

Meeting: EXECUTIVE

Agenda Item:

6

Portfolio Area: Communities & Equalities

Date: 14 DECEMBER 2016

COMMUNITY SAFETY DATA TRENDS – POLICE RESOURCING

NON-KEY DECISION

Author	Sarah Pateman	Ext.No.2458
Contributor	Aidan Sanderson	Ext.No.2311
Lead Officer	Matt Partridge	Ext.No.2456
Contact Officer	Sarah Pateman	Ext.No.2458

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To provide an update concerning current community safety data trends and police resources within Stevenage.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the community safety data trends identified in this report and action being taken to seek to address key concerns be noted.

2.2 That a further, year-end report be received outlining the work that the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) has undertaken to seek to reduce crime in Stevenage in July 2017.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Community safety data trends within the Borough have been discussed by the Executive and RAG on a number of previous occasions as detailed below:

October 2015	Request from RAG to analyse crime trends.
January 2016	Data considered by RAG.
February 2016	Report considered by the Executive; Detailed analysis of current crime data.
May 2016	Five year data trend analysis of community safety data reported to RAG.
July 2016	Five year data trend analysis of community safety data reported to the Executive.
October 2016	Presentation to RAG from CI Perks detailing crime trends.

- 3.2 Following the request from RAG for community safety officers to commission a report to analyse crime data trends over the last five years, Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) have been involved in discussions with Hertfordshire Constabulary to determine if the Borough has adequate police resources when compared with its most similar groups and other districts in Hertfordshire.
- 3.3 The matter of Police resourcing in Stevenage has previously been raised noting that crime levels are affected by local infrastructure.
- 3.4 Following the Executive meeting in July 2016, the Chair of RAG requested that the police present a report outlining crime types and police resourcing. This presentation was delivered to RAG on 17 October 2016 by Chief Inspector Perks and provided not only an insight into the Forces Control Strategy, but also compared Stevenage with its most similar groups (MSG)¹. In addition, it was agreed that RAG would analyse one crime type in detail at each future meeting, starting with the highest risk crime types identified through the five year analysis and the Annual Strategic Assessment 2016/17.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 Upward trending crimes

4.1.1 The presentation given to RAG by CI Perks provided detailed analysis and local context on a range of crime types (see Appendix A for full data). The data presented highlighted the following as upward trending crime areas, each of which are analysed further below:

- Criminal damage
- Violence against the person
- Motor vehicle crime
- Shoplifting
- Public order
- Harassment

4.1.2 These crime types are analysed below with reference to data provided during the CI's presentation.

4.2 Criminal Damage

4.2.1 Criminal damage remains one of the three community safety Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that are monitored as part of the Council's corporate performance framework. Whilst the new crime recording standards have been partly responsible for increases in recorded criminal damage incidents across the county, Stevenage remains tenth (worst performing) in the county

¹ Most similar groups include areas which share similarities of geography, demography, population and areas of affluence or deprivation. The groups are made up of different areas according to the risk factors associated with each crime type.

for this crime type (see figure 1a). When compared to its most similar groups (MSG), Stevenage also stands above the MSG average for criminal damage (see figure 1b).

Figure 1a – Criminal Damage Herts comparison per 1000 population (Sep 15 – Aug 16)

Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	3 Rivers	Watford	Wel/Hat
8.418	9.065	5.825	7.486	6.788	6.255	11.68	5.727	8.703	8.276

Figure 1b – Criminal Damage MSG comparison per 1000 population (Sep 15 – Aug 16)

CSP	Crimes / 1000 Pop
West Midlands - Coventry	8.576
Bedfordshire - Luton	8.928
Derbyshire - Derby	9.420
Sussex - Crawley	9.579
Essex - Thurrock	9.747
Devon & Cornwall - Plymouth	10.361
West Yorkshire - Kirklees	10.389
Thames Valley - Slough	10.485
Kent - Medway	10.655
Essex - Harlow	10.855
Essex - Basildon	11.540
Hertfordshire - Stevenage	11.680
Greater Manchester - Bolton	11.750
Northamptonshire - Northampton	12.586
Greater Manchester - Oldham	13.123
MSG Average	10.645

4.2.2 Criminal damage in Stevenage is often linked to youth and alcohol related ASB in 'hot spot' areas. The current hot spot areas for criminal damage are Broadwater (current primary hotspot for youth ASB), Bedwell Town Centre and the Old Town (current primary hotspots for alcohol related ASB). Repeat criminal damage perpetrators are often responsible for these offences.

