



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE:

DATE: 29 JUNE 2016
LEAD OFFICER: CAMILLA EDMISTON, COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAFER WOKING PARTNERSHIP 2015/16

AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To provide an update on the activity and impact of the Safer Woking Partnership in the year 2015/16, and to report on budget spend.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Woking Joint Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report and the progress made in 2015/16.
- (ii) Note the budget spend during 2015/16 (Annex 2)
- (iii) Note the 2016/19 Safer Woking Partnership Plan (Annex 3)
- (iv) Agree to delegate responsibility for signing off the 2017/20 Safer Woking Partnership Plan to the Woking Borough Council Strategic Director (Sue Barham) in consultation with the Community Safety Task Group.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report is provided for information and comment. The updated Safer Woking Partnership Plan should be in place and publically available on the website from the beginning of the financial year. In order to ensure the timely publication it is recommended to delegate authority to sign the document of on behalf of the Joint Committee to the Strategic Director (Sue Barham, WBC) in consultation with the Community Safety Task Group.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act gave local agencies shared responsibility for developing and introducing strategies to reduce crime and disorder in their area. The agencies come together as the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), known as the Safer Woking Partnership. Statutory members include:
 - a. Surrey Police
 - b. Woking Borough Council
 - c. Surrey County Council
 - d. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
 - e. Probation
 - f. Health
- 1.2 This report highlights the key actions taken over the previous year to implement the aims and priorities of the Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2015-2018 and associated spend from the community safety joint budget.

Police and Crime Commissioner

- 1.3 Following the recent May 2016 election, David Munro has been appointed the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey. He is responsible for overseeing the work of Surrey Police, holding the Chief Constable to account and helping to tackle the crime issues.
- 1.4 The PCC has overall responsibility for reducing crime and disorder, working with CSPs and criminal justice partners to achieve their objectives. The PCC is able to call CSP chairmen to meetings, request reports and commission services. From April 2013 the Community Safety Fund was transferred to the PCC to support this change of arrangements. During 2015/16 Woking had six successful bids to this fund and further information on these bids is set out in paragraph 2.17 of this report.
- 1.5 The third local Police and Crime Summit was held in Woking in November 2015 and was attended by partner agencies and residents, with total attendance around 70. The principal issues discussed were Woking town centre, Neighbourhood Watch, the challenges facing policing and new policing arrangements.
- 1.6 Further information on the PCC is available via <http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk>

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The Safer Woking Partnership undertakes an annual strategic assessment of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the borough. This informed an update to the Safer Woking Partnership Plan which identifies the key community safety priorities for 2015/16.

Crime

- 2.2 Reducing dwelling burglaries, vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour and serious crime along with building public confidence was the focus for Surrey Police over the past year. The crime categories included in serious acquisitive crime include dwelling burglaries, theft of and from motor vehicles, robbery and aggravated vehicle taking.

Serious violent crime includes murder, attempted murder and grievous bodily harm (GBH). For crime statistics see Annex 1.

- a. Total crime for Woking has increased by 22.4%, this relates to 966 more offences.
- b. Dwelling burglary has decreased by 42 offences compared to last year across the borough, a reduction of 16.6 %. This is outstanding work by all for this financial year with the current climate. Like vehicle crime, this is a difficult area to keep reducing but again with focused work and campaigns we will aim to achieve this.
- c. There has been a 25.7% increase in violence with injury, which is an increase of 122 incidents compared to last year. The local team are looking at ways to reduce violent crime with injury across the Borough, in both public place violence and domestic incidents. We continue to work in partnership to tackle not just the night time economy but to proactively manage businesses that breach their licence conditions. Violence in the town centre continues to reduce both across the day time period but also in the night time. There have been 9 fewer offences in the town this year which has built on the large reduction seen last year.
- d. There has been an increase in reported sexual offences but this is seen as a positive increase as it shows confidence in victims to report crimes. The increase includes domestic offences and non-recent matters. Offences taking place in public remain low and are not responsible for the increase.

We have seen a reduction in most crime categories and will continue to work hard to make the Borough as safe as possible. It has been a productive year thanks to the continued partnership work.

- 2.3 Residents can report criminal behaviour or incidents to the Surrey Police Safer Neighbourhood Team on 101, or if it is a genuine emergency call 999.

