

Community Safety Review

Audit & Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 27 January 2022

Report of: Community Safety Officer

Purpose: For information

Publication status: Unrestricted

Wards affected: All

1. Executive summary:

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update Committee Members on Community Safety activities in the District.
 - 1.2 This paper will provide a brief overview of the statutory and non-statutory activities undertaken and achievements in 2021/22.
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This report supports the Council's priority of: Building a better Council

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2. Introduction and background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998 and the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires 'responsible authorities' to work together to reduce crime and disorder in their area. In a two-tier authority area such as Surrey, there is a requirement for a county level community safety group which is supported by community safety partnerships at each of the 11 district and borough councils.
- 2.2 The statutory role of a community safety partnership is:

- Coordinate and plan responses to the prevention of crime, disorder, anti-behaviour and emerging risks across the district
- Identify and agree local priorities
- Facilitate information sharing and partner updates
- Receive updates and provide strategic overview on the work of operational working groups including Joint Action Groups and the Community Harm and Risk Management meetings
- Ensure compliance with all statutory CSP responsibilities and keep abreast of emerging national, county or local changes to policy or legislation affecting the Partnership

2.3 The range of operational problems and behaviours under the context of community safety is varied and complex. This requires strong multi agency partnership working, effective communication and often complex problem-solving approaches.

3. Tandridge Community Safety Partnership

3.1 The TCSP represents a significant commitment by partner agencies to work together to improve the lives of the Tandridge residents. The partnership has set out how it will achieve this vision under agreed terms of reference which includes:

- Working with partners to create strong and safe communities
- Working with police, Surrey County Council and partner agencies to identify the causes of crime and work collaboratively on problem solving.
- Raising awareness of hidden crimes such as domestic abuse and contextual safeguarding
- Working with partner agencies to deliver effective joint enforcement activities and proactive targeting of problem areas

3.2 The Tandridge Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) board brings together statutory and non-statutory partners including Tandridge Community Safety, Tandridge Housing, Surrey Police, Surrey Community Safety, Surrey Heartlands CCG, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Police and Crime Commissioner, Tandridge Voluntary Action and Probation Service.

The meetings are held quarterly and are also attended by a District Councillor representative (Councillor Gillman) and a Surrey County Councillor (Councillor Farr)

3.3 The TCSP has agreed the priorities for 2021/2022:

- Rural Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Serious Organised Crime (including safeguarding)

The priorities will be reviewed in March 2022 through an assessment of current and possible future crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues. Sources which inform the priorities include but not limited to:

- Partner agency leads views
- Surrey Community Safety Agreement
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Surrey)
- Tandridge Police

The TCSP does not override the priorities and day to day operation of each individual agency. It is intended that the TCSP provides added value in joint working between partners to address the agreed priorities.

3.4 The majority of activity and intervention across the Partnership is undertaken through the operational delivery groups. Examples include but not limited to:

- Joint Action Groups (JAGS)
- Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM)
- Serious Organised Crime working group
- Community Trigger panels

3.5 The successful outcomes achieved by these groups are a direct result of the commitment of all agencies to work together to reduce crime, disorder and protect the most vulnerable in the community.

3.6 It is important to note the extensive work carried out across Tandridge Council team and partner agencies on all aspects of community safety. Significant resource is focused on a wide range of operational issues including but not limited to ASB, neighbour disputes, vulnerable children, counter-terrorism, safeguarding concerns, exploitation and modern slavery.

4. TCSP Action Plan 2021 outcomes include:

4.1 Rural Crime

- Rural Crime JAG has established. Attendees include Surrey Police, Tandridge Council, PCC (Surrey), National Gamekeepers Association and National Farmers Union. The meetings are held quarterly.
- Dedicated Rural Crime Police officer in place during the poaching season
- Training has been rolled out with the police force control room to ensure they are actively deploying units to cases of rural crime
- Tandridge are sharing intelligence and evidence where issues are identified

- Active and ongoing engagement with the rural community this includes a Whatsapp group for updates between police and land owners
- Increase in proactive use of legislation to stop activities of identified perpetrators.
- Increase in cross border work with Kent and Sussex police. Sharing intelligence and pro-active problem solving across county borders.
- Design Out Crime police officer engaging with land owners to advise on target hardening in specific locations
- Planned Live Q and A on Facebook with the rural community in Spring 2022

4.2 Domestic Abuse

- Chairing of the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Working Group with partner agencies
- Co-ordinate and chair the project board for the IRIS programme (Identification and referral to improve safety).
- Attend and contribute to the county wide Domestic Homicide Oversight Group
- Raise awareness and promote DA outreach services to staff and residents
- Continued close working relationship with East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (ESDAS)
- Worked with Surrey Community Safety and Tandridge Housing team to embed the recommendations from the new Domestic Abuse Bill