4.2.3 C.I. Perks stated during her presentation to RAG that the Stevenage Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) regularly reviews criminal damage trends and determines interventions accordingly. The CSP also have a number of operations targeted at ASB and criminal damage, such as Operation Sabre and enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which should contribute towards preventing criminal damage.

4.3 Violence against the person

4.3.1 Violent crime is another KPI that is monitored by the Council each quarter. This crime type is currently indicated red because we've seen increases in violent crime compared to last year. As can be seen in figure 2a, Stevenage continues to perform badly in the county rankings for violent crime. When compared with the MSG, Stevenage also remains above the MSG average for violent crime (see figure 2b).

4.3.2 During the presentation to RAG, C.I. Perks explained that violent crime is not restricted to one particular area in Stevenage and increases have been evident across all districts in Hertfordshire, which is in some part due to the knock on effect on changes in police recording procedures. A detailed presentation was also given to the Joint Action Group (JAG) by the Hertfordshire Constabulary in November 2016, which indicated that the violent crime figures reflect increases in common assault without injury and threats. It was also evident that mental health, drugs and alcohol are common contributing factors to violent crime in Stevenage.

Figure 2a - Violence against the Person Herts comparison per 1000 population (Sep 15–Aug 16)

Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	3 Rivers	Watford	Wel/Hat
17.679	13.961	11.733	14.787	12.073	12.387	23.465	10.09	21.037	16.695

Figure 2b – Violence against the Person MSG comparison per 1000 population (Sep 15–Aug 16)

CSP	Crimes / 1000 Pop
West Midlands - Coventry	15.047
Derbyshire - Derby	19.245
Essex - Thurrock	19.693
West Yorkshire - Kirklees	19.743
Essex - Basildon	20.669
Greater Manchester - Bolton	20.929
Thames Valley - Slough	21.333
Greater Manchester - Oldham	21.337
Bedfordshire - Luton	21.634
Essex - Harlow	22.600
Devon & Cornwall - Plymouth	22.877
Hertfordshire - Stevenage	23.465
Sussex - Crawley	24.886
Kent - Medway	25.574
Northamptonshire - Northampton	27.699
MSG Average	21.782

4.3.3 Unlike some other CSPs in Hertfordshire, Stevenage has a night time economy, a train station, a hospital and a Magistrates Court which can be hot spot areas for violent crime. It was agreed by RAG in May that any significant spikes in violent crime will be escalated to the chair of RAG to ensure that appropriate action is considered and taken.

4.4 Motor Vehicle Crime

4.4.1 Motor vehicle crime was identified during the CI's presentation as an increasing concern for Stevenage Police. Vehicle crime and acquisitive crime more generally have in the past remained relatively low in Stevenage. The Borough continues to record low levels of vehicle crime when compared to the rest of the county (see figure 3a). When compared with its MSG, Stevenage also remains well below the MSG average, ranking second out of the fifteen areas of comparison.

Figure 3a – Motor Vehicle Crime Herts comparison per 1000 population (Sep 15 – Aug 16)

Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	3 Rivers	Watford	Wel/Hat
6.558	6.316	3.78	6.971	3.516	5.295	4.626	4.778	7.012	5.008

Figure 3b – Motor Vehicle Crime MSG comparison per 1000 population (Sep 15 – Aug 16)

CSP	Crimes / 1000 Pop
Devon & Cornwall - Plymouth	4.317
Hertfordshire - Stevenage	4.626
Sussex - Crawley	5.196
West Midlands - Coventry	7.765
Kent - Medway	7.917
West Yorkshire - Kirklees	8.118
Derbyshire - Derby	8.142
Essex - Harlow	8.302
Greater Manchester - Bolton	8.710
Northamptonshire - Northampton	8.819
Greater Manchester - Oldham	9.267
Thames Valley - Slough	9.469
Bedfordshire - Luton	9.590
Essex - Thurrock	10.110
Essex - Basildon	11.176
MSG Average	8.102