Partnership success in 2015/16

- 2.4 The Joint Action Group (JAG) examines reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) on a geographic or crime type basis and identifies partnership actions to address problems. Over the past year there have been ten locations nominated to the JAG agenda. A range of interventions were put in place including increased police patrols, crime prevention assessments, issuing of ASB letters, environmental visual audits, repairs to lighting, planning enforcement and fire safety education.
- 2.5 An area in Knaphill was nominated by Surrey Police in July 2015 due to anti-social behaviour, litter, noise, under-age drinking, lighting fires and criminal damage. The location remained on the agenda for seven months and during that time partners undertook numerous joint actions to improve the area. Detached outreach work and education was undertaken by partners with the young people involved with the anti-social behaviour, ASB letters were issued to the young people, police patrols were increased and lighting in the area was improved. After this work there was a reduction in reports to the police and the area was discharged from the JAG in February 2016.
- 2.6 A further location in Horsell was nominated in July 2015 by Surrey Fire & Rescue due to people repeatedly setting fires and leaving camp fires unattended. Education was provided by Surrey Fire & Rescue to young people who had been setting camp fires in the area. The Party in the Park event was used as an opportunity to educate people by Surrey Fire & Rescue. Outreach work was undertaken by a partner, Reflex, to connect

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with young people using the area. The education programme explained that although people may be extinguishing their fire when they left the area there was a danger that the heat from the fire could become trapped because the soil in the area is dry acid heathland with a peat layer and the heat is stored underground and then ignites heathland at a later time. The education initiative led to a reduction in camp fire setting which is illegal on Access Lands and the area was discharged from the JAG in January 2016.

- 2.7 The Community Incident Action Group (CIAG) focuses on individuals whose behaviour is having a negative impact on the community. During the year to March 2016 there were 24 new nominations and 24 cases were closed. Interventions used included warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, housing related enforcement, referrals to support agencies, mediation, diversionary activities, rewards and incentives.
- 2.8 An adult male was nominated to the CIAG in May 2015 by Surrey Police because of making nuisance calls to the police and the ambulance service on an almost daily basis often because he wanted to chat. The police recommended that this person be arrested for wasting police time but decided that bringing the issue to CIAG would give all the partners a chance to find another solution. A care plan was put in place and support was given to the person to attend appointments. Crime prevention work was carried out in his home to increase his sense of security. The nuisance calls reduced dramatically and the person was discharged from the CIAG in August 2015.
- 2.9 Following a series of drug related deaths in Woking (8 over the course of 12 months 2014-15), a Woking Task Group was established including representation from Public Health, Surrey Police, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Woking Borough Council (Community Safety and Housing), York Road Hostel and substance misuse treatment providers (SaBP, Catalyst and CRI). Although the deaths, some of which remain subject to inquest by the Surrey Coroner Court, do not have a strong correlation to an exceptional local identified increased risk, the group is assessing successful risk reduction outcomes which are being implemented or are planned in Woking, with further rolled out county wide as part of an action plan:
- Advice for prescribers on the risk of the misuse of pregabalin and gabapentin” (Public Health England, 2014) the prescribing of and accessibility to Pregabalin (a medication to treat epilepsy, neuropathic pain, fibromyalgia and anxiety disorders) which has a dangerous effect when mixed with other drugs/alcohol and the increased risk of overdose to individuals leaving detoxification/rehabilitation, hospital and prison.
 - The group has worked together to raise awareness of “overdose prevention” within the local community, with particular attention being paid to high-risk individuals engaged with treatment services and/or known to hostels locally.
 - The delivery plan to roll out of Naloxone; already in its early stages of distribution in Woking, Naloxone is an opioid antagonist medication which can reverse the effects of opiate overdose. New guidance (Public Health England, 2015) issued by Public Health England in light of a change in the license of the drug indicates that the use of take-home Naloxone can be much wider than the individual engaged in treatment – i.e. families and friends are able to hold and administer Naloxone as necessary. Training in overdose prevention is provided by substance misuse specialists whilst issuing Naloxone.
 - The group, via Woking Borough Council, also launched a community campaign on International Overdose Prevention Day (31st August 2015) called “Your Kindness Could Kill” to highlight the risks associated with providing direct

financial support to street beggars and the potential link between begging and the use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.