4.3 Safeguarding

- Work in partnership with Surrey CC and other organisations to increase focus on contextual safeguarding including child exploitation
- Attendance at the weekly Risk Management Meeting (RMM) to contribute to the Tandridge cases for young people experiencing or at risk of exploitation.
- Supporting effective joint working between community safety and safeguarding leads across the county
- Continue to focus on raising awareness of potential safeguarding risks across council teams and external organisations
- Promote the importance of raising safeguarding concerns and the mechanism for reporting

4.4 Serious Organised Crime

- Co-ordinate and organised SOC briefings as part of the Joint Action Group meetings. This includes local intelligence and a risk profile for the district
- Partnership working with agencies using local intelligence to address incidents relating to SOC
- Appropriate interventions across partner agencies when specific issues are identified
- Awareness campaigns for specific issues such as modern-day slavery

5. Community Safety Activities

Additional notable achievements during 2021 include but not limited to:

Frauds and Scams

- Established a Tandridge Frauds and Scams Working group to identify and raise awareness of frauds and scams with specific emphasis on the digitally excluded. Chaired by community safety. Attendees include Surrey Police, Trading Standards, Citizens Advice Bureau, Age UK Surrey, Neighbourhood Watch, Crimestoppers, Adult Social Care, Tandridge Voluntary Action, Mole Valley Life and Wellbeing Prescription.

Safeguarding project

- Reviewed Tandridge safeguarding policies and procedures and produced an updated safeguarding protocol for Tandridge Council. This includes refresher training for all staff and councillors

Safer Streets

- Successful bid for Safer Streets funding from the Home Office for target hardening in Godstone and Bletchingley where statistics indicated a disproportionately high number of rural burglaries. The project is led by Surrey police and supported by Tandridge Council and will be completed by March 2022

Community Protection Warning and Notices

- Training for staff on Community Protection Warnings and Notices and the drafting of a policy and procedures document. This tool is embedded in the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 and all councils have the authority to use this power. Historically it has not been used at Tandridge and there has been a reliance on Surrey Police to exercise this power on our behalf. The training took place in January 2022 and the intention is to launch the tool for staff in March 2022.

Antisocial behaviour awareness week

- In support of National ASB awareness week (19th – 25th July 2021) officers supported a number of partners with awareness raising initiatives. Activities included an ASB clinic on Masters Park (Oxted), proactive targeted ASB patrols, supported the Crimestoppers van on its tour around areas of the District, posting social media messages and working with British Transport Police.

Water Safety Partnership

- Working in partnership with the newly formed water safety partnership. The partnership brings representatives from district

and boroughs across Surrey together, along with representatives of organisations with an interest in water safety and drowning prevention to provide a strategic overview and direction. It supports the National Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016 – 2026, as well as support of flood preparation and emergency response.

Prevent Training

- Training rolled out to all staff to raise awareness of the importance of remaining vigilant and to report any terror related concerns. The Home Office Prevent training was circulated and staff were educated on the Surrey Prevent referral process.

6. In 2022 we will:

- Continue to focus on the priorities and deliverables for the Tandridge Community Safety Partnership
- Maximise opportunities to work in partnership to tackle community safety issues across the district
- Continue to participate and represent Tandridge in district and county wide working groups including D&B Community Safety Leads, D&B safeguarding leads, Domestic Homicide Oversight Group, Prevent (counter terrorism) Exec Board, Crime Risk Mapping meeting and Serious Organised Crime board.
- Work on protecting our most vulnerable through pro-active problem solving and engaging with partner agencies and residents

Key implications

7. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

There are no direct financial implications from this update report. Due to the Councils financial constraints any costs incurred will be contained within the current and future budgets.

There are no capital expenditure implications within the report.

8. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 ('the Act'). The CSPB priorities complies with the Community Safety Partnership's statutory duty under section 6 of the Act to formulate and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder in the District.

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 ('the Regulations') complement the provisions under section 19. The Act and the Regulations do not require councils to alter existing committee structures. There, must, however, be a formal place where community safety matters can be discussed.

The terms of reference of this Committee fulfil the scrutiny function in relation to crime and disorder matters. Not to enable this Committee to scrutinise the work of the CSPB would be in contravention of the Act.

Equality

The Council has a Public-Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

The strategic aim of the CSPB is to foster a safer District. It seeks to do so by tackling specific community safety issues, including violent crime, domestic abuse, exploitation, low public confidence, repeat victimisation, and reoffending.

The CSPB will help the Council and partners to address known inequalities relating to community safety, including overrepresentation of particular groups among victims and perpetrators of crime.

Climate change

There are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report".

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