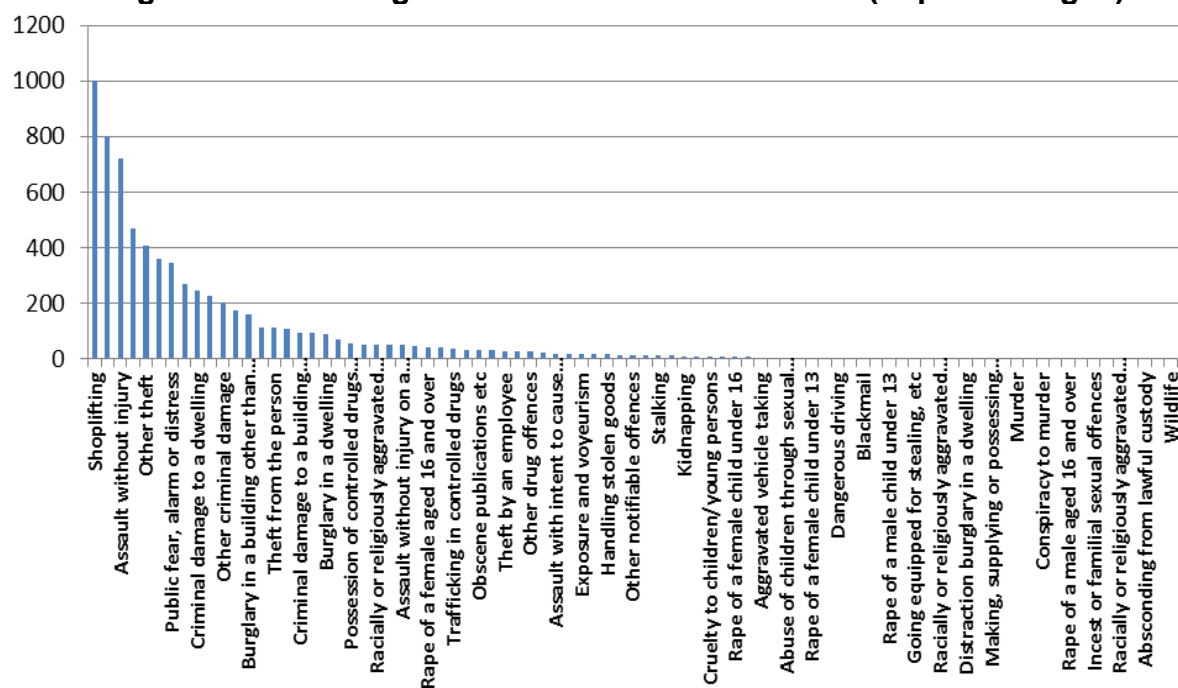
4.4.2 Whilst these figures remain relatively low, police data indicates that Stevenage has seen the biggest rise in this crime type in the county since last year, with an increase of 35.4% (+64 crimes). During September and October this year, Stevenage evidenced a collective increase of over 100% when compared with last year. Particular hotspots during this period were Bedwell, Martins Wood, St. Nicholas and Pin Green.

4.4.3 Stevenage SNT has linked these offences to a number of repeat offenders and has made a number of arrests as a result. Motor vehicle crimes are discussed regularly through JAG and the police have carried out a number of high visibility patrols and awareness raising activities for residents, such as Silver Street Meets, in response to these issues. Police are using reports received to direct work and identify key hotspots.

4.5 Shoplifting

4.5.1 As can be seen in figure 4 below, shoplifting has been the most common crime in Stevenage over the last year with around 1000 reported incidents. Again, local Police have linked these incidents to a number of repeat offenders. The detection rate for this crime type is good which is attributable to efficient reactive police work and strong links with shop security.

