

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)**

**DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2017**



**LEAD OFFICER: CARYS WALKER  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE 2016-17 [FOR INFORMATION]**

**DIVISION: ALL**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report gives a brief update on work to support community safety by the Safer Runnymede Partnership in 2016-17. This accompanies the presentation that will be given at Local Committee by the Runnymede police team.

In particular, this report will look at work currently being carried out around the issues of burglary, violent crime, anti-social behaviour and traveller incursions, all of which are of particular interest to members.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Runnymede) asked to note**

- (i) The work of the Community Safety Partnership, Safer Runnymede

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Surrey County Council is a statutory member of the community safety partnership, known as the Safer Runnymede Partnership. The Council values partnership working that makes a positive contribution to local projects, and activities that will create a safer community for Runnymede residents.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The Safer Runnymede Partnership is the community safety partnership (CSP) in Runnymede. CSPs were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which established the principle that tackling crime should be a partnership matter and not solely the responsibility of the Police. The agencies represented on the CSP are required to work in partnership with a range of other local public, private, community and voluntary groups, and with the community itself. This approach recognises that opportunities to address the causes of crime and disorder and pursue the interventions required to deliver safe and secure communities, lie with a range of organisations, groups and individuals working in partnership.

- 1.2 The County Council has delegated £3,000 in 2017-18 to the Local Committee to support local community safety activities. The process for allocating this was agreed at the last committee (3 July 2017) and updates on the projects to which this will be allocated will be brought to a future committee.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Surrey County Council is a statutory member of the Safer Runnymede Partnership and supports the strategic aims and objectives of the Partnership.
- 2.2 In 2016-17, the Safer Runnymede Partnership continued to focus on: addressing problems caused by identifiable individuals; addressing problems which occurred at identified locations, support for projects and diversionary activities, and support for new partnership approaches.

### **2.3 Partnership activities:**

#### Prevention of terrorism and extremism

The Partnership engages in the Government 'Prevent Strategy' developed to stop individuals becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Across Surrey, the Community Safety Unit, on behalf of Surrey County Council, coordinates the Prevent Strategy. Prevent was a CSP priority for 2016/17 where a local strategy, action plan and quarterly update are monitored at the CSP meetings.

In 2016/17 the Police Prevent Team stated that there were no significant community tensions reported in the borough. Engagement with communities has continued in order to provide reassurance and to encourage any hate crime incidents and related community tensions to be reported.

Individuals who are identified as vulnerable to being drawn into extremist or terror related activity are referred to a multi-agency 'Channel Panel' chaired by Surrey County Council. There was one referral to the panel during 2016-17 which was assessed by the Police Prevent Team.

#### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The CSP highlighted Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as one of the key priorities for 2016/17. Surrey County Council's Children's Safeguarding Board is the lead agency for CSE across the Boroughs. The role of the CSP is to offer a multi-agency response and support the Missing and Exploited Children's Conference (MAECC) /Oversight Group in training professionals, tackling and preventing CSE within Runnymede. CSE will be considered at the Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings (CHaRMM) formally known as Community Incident Action Group (CIAGs)) and Joint Action Group (JAG) agendas discussing areas, or people of concern.

#### Domestic Violence and Abuse

Domestic Abuse was highlighted as a priority for 2016/17 focusing on increasing awareness of domestic abuse and support services available to victims along with mitigating further risk of harm to victims and families.

Police issued 42 Domestic Violence Protection Notices in Runnymede (DVPN) to perpetrators of domestic abuse, to provide instant protection to victims in the aftermath of a domestic abuse incident. A magistrate granted 41 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) where the order will immediately ban the perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. This period of time allows the victim the opportunity to consider their options and get the support they need.

Domestic Awareness Week took place in October 2016, and was a county-wide event. Domestic Abuse campaign leaflets were printed and personalised love heart sweets were distributed to residents and colleagues. An awareness table was hosted by yourSanctuary at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey where approx. 400 domestic abuse leaflets and pens were given to patients, visitors and NHS staff.

### **Serious organised crime (SOC)**

Surrey Police and the CSP work in partnership to address Serious Organised Crime (SOC) within the borough. A number of intelligence gaps were identified and it was agreed by working in partnership an understanding of the threat posed to the public by SOC groups within our communities would develop. Organised Crime Groups (OCG) included crimes relating to drugs, human trafficking, firearms, modern slavery, internet crime, fraud and counterfeit goods

### Other activities.

The Junior Citizen Scheme gives young children the skills to deal with a wide range of emergency situations. It can also help children contribute to their community through good citizenship. It is delivered by Runnymede Borough Council, supported by colleagues in the emergency services and external partners. This year, 780 year 6 pupils from 17 Runnymede schools took part at the event in November.

Community Safety also supported Alcohol Awareness Week in November 2016. To increase awareness, the 'Don't Bottle It Up' alcohol scratch cards had been placed on desks in the Civic Offices. The scratch card asks three simple questions and directs those drinking at risky levels to take the full alcohol test online. Information for residents was also publicised on the Runnymede webpage.

## **2.4 Crime trends in 2016-17**

### Surrey wide picture

Increase in total of acquisitive crimes +5.7%

Acquisitive crimes are offences where the offender derives material gain from the crime e.g. shoplifting, theft, burglary, robbery.

## ITEM 12

Growth in Domestic Burglary +22.6%

Domestic burglaries are those where people's homes are targeted as opposed to commercial premises or other premises. The statistic for Surrey compares with 16.4% in Thames Valley and 17.9% in Kingston upon Thames.