- 2.10 In October there were a number of police raids on properties in the North West of Surrey, including Woking, in association with suspected dealing of Class A drugs. Although a number of high profile individuals known to the Task Group have been placed in custody as a result, the group is working closely to ensure that support is provided on their release to limit the risks of overdose. There were a wide range of activities to deal with speeding, anti-social driving and road casualty reductions during the year. These included a total of twenty one Community and School Speed Watch programmes. There was a successful REED day (Road Education and Enforcement Day) in October 2015, 72 vehicles were stopped including 2 vehicles being seized. Enforcement and other high visibility activities continue throughout the borough.
- 2.11 March 2016 saw another highly successful Junior Citizen which is a very popular event hosted over a three week period at Woking Football Club. A total of 992 Year 6 pupils (10-11 year olds), from 22 schools across the borough, spent a half day learning about water safety, fire safety, electricity safety, railway safety, internet safety, stranger danger, recycling, anti-social behaviour, internet safety and being a good neighbour. We have received very positive feedback from the schools following this worthwhile event.
- 2.12 Domestic Abuse outreach continued to be provided by yourSanctuary, who received 202 referrals for Woking over the past year. Throughout the year there has been a number of domestic abuse awareness raising activities. These included an Eagle Radio campaign and stands around the borough during Domestic Abuse Awareness Week in October 2015, which resulted in 3,381 items of information being handed out to concerned passers-by. County wide Campaigns were also run by Surrey Police and Surrey County Council.
- 2.13 Woking Street Angels has celebrated its fifth year of successfully running their scheme in Woking, with ongoing recruitment and training of their dedicated volunteers. Teams are out in Woking Town Centre every Friday and Saturday night offering support to individuals who are unwell or needing help, usually after consuming alcohol. Between April 2015 and March 2016 the Woking Street Angels gave out 76 blankets, 465 pairs of flip flops, cleared up 1819 bottles or cans and assisted 405 people.
- 2.14 During the year to March 2016, Coram Life Education Centres (LEC) continued to visit primary schools in Woking. They visited 17 schools in total, which involved 48 days in schools and educated about 4960 pupils. The programme delivery that takes place in the mobile classroom covers drug and health education that increases children's knowledge about the human body and develops social skills and attitudes that support a positive, healthy life style.
- 2.15 New support materials have been developed for schools to help them integrate the outcomes and lesson fully into the curriculum once the Lifebus visit is over. In the last quarter:
- 96% of pupils had learned something new
 - 97% could identify health and lifestyle risks
 - 89% could identify assertiveness skills and behaviour.

School staff have commented that:

"We are very lucky that we have had the Lifebus every year and it has made a real difference to our children."

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“It is amazing how much they remember from the bus and can recall messages about keeping healthy weeks later.”

2.16 The Women’s Support Centre (WSC) has continued to develop its services over the year, offering a range centred on intensive community-based support for women across the County who are currently involved in, or at risk of entering, the Criminal Justice System.

a. The fourth quarter of 2016 saw a surge in referrals and an increase in attendance at drop-ins and workshop events which boosted the total case load of the Women’s Centre to over 15 intensive cases per month and a further 30 low level support cases per month. In addition to these numbers there have been an average of 5 women per week attending the weekly self-referral drop in sessions, some of whom have been referred by agencies such as Job Centre Plus and the Family Support teams, as well as the usual referral routes such as Probation and drug and alcohol services. The increased demand for the service has been accommodated as a result of being fully staffed and with the growth of the counselling service, as a result of funding from the OPCC. The WSC continues to focus on preventative work including attending the Woking CIAG and other multi-agency meetings. The Centre continues to receive referrals from neighbourhood policing teams, health visitors, social services and the Family Support Programme.

b. Drop-in service at the WSC

The regular drop in service and workshop timetable has continued to grow and develop this year. Since January they have hosted fortnightly information workshops delivered by specialist partner agencies including legal advice, sexual health, hepatitis and HIV awareness, domestic abuse awareness, rape and sexual violence information and debt management. There has grown a core of women who regularly attend the drop in weekly and they have been a real support to new women accessing the centre, offering peer support, encouragement and emotional and practical guidance.

c. Counselling Service

The counselling service at the WSC has grown rapidly this year and there are currently five counsellors offering appointments over four days per week. This has vastly increased the capacity to offer on-going counselling support to women at the Centre and currently up to 20 women are being provided with counselling each week. WSC was successful in securing funds from the OPCC to support this service and they are currently recruiting a part time Counselling Co-ordinator to over-see the service and to offer support to the volunteer counselling team.

d. Sliding Doors Programme

Through the work of the Youth Support Worker the Centre continues to offer support to families identified at being at risk of offending and anti-social behaviour. Many of the young women are very vulnerable and take part in the Sliding Doors programme. This is a 12 week programme and is designed to assist young women to address the issues that underlie sexual exploitation in order to help them develop strategies to keep themselves safe and avoid risk taking behaviour. Young women aged between 14 and 18 years old, who are at medium to high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), attend the group to

explore their risk of exploitation, to understand consent and to recognise signs of grooming. The young women who have attended all fed back positively. More courses are planned.

e. The Art Awards

In September 2015 there was the gala launch of the annual Art Awards at the Lightbox. 'Heroes and Villains' exhibited for four weeks there before touring the county at various libraries and galleries. Preparations for the 2016 Awards are underway and workshops are taking place in the community, in the prisons and at Watts Gallery, with some interesting and exciting pieces already being submitted, so plans are well advanced around this year's theme of "In a land far, far away". Invitations will be sent out in the coming weeks for the gala launch evening on Tuesday 13 September 2016, offering a great opportunity to celebrate the talent of these women.