Figure 4 – Stevenage count of recorded incidents (Sep 15 – Aug16)



4.5.2 Whilst specific data for shoplifting is not currently commissioned and reported to RAG, shoplifting has been identified by Stevenage SNT as a high priority. Police will continue to respond to these crimes and gather intelligence to link repeat perpetrators.

4.5.3 At the most recent Police Priority Meeting for Stevenage South, police agreed a priority for acquisitive crime over the next quarter, with a key focus on shoplifting in the Roaring Meg and Roebuck retail areas to combat increasing levels of shoplifting in the area.

4.6 Public Order

4.6.1 RAG does not currently receive any specific data relating to public order offences. However, community safety officers are able to commission data requests for public order offences from the County Community Safety Unit (CCSU) if required.

4.6.2 A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was recently implemented in Stevenage to tackle some of these behaviours, specifically in relation to street drinking, begging, urinating and defecating in public. Officers have coordinated and attended two multi-agency events since the Order came into force in August 2016. The PSPO will be officially reviewed by RAG in January 2017. An evaluation report following the first six months of the order being in place and will also be considered by the Joint Action Group (JAG).

4.6.3 Police continue to carry out high visibility patrols and work in partnership with SBC officers to increase presence in areas that have high volumes of crime and ASB reports.

4.6.4 Use of Community Protection Notices (CPN), one of the new ASB tools and powers, has helped to tackle ASB and low level crime in Stevenage. Stevenage's ASB team and the police have a joint procedure for reviewing the evidence, drawing up the warnings and notices. The ASB team have attended court in respect breaches of CPNs and have been successful in all of the cases that have been heard in the Magistrates' Court to date.

4.7 Harassment

4.7.1 RAG does not currently receive data relating to harassment as this data is very specific. Following the identification of harassment as a priority area for the police, SBC Community Safety team will request specific data for harassment from the County Community Safety Unit (CCSU) to be reported to RAG on a quarterly basis.

4.8 All crime statistics

4.8.1 CI Perks' presentation to RAG in October 2016 outlined Stevenage's current crime statistics. Key points of note were as follows:

- **Burglary dwelling** has seen a slight increase since July this year when compared with last year, which is a pattern evident across the county over recent months. Despite this increase, Stevenage remains the best performing CSP for burglary dwelling in Hertfordshire and against its MSG.
- **Criminal damage** has seen increases of around 20% since April this year when compared to the same period last year, making Stevenage second highest in Hertfordshire.
- **Theft from person** has decreased by 28% since April when compared to the same period last year. Bedwell remains a hot spot for this crime type.
- **ASB** has seen an increase of 25% since last year. This is largely due to significant increases in environmental ASB, which is a pattern evident across all Hertfordshire districts. Roebuck has seen the largest increase in the Roebuck area. Work is ongoing with youths in the area.
- **Domestic abuse (DA)** has seen another yearly increase in 2016. Stevenage has the second highest recorded value of DA cases in Hertfordshire; however, also has one the highest detection and outcome rates in Hertfordshire.
- **Crimes involving a knife** have seen a gradual increase since 1 January 2015.
- **Stop and search** statistics are one of the lowest in Hertfordshire, but with one of the highest arrest rates for weapons and drugs.

4.8.2 Stevenage has a total of 3.1 crimes reported per 1000 households suggesting a 15.4% rise in crime reported compared to the previous 18 month period.

4.8.3 RAG has agreed to further analyse the most problematic crime types in order to understand the various risk factors and possible solutions; violence against the person is now in focus.

4.8.4 Going forwards, it is suggested that RAG, provide a quarterly report that discusses statistical data such as:

- Month on month incidents/crime
- Repeat victims
- Repeat perpetrators
- The day and time that incident most frequently took place
- Location of the incident
- Detection rate

4.8.5 Although crime patterns and trends will not necessarily provide all of the answers, they do give an insight into particular issues which, together with partners, RAG may be able to help tackle. Actions could include 'designing out crime' initiatives, targeting hotspots, targeting individuals, signposting persons and further joined up working.

4.8.6 As well as a quarterly statistical report it would also be beneficial to produce a log tracking which crime type will be focused on at each RAG meeting. The tracker is a working document that partners will update prior to attending RAG meetings and discuss at the meeting in conjunction with the main data report.

