

Agenda Item 10.

TITLE	Community Safety Strategy 2021-2024
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday, 24 th June 2021
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Communities, Insight and Change - Keeley Clements
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods - Bill Soane

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

This report seeks endorsement from the Executive to agree the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Priorities 2021-2024, for implementation on the 1st July 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive endorses the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and new priorities for 2021-2024, for implementation on the 1st July 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has a duty to formulate and implement a local crime reduction strategy as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The current strategy and priorities came to an end in March 2021.

Legislation sets out that the Community Safety Partnership must have in place;

- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area;
- a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in Wokingham Borough
- a system for monitoring the strategy for effectiveness and make any changes where necessary and expedient.

Furthermore, the partnership has a duty to undertake a local strategic assessment of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse to inform the strategy. A detailed strategic assessment of the borough has been undertaken in December 2020, assessing data spanning a five year period. A summary of the findings can be found in appendix 1.

Following on from the strategic assessment data analysis a development workshop was held on the 10th of December with key internal and external stakeholders including, the Police, Health, Fire, Childrens and Adults Social Care. Details of attendees can be found in appendix 2.

The draft priorities as set out below (and in appendix 3) were formulated upon the information contained within the local strategic assessment and other wider local and national policy context.

Priorities will cover a three year period 2021-2024 and will be refreshed annually. A detailed delivery plan will be developed to assist the monitoring and delivery of the partnership priorities. This will feed into the respective Community Safety Partnership subgroups that have key work streams and priority areas to deliver on. Subgroups report progress and performance quarterly to the Community Safety Partnership Board.

Draft Strategic Aims for 2021-24

The Community Safety Priorities are set out as three strategic priorities with five specific delivery areas within these.

Three strategic priorities:

- 1. Listening to the needs and concerns of local residents and taking action**
- 2. Intervening early and preventing issues escalating**
- 3. Working together to protect vulnerable residents**

Five delivery areas:

1. Work with communities to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots
2. Reduce harm caused by domestic abuse
3. Reduce incidents of serious violence and knife crime
4. Tackle exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults
5. Reduce crimes of residential burglary and theft from vehicles

Consultation

A full stakeholder and public consultation was undertaken from 22nd February 2021 – 31st March 2021. This ensured that the draft priorities were widely circulated and available for interested residents, community, businesses and voluntary groups to have an opportunity to comment on and shape our thinking. All feedback has been considered and incorporated appropriately. A summary of the consultation results can be found in Appendix 3.

Key timescales:

- Circulate final draft strategy to CSP members – 20 May 2021
- CSP board sign off – 27 May 2021
- Wellbeing Board for consideration – 10 June 2021
- Executive Meeting – 24 June 2021
- Publish Strategy 2021 – 2024 – 1st July 2021
- Review strategy – 31 April 2022

BACKGROUND

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has a duty to formulate and implement a local crime reduction strategy as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The current strategy and priorities came to an end in March 2021.

Legislation sets out that the Community Safety Partnership must have in place;

- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area;
- a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area
- a system for monitoring the strategy for effectiveness and make any changes where necessary and expedient.

Alongside this the partnership has a duty to undertake a local strategic assessment of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse to inform the strategy. A detailed assessment of the borough has been undertaken looking in-depth at a range of available data for a five year period, a full summary of information can be found in Appendix 1.

Following on from the strategic assessment analysis a multi-agency development workshop was held on the 10th of December with key internal and external stakeholders including the police, fire, health, children's services, the police and crime commissioner's office and voluntary sector representatives findings and data were disseminated. Details of workshop, stakeholders and feedback can be found in Appendix 2

The draft priorities outlined in Appendix 3 are based on information contained within the local strategic assessment and other wider local and national policy context. Priorities will cover a three year period 2021-2024 and will be refreshed annually. A detailed delivery plan will be developed to assist the monitoring and delivery of the partnership priorities, this will feed into the respective CSP's subgroups that have key work streams and priorities to deliver on and report progress against. Performance is reported quarterly to the CSP board.

Stakeholder and Public Consultation

A full stakeholder and public consultation has been undertaken to ensure that the draft priorities were widely circulated and interested residents, community, businesses and voluntary groups have an opportunity to comment and any feedback is considered and incorporated appropriately. Due to covid19, consultation was predominately through an internet survey opening on 22nd February 2021 to 31st March 2021.