2.17 Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of abuse which involves children under 18, male and female, of different ethnic origins and of different ages, receiving something, usually food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts and/or money, in exchange for sexual activity. It can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example, being persuaded to post images on the internet or mobile phone without immediate payment or reward. Child Sexual Exploitation involves children being groomed into a relationship where they are forced or coerced into sexual activity in return for something and it can occur on the internet without the child's immediate recognition or gain. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice as a result of their social, economic and emotional vulnerability. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

There are now monthly MAECC's (Missing and Exploited Children Conferences) which are multi-agency meetings that consider those local vulnerable children, assess risk and agree actions to be carried out. The meetings are chaired by SCC Children's Services and attended by Surrey Police, SCC Youth Support Services, Health and others, as well as Woking Borough Council's Community Safety Manager.

Some awareness training has been carried out in the statutory agencies, including Members training in June 2015. More will be planned for the future and there is some ongoing training, for example Woking Borough Council now includes CSE in the overall Safeguarding training for all new members of staff as part of their induction.

2.18 Successful Police and Crime Commissioner Funded Projects 2015/16:

Woking Leisure and Pool in the Park

£5,000 was awarded to The Friday Night Project, a joint project between Freedom Leisure and Woking Borough Council. The project is an evening dedicated to young people to participate in physical activity at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park. Activities included trampolining, swimming, football, SmashUp! (badminton), handball, netball, basketball, table tennis, squash, dance and the Wii. It was thought that offering young people an alternative to football was positive and the event on a Friday would help reduce anti-social behaviour.

Community Safety Partnerships

£6,000 was made available to each Community Safety Partnership to support solutions to local ASB issues. The funding was aimed at projects that have particularly focus on supporting the use of the new legislation, tackling some of the complicated ASB cases in the locally communities and supporting victims. In Woking we purchased a new mobile CCTV unit to tackle ASB. It has already been used to target fly tipping in Parley Drive.

Woking Borough Council – Junior Citizen

Woking Borough Council was awarded £6,000 to cover the cost of 1,200 work books for the primary school children attending the Junior Citizen event and for those unable to attend. At the event they learned about stranger danger, fire safety, advice around 999 and hoax calls, being a good neighbour, water safety, anti-social behaviour, internet safety and railway safety. The work books are a useful follow up learning tool.

Reflex Woking – Outreach Programme

Reflex Woking was awarded £10,000 to run an outreach programme for young people who have fallen through the gap of existing youth provision in the county by providing drop in youth cafes and sports sessions. These will be used to help young people to tackle the issues that they have and signpost them to other services where applicable. This pilot programme will run initially run in the Knaphill, Byfleet and Old Woking/Kingfield areas.

Surrey County Council – Transforming Justice – Women’s Restorative Intervention Project

£100,000 was awarded to Surrey County Council for this pilot programme of integrated working between partner agencies which seeks to reduce offending and reoffending by providing a support service for women within the Criminal Justice system. This work will be overseen by the Women’s Support Centre in Woking.