4.9 Police Resourcing in Stevenage

4.9.1 In terms of the policing profile for Stevenage, six additional PCSOs have been allocated to the Stevenage Safer Neighbourhood Team. Three joined the team week commencing 14 November 2016 and three more will join the team in December 2016. The Lister hospital is to have a second PCSO on site on a full time basis rather than relying on a resource from another area of the town.

4.9.2 Going forward RAG will have a more in depth understanding of how policing is resourced in Stevenage. The receipt of updates and the sharing of comparable data from across Hertfordshire and the Country will enable the partnership to have discussions with the police concerning any urgent resourcing issues in the future.

4.9.3 RAG will be kept up to date on future plans in respect of police resourcing.

4.10 Community Safety Funding

4.10.1 From April 2017, the CSP will no longer receive PCC grant funding of £19,900. Instead, the existing pre-allocated grant process is being replaced with a bidding process with funding to be given to CSPs based on local and shared community safety priorities and the extent to which they link with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

4.10.2 Stevenage submitted a community safety funding bid to the PCC in November with a focus on youth and early intervention which reflected the priorities identified at a partnership meeting held in October. The individual bids are summarised in table below.

Bid	Aims	Period	Joint District bid
Youth Co-ordinator	To evaluate and develop youth provision and promote effective partnership working between local youth services.	3 years	Welwyn Hatfield
Community Youth Champions	To deliver learning and understanding on issues to the younger community.	2 years	East Herts, Welwyn Hatfield, Hertsmere
Youth Interventions	To convey important safety messages to young people on a variety of issues and improve decision making and safety awareness in young people.	3 years	Welwyn Hatfield
Community Reassurance	To offer reassurance to the public on a range of community safety issues and raise awareness of local support services.	3 years	Welwyn Hatfield
No More Service	To recruit an additional support worker to offer additional support to drug and alcohol users using the service.	3 years	-

4.10.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has confirmed that the consultation has commenced for the launch of the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan. This change reflects the new emphasis on improving the service to victims and specifically urges better outcomes for victims of crime. Like previous plans, it is called Everybody's Business, because at its heart is a conviction in keeping Hertfordshire safe.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 Community Safety in Stevenage is currently supported through the following funding sources:

- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) community safety grant (£19,900pa).

- The Council funds three additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) under a SLA with Herts Constabulary, who match fund a further three PCSOs (£85,000pa provided by the Council)
- ASB enforcement is undertaken by the Council's ASB team (4 full time staff and related ongoing costs)
- The Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund (ASB team)
- The New Homes Bonus Scheme (No More Service & Domestic Abuse Service)
- Herts County Council (Families First, Family Intervention)

5.1.2 From April 2017, the CSP will no longer receive PCC grant funding of £19,900. Instead, the existing pre-allocated grant process is being replaced with a bidding process with funding to be given to CSPs based on local and shared community safety priorities and the extent to which they link with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

5.2 Legal Implications

5.2.1 It is a statutory requirement for public sector organisations or Responsible Authorities, which includes local authorities, to work in partnership to tackle crime, drugs and ASB.

5.2.2 Stevenage CSP are working closely with Welwyn & Hatfield, Hertsmere and East Herts to bid for funding following local partnership feedback at an event held on 27 October 2016.

5.3 Equalities and Diversity Implication

5.3.1 There are no new equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

5.4 Risk Implications

5.4.1 Previously, Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour have relied on internal funding to run some of the services we provide. A reduction in funding could hinder future work and our ability to target resources appropriately and effectively.

5.5 Community Safety Implications

5.5.1 The recommended approach will allow the Community Safety Partnership to have a better understanding of local issues and to consider any further action that could be taken to address matters that are identified.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

BD1 - Report to Executive - Community Safety Data Trends (12 July 2016)

<http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/content/committees/160923/160931/160995/Executive-12-July-2016-Item8.pdf>

BD 2 - Report to Executive - Crime Reporting and Performance (16 February 2016)
<http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/content/committees/139616/139705/139725/157656>

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Presentation to RAG by Chief Inspector Perks (17 October 2016)