

TITLE	Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2019/20
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2020
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Graham Ebers - Deputy Chief Executive

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The key objective of the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is to work collectively to address crime, disorder, substance misuse, and anti-social behaviour. This includes raising awareness and increasing the confidence of local residents to report hidden crimes.

The partnership's statutory members include the Police, the Local Authority, the National Probation Service, Health and Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. These organisations work together to progress the work of the local community safety strategy and action plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Board notes the contents of this report and supports the Community Safety Partnership in delivering the strategy.;
- 2) The Committee is asked to review the next steps for the partnership and consider how they can support the Community Safety Partnerships priorities.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides a summary of the CSP's progress in delivering current Wokingham Community Safety Priorities.

The report also provides an update on the CSPs planned developments, future priorities and emerging issues.

Background

As part of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) statutory duty they must prepare and implement a partnership strategy that sets out how the CSP plans to work in partnership to reduce crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour (ASB) within their areas.

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (as amended by Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011) also requires that Community Safety strategies are informed by a strategic assessment which comprises of local data aiming to provide a comprehensive picture of crime and disorder related need in their area. Strategic assessments comprise of data and information from all the CSP partners including; Police, Local Authority, Public Health, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Services (NPS) and Fire and Rescue. There is also a duty for the partnership to mainstream actions to reduce crime within their local areas.

During 2019 the Wokingham CSP Board has undergone some key developments; The Board has a new Chair which is now the Local Police Area Commander Superintendent Felicity Parker. Following a period of interim arrangements the Board also has now appointed an experienced Community Safety Partnership Manager to implement and drive the work of the CSP. Lastly, there has also been a review of the membership of the Board resulting in it becoming more invigorated and more partners actively engaging.

This report assesses progress of the current CSP priorities which run from 2018/21. A strategic assessment is due to be undertaken during the course of 2020 this will inform a new Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan for 2021/22 and beyond.

Performance Summary

Crime Type	Jan-Dec 2018	Jan-Dec 2019	% Change	Change Actual
All Crime	6858	7504	+9%	+646
Residential Burglary	340	320	-6%	-20
Burglary – Sheds/Garages	177	140	-21%	-37
Violence with injury	592	644	+9%	+52
Drugs offences Possession*	128	191	+49%	+63
Criminal Damage	938	1016	+8%	+78
Anti-Social Behaviour (WBC housing only)	158	144	-9%	-14
Theft of Vehicle	141	208	+48%	+67
Theft from Vehicle	404	534	+32%	+130
Religiously or Racially Aggravated	68	83	+22%	+15
ASB (TVP) **	TBC	TBC	TBC	Verbal update

*Thames Valley Police in particular The Local Neighbourhood Policing Team are proactive tasked and directed by the inspector to carry out stop searches to deter drug use in the area, where applicable. The majority of the drug offences will be generated by police taking action to search potential offenders and also then finding the drugs. In

addition it should be noted that all drugs found on people in custody Loddon Valley Police Station are highlighted in the figures. **TVP ASB figures to be updated as part of the meeting.

Priority One: Addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority area for the partnership as the number of incidents risk both nationally and locally. As public awareness of domestic abuse increases together with training for front line staff both across Thames Valley Police and social care professionals, support for victims seeking help and advice is vital. For Wokingham this is provided in a number of ways:

Wokingham's main domestic abuse provider is Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA). BWA are funded to provide a range of services for people affected by domestic violence. This includes outreach, a family support programme, one to one support for victims, and a helpline and refuge provision. BWA work very closely with children's services to ensure that children who are identified as being at risk of domestic violence have the necessary support they require.

Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC)

The MATAC has replaced the DARIM in Wokingham where the medium and low risk repeat Domestic Abuse offenders are reviewed. The model has been adopted from Northumberland where they have seen a 60% reduction in repeat domestic abuse incidents by implementing the same model.

Identified perpetrators will be referred into the MATAC process where key partners will agree a bespoke set of interventions. This can include targeting and disrupting perpetrators and or supporting them to address their behaviour. Victims of DA will continue to receive the same support services including; specialist one to one support and advice, support for children living with domestic abuse delivered in schools, Choices group work which is a six week programme to provide women with a better understanding of domestic abuse.

A Police led MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), which ensures that high risk victims are identified supported and referred to appropriate support. So far this year Jan – Dec 2019 MARAC cases have totalled 107 compared with 59 for the same period last year, 27% of these were repeat cases. An increase is not viewed as a worsening picture, instead it is seen as a greater identification of risk. However the 27% repeat rate emphasises the need to ensure that we have the right local support services in place.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for undertaking DHR's where the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a relative, household member or someone he or she is in an intimate relationship with.