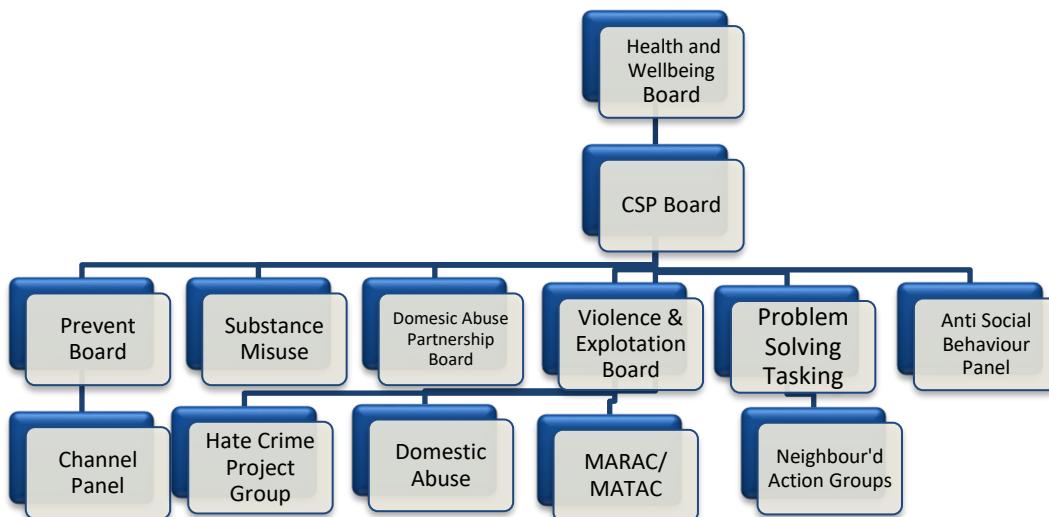
Wokingham Community Safety Partnership – Membership

- Wokingham Borough Council
- Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Thames Valley Constabulary
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
- Berkshire Healthcare Trust
- Wokingham Youth Offending Services
- National Probation Service

- Involve Community Services

Wokingham Community Safety Partnership Governance

The current governance structure and delivery groups for the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership are set out below.



Community Safety Partnership Subgroups

Problem Solving Tasking Group (PSTG)

Chair: Police Inspector

Deputy Chair: Wokingham Community Safety Manager

Frequency: Every 6 weeks for 1.5hrs

Membership: SMART drug and alcohol services, public protection partnership, police, children's social care, fire service, Wokingham town council, WBC community development and Involve Community Services. Reading football club.

Overview: Key priorities are location based problem solving across the borough. Group has dealt with several location based issues including: Bigshotte Park, Carnival Pool Car Park, Elms Field, graffiti, across Wokingham Town Centre over Christmas, car meets, and anti-social vehicle use in Carnival Pool Car Park. The group has shared intelligence, information and data to decide on the best problem-solving approach to deal with issues. The group has delivered practical crime reduction measures such as ring doorbells, no cold calling zones and communication and awareness campaigns on a range of subjects including burglary and vehicle crime.

Anti- Social Behaviour Panel

Chair: Wokingham Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

Deputy Chair: Wokingham Community Safety Manager

Frequency: Every 6 weeks for 1.5- 2hours

Membership: Registered social landlords, WBC community development, WBC housing, police, adult social care, children's social care and Reading football club.

Overview: Multi agency panel meets to discuss medium and high level anti-social behaviour issues across the borough. During the past 12 months the group has

discussed 20 medium to high level anti-social behaviour cases in relation to private or housing association properties. This does not include cases that involve serious ASB in council tenancies. Outcomes have included the securing of a criminal behaviour order (CBO), investigative interviews, warning letters, issuing of acceptable behaviour contacts, multi-agency interventions including referrals on to mental health services and assisting with tenancy checks, warnings and notices. Multi-agency training on tools and powers has also been delivered to approximately 25 professionals.

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Chair: Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

Deputy Chair: TBC

Frequency: bimonthly moving to quarterly for 1.5- 2 hours.

Membership: Wokingham borough council, representative from victims of domestic abuse service, representative from children of domestic abuse victims, charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse, health care, policing or criminal justice and housing services.

Overview: Key priorities for the group are to support Wokingham Borough Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act. The board is working together to support, advise and work in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services. The group is working to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including children, through a strategic approach to identify and address gaps in support within safe accommodation services.

Domestic Abuse

Chair: Assistant Director Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

Deputy Chair: Wokingham Community Safety Manager

Frequency: Four times a year for 1.5-2hrs

Membership; Berkshire Women's Aid, housing, adult social care, children's social care, Kaleidoscopic and citizens advice service.

Overview: Key priorities include the review and implementation of Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) recommendations, reviewing domestic abuse training and communications. The group oversees the operational delivery of; support services for the victims of domestic abuse (DA) 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. Communications campaigns throughout the year including co-ordinating local delivery of the national 16 days of action. Increasing awareness and education of local help and support options especially throughout the pandemic. Reviewing the recommendations of the local DHR's. Reviewing and coordinating local training offer for professionals. Considering and planning for the implications of the DA bill.

MARAC and MATAC

Chair: Thames Valley Police

Deputy Chair N/A

Frequency: Every month

Membership: Children and adult social care, Berkshire Womens Aid, housing, schools, probation and Thames valley police.

Overview: Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) are a meeting where serious and cases that are graded high risk are reviewed. Multiagency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) is a meeting focussing on repeat domestic abuse victims and perpetrators. High risk cases are referred to Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's) for guidance and support and support outcomes and reviewed.

