

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Board Member Update – Community Safety Partnership</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Health & Wellbeing Board on 14 December 2017
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR/ KEY OFFICER</b>	Superintendent Shaun Virtue, Graham Ebers, Director Corporate Services (Joint Chairs of CSP)

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority/priorities most progressed through the report	Enabling and empowering resilient communities
Key outcomes achieved against the Strategy priority/priorities	Community safety and crime reduction priorities can support the achievement of health improvement outcomes and vice versa. This paper outlines possible areas of joint work to support the delivery of the Wokingham Community Safety Strategy.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is in the process of pulling together local crime, substance misuse and ASB data as part of the evidence base for the development of the Community Safety Strategy for 2018-2021.

**Current Situation**

In the past Community Safety Priorities have focussed on the reduction of high volume crime (for example burglary and vehicle crime). Wokingham is a low crime borough, and this approach has ensured that it remains a safe place to live, work and study. However, a review of crime data carried out in September 2016, found that there was a concerning increase in the number of crimes which cause most harm to victims. This includes;

- violence against the person offences (29% increase from 2015)
- sexual offences (34.2% increase from 2015)

Police crime analysis has shown that the increase in sexual offences is due in part to historic sexual abuse, and an element of the increase violence is due to ‘county line’ dealing which often involves organised gangs, often from London. Whilst these figures have recently stabilised (October 2017 data shows that violence against the person offences were down 8% from last year), addressing violence should be a priority.

There are also areas of crime in Wokingham where local patterns differ from national and regional trends. For example the number of race hate crime incidents (down 6% in October 2017) and domestic violence incidents (down 10% in October 2017) have decreased during this period, but regionally there is a trend towards increased domestic violence reporting and nationally there is an increase in race hate crime reports.

As there low numbers of incidents in Wokingham it is often difficult to ascertain the reasons behind trends, and figures can be contradictory (other forms of domestic and hate crimes show increased reports). Regardless, the CSP needs to be confident that

these figures reflect an actual reduction in numbers not a loss of confidence i.e. vulnerable people feeling that they are unable to report crimes to the police.

### **Emerging Trends**

Finally, in addition to the above areas there are other emerging trends that are equally concerning but there is little available data to enable analysis. This includes;

- Modern slavery - We do not know how many people are involved or at risk within Wokingham Borough area, but we know that the Police have identified victims in Wokingham and Bracknell in 2017.
- Adult and child exploitation - which can take number of forms for example criminal, sexual, financial. Wokingham has made progress in addressing the needs of children at risk of sexual exploitation, for example the local child sexual exploitation strategy ensures that approximately 40 young people a year affected by CSE have access to appropriate services. However, less is known about the other forms of exploitation.
- Cybercrime – this includes risk of online radicalisation, underage sexting, fraud, harassment etc. Thames Valley Police recorded 43 cyber related crimes in Wokingham during 2016/7, but there is no further analysis on the nature of those crimes.

Other data suggests that the above figures do not reflect the real number of incidents. During November 2015 to Feb 2016, a South East cyber-crime survey was completed by 11,600 people and 84% of people had experienced some form of 'attempted' cyber-crime in the previous 12 months, especially fraudulent emails. (Thames Valley Partnership Cyber Crime Strategy 2017-20)

Government research shows that Vulnerable and isolated people can be at particular risk of cybercrime.

In light of the above the Community Safety Partnerships strategy next year will focus on address the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by crime. Whether as victims, offenders or at risk communities.

This is an approach which is in line with local priorities for example Wokingham proposals to expand the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy to address all forms of exploitation, and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioners Policing and Crime Plan's to address vulnerability through partnership working.

### **Partner Implications**

Working with partnership with stakeholders in particular the Health and Wellbeing structures will be a necessary part of delivering this new approach.

A refresh in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Agenda will provide the opportunity for Health and Wellbeing Board to agree the development of joint outcomes and actions to enable them to address the needs of vulnerable people in partnership.

Emerging evidence from both the developing Public Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Community Safety Strategic Assessment (SA) show that the most vulnerable victims and offenders, are those who have the highest level of

health needs i.e. mental ill-health, chronic physical health conditions and drug and alcohol misuse. Therefore addressing the needs of this cohort should lead to improvements in health outcomes and the demand on public services for example the ambulance service.

This could include:

- Joint work to address loneliness in isolated people which make them less vulnerable to forms of exploitation including cybercrime, criminal and sexual exploitation.
- Improve data collection particularly around the needs of offenders and victims with complex needs or repeat or multiple users of public services with the aim of developing targeted interventions.
- Ensure that there are support services in place for those who have been affected by the most serious crimes for example victims of violence and sexual violence. This would include the development of assessment processes and referral pathways.

A further consideration in respect of Partnership working is in relation to a greater joined up approach with Bracknell Forest Borough Council, consistent with the local Policing arrangements. The sharing of best practice, joint strategies and policies (where it makes sense) and joint working will be features of this, whilst maintaining the individual identity of Wokingham's CSP.

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
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CSP Priorities Presentation
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