A review panel consisting of multi-agency members from statutory representatives and voluntary agencies led by an independent chair is commissioned to undertake the DHR. The panel reviews each agencies involvement in the case and makes recommendations

to improve responses in the future. It will also consider information's from the victims friends, family and work colleagues.

Wokingham has a DHR ongoing currently. This is the 4th DHR commissioned by Wokingham CSP since 2011. Actions and lessons from each respective DHR are currently being reviewed as part of the local domestic abuse needs assessment which is due to be concluded by April 2020.

Next steps and future developments

- To undertake an assessment of local needs to assist with a better understanding of the demand for services and the ability to monitor the impact of assistance programmes.
- Further development and roll out of training for front line staff to increase knowledge and awareness.
- A refresh of the local domestic abuse strategy and action plan.
- Further development and embedding of MATAAC.
- Review all recommendations from local Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensure they are embedded into local practice.

Priority Two: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, Harmful Misuse and Organised Crime

These issues can often be interlinked and this priority is aimed at reducing the harm to individuals and the wider effect caused to communities. Since this priority was set anti-social behaviour and harmful/substance misuse remain priority issues for the Wokingham.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour continue to be of concern across the Borough for 2019. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Thames Valley Police have been working together to address this and a secondment of a Thames Valley Police Community Support Officer to the Councils Community Safety Team has taken place. The CSP's Problem Solving Tasking and Anti-Social Behaviour Panel subgroups apply a multi-agency problem solving approach to tackling issues of concerns both at a geographical location and through a case management of individuals approach.

Nationally and locally, the rates of serious organised crime; specifically county line dealing is an emerging issue. Wokingham has low levels of these incidents compared to other areas within Thames Valley. However whilst numbers are low the police and the council are still working hard to make Wokingham Borough a hostile place for drug lines to infiltrate. Anti- social behaviour remains an area of high concern and one that all partners are committed to tackling when cases are identified.

Thames Valley Police have been proactively addressing cases involving county line drug dealing through local operations including 'Operation Odyssey' which aims to decrease the risk from organised crime by reducing vulnerabilities and criminal opportunities, Planned and focused weeks of action to target this crime in Wokingham have been undertaken including Operation Oedipus.

Operation Oedipus

Operation Oedipus was a neighbourhood operation into class A & B drug dealing in the Wokingham area. The neighbourhood team identified that there was a drug gang actively targeting children in the Wokingham area to deal drugs to. The team identified the ring

leaders and had some limited success in disrupting the group and obtaining successful prosecutions, however were unable to obtain substantial evidence against the gang's leaders.

The neighbourhood team successfully bid for the Forces surveillance teams. Using covert tactics we were able to obtain significant evidence of drug dealing by the leaders, identifying drug hides and seizing drugs and intercepting children who had been dealt drugs to. We are currently unable to update you further on this case as it is yet to go to court, however this has been a substantial piece of work by the Wokingham Neighbourhood team that has safeguarded children in the Wokingham area.

To further safeguard children from exploitation and anti-social behaviour the following initiatives have been commissioned.

KICKS PROJECT

The CSP funded the KICKS project, a project run by Reading Football Club; the aim of the work is to engage hard to reach young people aged 11-19years, all sessions are free. By giving young people information, raise participant's awareness about how to keep themselves safe within the community and try to help them make informed choices now and later in life.

Sessions are mainly football based and participant numbers for the latest quarter recorded that the project worked with 279 participants, 81 sessions were delivered across the borough totally 139 hours of work with young people on average each group reaches 31 young people. The majority of young people engaged were male; 253, 26 were female 36 of which were from BME communities. The CSP receive regular data report as to the numbers of children reached in Wokingham schools and the outcomes. A full performance report will be available as part of the CSP annual report.

POSITIVE PATHWAYS

This project is delivered to 5 Wokingham schools to work with students in years 6, 7 and 8 where children may be involved or at a higher risk of offending and risky behaviours. Schools provide baseline behaviour and the success is measured during and at the end of the project, behaviours will be measured at intervals and up to 12 months after completion with students scoring themselves. Schools refer children to the programme and only those children who will positively engage with the project are accepted.

Several other projects to increase awareness and understanding of issues have been undertaken including; Guns and Gangs Training from front line professionals social and schools professionals. The implementation of intensive mentoring for young people concentrating on those individuals most at risk of being come drawn into knife crime and other gang related activity. The Youth Offending Team are also planning an event targeting secondary school children to increase the awareness, dangers and penalties of knife crime related incidents. The Only Fools Carry Knives Event is to be held on 1st April.