Substance Misuse

Chair: Strategy and Commissioning lead for Substance Misuse

Deputy Chair: Wokingham Community Safety Manager

Frequency: Every quarter for 1.5-2hrs

Membership: Cranston drug and alcohol services, community safety manager, anti-social behaviour officer, Wokingham borough council housing, adult social care, children's social care, and citizens advice service.

Overview: Key priorities include to review local drug and alcohol trends, develop and implement and training and communications campaigns. For key local stakeholders to network, share good practice.

The substance misuse group considered key substance misuse data and information from the local service provider including information on cannabis alcohol and tobacco as well as key treatment information on Class A and B drug use locally. The group also considered information from a local needs assessment of substance misuse which informed the new substance misuse contract. The group also has oversight of the delivery of the Community Alcohol Project (CAP) in Woodley which is being led by Trading Standards.

Prevent Board

Chair: Assistant Director for Adult Social Care,

Deputy Chair: N/A

Frequency: Every Quarter for 1.5hrs

Membership: counter terrorism police south east, Thames valley police, CCG and health safeguarding leads, adult social care, children's social care, and education safeguarding leads.

Overview: Key priorities include the delivery and review of the Wokingham Prevent Action plan and ensuring that the local authority is undertaking its statutory duties as set out by the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2014. The Prevent Board has strategic oversight of the Borough's delivery of the duties set out in the Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2014. This includes compliance and delivery of Prevent training delivery across a range of partner public sector organisations, IT and venue hire policies. Community engagement and development activities and raising awareness of the Prevent programme across communities and professionals including information on how to raise concerns and where to go for further information.

Channel Panel

Chair: Assistant Director Childrens Services

Deputy Chair: Safeguarding lead Adults

Frequency: Every month for 1.5hrs

Membership: CCG and health safeguarding leads, education safeguarding leads, and counter terrorism prevent officers, adult social care, children's social care, and community engagement officers.

Overview – Only meets if there are cases to discuss or once every quarter to discuss good practice and shared learning. Currently the panel is meeting once a month. Key priorities are to discuss any referrals made to the multi-agency panel, to safeguard individuals at risk of racialisation.

Hate Crime Task and Finish Group

Chair: Community Safety Manager

Frequency: Quarterly

Membership: WBC localities and engagement lead, community safety manager, Thames valley police and WBC equalities officer.

Overview – This is a task and finish group meeting bimonthly to develop, implement and deliver a Hate Crime Action plan for Wokingham Borough. This is a newly formed task and finish group further meetings are planned to meet four to six times a year to develop and deliver the Borough response to Hate Crime.

Serious Violence & Exploitation Board

Chair: Local Police Area Commander and Assistant Director Early Help

Deputy Chair: N/A

Frequency: Every 6 weeks for 1.5hrs initially then every quarter.

Membership: Thames, valley police, VRU unit representatives, WBC, children and adults social care, probation, health, mental health services, education, youth offending services, public protection, voluntary and charity sector.

Overview: To work collaboratively to provide a whole systems response to the issue of serious violence in communities including that which occurs within the context of the criminal and sexual exploitation of children and young people. Working to increase active participation across agencies and communities to fully understand and prevent individuals of all ages from becoming involved in and impacted by serious violence.

LINK TO CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The Community Safety Strategy links to the Community Vision and the Corporate Delivery Plan in several ways, supporting strategic values, principles, and plans:

- Safe, Strong Communities
- Changing the way we work for you

In addition, it links to Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

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Link to Strategies and legislation:

It also sits within a wider national strategy and legislative context.

- Serious Violence Reduction Strategy (public health approach to serious violence) and Serious Violence Bill (currently awaiting second reading) expected duties April 2022.
- Domestic Abuse Bill expected 2021 (awaiting royal assent)
- Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Police and Social Responsibilities Act 2011

TIMETABLE

Timetable for strategy and delivery plan development and implementation.

Circulate draft priorities to CSP	20 May 2021
CSP Board Sign off	27 th May 2021
Wellbeing Board for consideration	10 th June 2021
Executive	24 th June 2021
Publish 2021-24 Strategy	1 st July 2021

KEY RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

The most significant risk is the failure to agree the priorities before the 1st July 2021 could result in not complying with our statutory duty.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	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
None

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation
Full public consultation including internal and external stakeholders has been undertaken.

Public Sector Equality Duty
An initial equalities impact assessment has been completed and attached as Appendix 4 A further Equality Impact Assessment will be considered once the strategy is agreed. No detrimental impacts are anticipated.

Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030*

N/A

List of Background Papers

Appendix 1: Strategic Assessment 19/20 Executive Summary

Appendix 2: Key Stakeholders Workshop Summary

Appendix 3: Draft Community Safety Strategy 2021-24

Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment

Contact Narinder Brar	Service Customer and Localities
Telephone 07979255308	Email narinder.brar@wokingham.gov.uk

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