Violence against the person + 22.6%

These are offences involving direct physical harm and include: fatal injuries (including murder), sexual offences, injury and assault. With regards to sexual assault, there was an increase of 3% last year however, Surrey has the fewest offences per 1,000 of the population than any other county.

### Runnymede picture

The data offered here is based on Total Notifiable Offences. These are those offences that the police service must report to the Home Office. These generally include:

- violence, damage, firearms, public order
- dishonesty, obscenity, drugs and sexual offences
- data protection
- the more serious road traffic offences

Out of the 11 Surrey boroughs, Runnymede is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for total notifiable offences and is the lowest of the three northern boroughs.

Offence	Runnymede	Runnymede Share across N Div
Burglary	300.0	34%
Criminal Damage	161.8	31%
Drugs	130.4	31%
Violence with injury	128.8	31%
Vehicle crime (-interference)	116.1	28%
TNO	143.2	31%

### **Current issues within Runnymede:**

#### Domestic burglary

Combatting domestic burglary is the borough team's principal crime objective. Runnymede has seen the biggest increase in burglaries of any northern Surrey borough.

Burglary has increased from 81, to the end of August 2016, to 243 incidents for to the end of August 2017, although some are accounted for by a change of counting rules which now include thefts from stand-alone sheds and garages.

Anti – social behaviour (ASB)

Runnymede continues to have the lowest levels of ASB reported to police of the three northern boroughs but there is an increase on last year.

To the end of August 2017, the police received 200 more reported incidents of ASB when compared to last year's total (25%).

Neighbourhood		FYtD 2017-18	FYtD 2016-17	FYtD Change
Egham Town	RUET	93	87	107%
Englefield Green	RUEG	92	79	116%
New Haw & Woodham	RUNH	94	80	118%
Thorpe & Hythe	RUTH	161	135	119%
Row Town, Ottershaw & Foxhills	RURT	111	93	119%
Chertsey Meads & St Annes	RUCM	186	153	122%
Virginia Water	RUVW	45	33	136%
Addlestone North & Bourneside	RUAN	56	41	137%
Addlestone Town	RUAT	148	85	174%
Borough total	Runnymede	986	786	125%

The highest volume ASB type on every ward in Runnymede is “Rowdy and Inconsiderate behaviour”. The most frequent flag for this is “youth related” except for Addlestone North & Bourneside and Virginia Water where it is “alcohol related.”

Overall the figure to end of August 2017 is 29% higher on this time last year. The highest rate of increase in ASB is Addlestone Town and the two lowest are Englefield Green and Egham Town

### Traveller Incursions

There have been a number of incursions recently across Surrey and all three Northern Boroughs have been affected. Runnymede SNT's position follows national police guidance:

1. Trespass on land by itself is not a criminal offence.
2. The police should not use blanket policies of eviction and that the police powers should only be used in more serious cases especially those cases involving anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.
3. Each case will be looked at on its merits, having regard to the safety of the community and taking into consideration any aggravating factors of crime or disorder.
4. If the travellers are causing problems they will be moved on as soon as is reasonable after police have made necessary enquiries including: the Travellers' general health, their welfare and children's education

In March, there was an incursion into the old post office premises on Hawthorne Road, The Causeway, Staines. This was resolved by a High Court Writ upon receipt of which, the Travellers left.

With regards to the Incursion on Adas Farm, police have supported the Council on three occasions when council officials went on site and as result unapproved development and occupation there has ceased. There have been sporadic incursions on the green spaces across the Borough, most recently: Silesians School Chertsey, Abbeyfields Chertsey, Thorpe Green and on the grounds of the Salesian School. Council legal officials met with ACC Kemp, Ch. Insp Barnett and the PCC who supported the current proportionate police response.

Some but not all of the incursions are by the Travellers displaced from Hardwick Lane/Adas Farm who want to show that they have no alternative places to go and therefore should be allowed back onto the land they have purchased. These Travellers state that they are from the Hardwick Lane/Ada's farm site where they have left due to the High Court deadline to quit of 4pm on 24th June 2017 (as set out in the Court Order of 16th June 2017). These Travellers are very careful to tidy up and not cause an issue. Unfortunately, other Travellers are not so considerate.

On Thursday 27th July 2017, the Council obtained an Injunction in the High Court banning a group of named individuals and persons unknown from establishing unauthorised encampments on a number of open space sites in the borough. The effect of the injunction is that the people named in it are prohibited from establishing encampments on a series of 112 named sites. If they do not comply with it they can be held to be in contempt of court and face a fine or a term of imprisonment.

We are liaising with Runnymede's Community Services Manager for Green Space to identify possible sites vulnerable to incursion.

### **3. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 3.1 In 2016/17 £3,000 funding was allocated to the CSP from the Local Committee. This will be used as a contribution towards a mobile CCTV Camera. A sum of £2,333 which was drawn from other funding secured in 2016/17, will also be put towards this.
- 3.2 In 2017/18 £3,000 funding was delegated to the local committee for community safety projects. Updates on the projects funded will be provided to the committee at future meetings.
- 3.3 The CSP was also able to secure £5,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office to provide handbooks for all participants of the Junior Citizen scheme (mentioned in 2.3 'other activities')

### **4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 4.1 The CSP works closely with all partners to ensure that all initiatives benefit all members of the community.

### **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 5.1 The Local Committee is asked to note the work of the Community Safety Partnership

### **6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 6.1 The Local Committee will be updated on initiatives as appropriate throughout the year and will receive an annual update next autumn.

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#### **Consulted: Safer Runnymede Team**

**Annexes:** Annex 1: Runnymede Borough Council: Community Safety & Safer Runnymede annual report 2016-2017

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