Substance Misuse

Cannabis is the main substance of presentation for young people locally, followed by alcohol and tobacco. 40% of young people represented to treatment services and data shows that 45% of those in treatment were involved in self harm and anti-social behaviour.

During 18/19 the total number of adults treated for alcohol was 119, 77% of these people referred themselves for assistance and help with their drinking. 194 clients engaged in

treatment for drugs, 50 of those were opiate and or crack cocaine users. A needs assessment of substance misuse is currently underway to inform the new contract which is due for tender at the start of 2021.

Next Steps

- To review the joint CSP approach to anti-social behaviour and ensure that staffing levels are adequate to respond to concerns.
- To utilise all available powers including the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Police Act 2014 to tackle issues.
- To develop closer working with local housing associations and to continue to work closely with WBC Housing Team.
- To deliver training for key CSP officers with respect to the ASB crime and police act 2014.
- Work with schools to identify those children on the cusp of exclusion
- To provide additional support through diversionary activities and intensive mentoring for young people
- To undertake a needs assessment of substance misuse across the borough and undertake a tender procurement in line with the results.

Priority Three - Reduce and prevent exploitation and address the needs of vulnerable victims and offenders

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) recognised that vulnerability of both victims and offenders has an impact on demand for police and other emergency services. Supporting victims, particularly repeat victims of crime will improve their resilience. Supporting vulnerable offenders will decrease their level of offending. This will have a positive impact on crime rates, but most importantly ensure people have access to services which will improve the quality of their lives.

Information about local victims tells us that victims in Wokingham are more likely to be younger, under 19 and there is a higher likelihood that they will be victims of violence, theft or harassment.

Vulnerable Offenders

Like victims, national figures show that offenders are more likely have greater support needs than the general population. Offenders have higher than average levels of substance misuse, physical and mental health need, and are more likely to have lower rates of engagement in education employment and training. Work with offenders through referral programmes linked to the National Probation Service and CRC as well as programmes for offenders linked to domestic abuse continues to take place locally.

EMRAC Case Conference

The CSP continues to be an active member of Wokingham EMRAC where children discussed are of concern and or at risk of being exploited either sexually or criminally. The aim of EMRAC work is to improve the multi-agency response when children are involved with or at risk of sexual/criminal exploitation, to ensure that timely, robust multi-agency plans are in place and that they are monitored and followed through to improve the life chances/experience for the child.

Priority Four: Empower and enable the resilience of local communities

The focus of this priority is the relationship with the wider Wokingham community. In addition to reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and anti- social behaviour. Central government guidance states community safety strategies should work to reduce the fear of crime, improve community cohesion, build the relationship with the voluntary and community sector and support community engagement.

The CSP have over the recent months reviewed how it engages with local neighbourhoods including its work with the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs). Regular updates on the priorities for each NAG will therefore be provided and considered at every problem solving tasking group to ensure that the concerns from across the borough are considered.

The CSP has a duty to convene a local Prevent Board in order to undertake the duties set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Wokingham's Board continues to meet every quarter to discuss strategic issues and ensure that the local action plan is on track. One of the meetings is now held jointly with Bracknell to discuss the local Counter Terrorism Local Profile. In addition there is also a Wokingham Channel Panel consisting of multi- agency operational partners who convene to discuss individual cases that require a safeguarding response.

Next steps:

- To ensure that concerns from localities and wards levels are considered in a more systematic way.
- To foster better community cohesion through increased engagement with the local community.
- To ensure that the Wokingham Prevent Board continues to deliver the local action plan.

Staffing

The CSP Managers post had been vacant for a period of approximately six months during Dec 18 – July 19. During this time the Local Safeguarding Children Board Manager covered the role on an interim basis. The role of the CSP's Manager was recruited to over the summer of 2019 with appointment taken up in September 2019.

Funding

The work of the Community Safety Partnership is funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

The Community Safety Partnership is funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and will retain the same funding for 2019/20 as 2018/19 £ 104,205 to develop interventions to reduce crime, substance misuse and ASB within the locality. This funding is monitored on a regular basis, to ensure that funds are spent in line with Home Office finance rules. The CSP will consider how to allocate funds when to ensure the best value for money and provide the best outcomes to the priority areas of work and evidence the impact of this work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications
None

Public Sector Equality Duty
Due regard has been given to WBC's duties under the Equality Act

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
Community Safety Strategy 2018-21

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