The Bridge Project

£5,000 was awarded to The Bridge Project, based in Woking, towards an intensive 90-day mentoring service and ongoing support for those seeking recovery from alcohol dependency and its associated consequences such as anti-social behaviour, petty crime, domestic abuse etc.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The report sets out a number of actions and initiatives which have taken place over the past year to address priorities identified within the Safer Woking Partnership Plan.
- 3.2 It also sets out the community safety budget spend in relation to implementing the Safer Woking Partnership Plan.
- 3.3 It recommends that the authority for signing off the 2017/20 Safer Woking Partnership Plan is delegated to the WBC Strategic Director (Sue Barham) in consultation with the Community Safety Task Group.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The Safer Woking Partnership Plan is considered by the Woking Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March each year, and was considered by the Community Safety Sub-Committee of the Woking Joint Committee.
- 4.2 There is an annual Police Crime Summit within the Borough to give residents an opportunity to feed back to a range of agencies.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 In 2015/16 £3,337 was received by the community safety partnership from the Joint Committee for community safety work in the borough. In addition to this, Woking Borough Council allocated a further £2,000. This was used for Eagle Radio Campaigns on anti-social behaviour and fire safety, as well as a contribution to the Life Education Centres. Additional Partnership funding was used for intervention work for the CIAG and JAG processes and for activities held during Domestic Abuse Awareness week. See Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The domestic abuse outreach service provided locally by yourSanctuary is funded by Surrey Police, Police and Crime Commissioner and Surrey County Council. Woking Borough Council also gives a grant to them.
- 5.3 As set out in paragraphs 2.17 six Woking projects received additional funding through the Police and Crime Commissioners Fund, including the funding of supporting booklets for the annual Junior Citizen.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The Safer Woking Partnership aims to make all communities in the borough a safe and pleasant place to live. Where issues arise, the partners work together, with residents as appropriate, to address them.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Funding is provided countywide for a domestic abuse outreach service which is provided and managed by Surrey County Council's Community Safety Unit.
- 8.2 Surrey Police has a minicom number - 01483 53 99 99.
- 8.3 Surrey Police uses Pegasus – a free scheme for people who can find it hard to contact them. They provide a card to the individual with a PIN and record all relevant information for them. This can also be accessed by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance Service.
- 8.4 Incidents of hate crime are monitored carefully by Surrey Police.
- 8.5 Woking Borough Council offers 'Type Talk' to the deaf community, enabling them to contact us via a bureau who type our responses to the resident's queries.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

9.1 Crime and Disorder implications

The production of the strategic assessment and the publication of the annual Partnership Plan fulfil some of the statutory requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 There has been continued positive work by the Safer Woking Partnership to address community safety issues within the borough over the past year.

10.2 Members are asked to:

- a. Note the contents of the report and the progress made in 2015/16.
- b. Note the budget spend during 2015/16 (Annex 2)
- c. Note the 2016/19 Safer Woking Partnership Plan (Annex 3)
- d. Agree to delegate responsibility for signing off the 2017/20 Safer Woking Partnership Plan to the Woking Borough Council Strategic Director (Sue Barham) in consultation with the Community Safety Task Group.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 Partners have reassessed the priorities for the Safer Woking Partnership as set out in the 2016/19 Plan (Annex 2) and will work to continue to address these during the coming year. The Community Safety Task Group will meet to monitor progress on implementing the actions. Members from both Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council will continue to receive quarterly community safety update reports, as well as reports through this Committee.

11.2 During the winter of 2016/17, a strategic assessment will be carried out to help identify priorities for next year. The Task Group will use this as a basis for developing the 2017/20 Safer Woking Partnership Plan. Once agreed by the Task Group, this will go for consideration to Woking Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2017. Once any comments have been taken into account, if the recommended delegation is agreed, the Strategic Director for Woking Borough Council will sign off the Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2017/20 in consultation with the Community Safety Task Group, and publish the plan on the Woking Borough Council website in early April 2017.

Contact Officers:

Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager, WBC (01483 743080);
Neighbourhood Inspector Nolan Heather (101),
Sarah Goodman, Community Partnership and Committee Officer, (01483 518095)

Consulted:

Councillors received quarterly updates throughout the year. The Sub- Committee and partners were consulted on the draft Partnership Plan 2015-18.

Borough Portfolio Holder

Cllr Beryl Hunwicks

County Council Cabinet Member

Mr Richard Walsh

Annexes

Annex 1 – Crime figures
Annex 2 - 2015/16 Budget
Annex 3 – Safer Woking Partnership Plan for 2016/19

Sources/background papers:

- Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2015-18
- Quarterly Community Safety reports to the Woking Partnership

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Annex 1

CRIME for Woking fytd March 2016			
Category	FYTD March 15	FYTD March 16	%
Criminal damage	821	643	27.7%
Domestic burglary	211	253	-16.6%
Drug offences	192	249	-22.9%
Fraud and forgery	2	11	-81.8%
Violence with injury	595	473	25.7%
Non-domestic burglary	212	253	-9.8%
Other criminal offences	131	135	-3.0%
Robbery	19	24	-20.8%
Serious Sexual offences	146	93	57.0%
Theft (other than vehicle) & handling stolen goods	1345	1212	11.0%
Vehicle crime (excluding interference)	294	189	55.6%
Vehicle interference and tampering	39	22	77.3%
TNO	5281	4315	22.4%