenue.

##### **Leiston**

- 4.7 Although no specific hotspot data was provided by Suffolk Police, the partners have reported through the Suffolk Coastal CSP, that a number of developing issues have been prevented from escalating in the town. This is due to the preventative and community engagement work being delivered to promote community cohesion and tolerance between members of the community. The local high school are very supportive of the CSP orchestrated community initiatives, including Crucial Crew Plus, which delivers advice, information and support on a number of key and sensitive issues and risks affecting young people.

## **5 POLICING REVIEW**

- 5.1 Difficulties were experienced in extracting up to date data from the Suffolk Police new data base system Athena, but the situation is now improving and more meaningful data

is now available. The Communities Team Communities Officers with a focus on community safety and ASB will be trained to access the partnership version of the Athena system, until that time they continue to use the current E-CINS system.

## **5 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?**

5.1 By working in partnership we can contribute more effectively to ensuring the Business Plan vision of maintaining and sustaining improved quality of life for everyone, enabling communities to do more for themselves and to feel safer. Furthermore, under the Community Health Critical Success Factor – communities are being encouraged to take responsibility for their own mental health and physical health and well-being, so that they may lead active and healthy lives, while remaining safe within their homes and communities.

## **6 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There is a Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference in place. The partnership Charing responsibility is shared between the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils' Cabinet Members for Community Health.

## **7 OTHER KEY ISSUES**

7.1 This report has been prepared having taken into account the results of an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 None.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None.

## **10 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is updated with the work of the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership and Council's continued direct involvement and contribution.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That, having received the Annual Report 2017/18, the Scrutiny Committee comments upon and notes its contents.

### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A**

**CSP Action Plan 2017-20**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Available From</b>
	EqIA Assessment	East Suffolk Communities Team