

Meeting COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE
Portfolio Area Safer Communities and Equalities
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THE SOSAFE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2018/19 AND EMERGING PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20

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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To outline the performance to date against the 2018/19 SoSafe Community Safety Action Plan and the emerging priorities for the 2019/20 plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Select Committee consider the performance to date and note the outcomes measured against the 2018/19 SoSafe Community Safety Action and the suggested priorities for the 2019/20 Action Plan.

3 BACKGROUND

The agreed priority themes for 2018/19 were as follows:

- Helping People Feel Safe
- Reduce Crime and Disorder including Criminal Damage
- Protect and Safeguard Vulnerable People including victims of Domestic Abuse
- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) co-operatively with partners
- Break the cycle of substance misuse and offending

Annual Strategic Assessment (2018/2019)

The Annual Strategic Assessment (2019) is due to be presented at the Responsible Authorities Group on 15 April 2018. Analysts from the Police met with Sarah Pateman, Community Safety Manager and Chief Inspector Alicia Shaw to review the risk matrix and comment on the severity of each crime type.

Below is a summary of the change in crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) figures for 2018/19 compared to 2017/18:

Stevenage Crime/ASB Figures 2017-18 (12 month period)

- All ASB - down 24%
- All Crime - up 43%
- Domestic Abuse - (Crime) up 1.2% (Non Crime) down 8.5%
- Robbery - up 5.8%
- Violence against the person - up 9.4%
- Theft from a person - up 16.9%, Theft Other - down 13.5%
- Criminal Damage - down 7.3%

PRIORITY THEME 1: ASB

3.1.2 The agreed actions and objectives for ASB against the 2018/19 SoSafe Action Plan included:

- **Tackle perception of ASB by giving the public the facts, evidence and statistical information**

The SoSafe partners have been meeting with members of the community at a number of events including Stevenage Day, Pop up Hubs at the Tower Blocks, PSPO walkabouts and Street Meets.

Working with members, local communities and other partners the team have been targeting known ASB 'hotspots' and focused intervention activity in these areas; in particular, the area around The Oval and earlier in the year The Town Centre.

The table below show some of the different ways the service has engaged with the Community:

Street meets up until 28 February 2019	12
Priority Setting Meetings 2018/19	4
Pop up Hubs – Tower Blocks (continuing into 2019/20)	1
Stevenage Day	We consulted with over 200 people
PSPO and partnership events	10
Meeting with residents regarding Car Cruising	1

- **Focus on targeted diversionary activities**

The Community Safety Ambassadors attended North Herts to talk to the students about positive relationships and met with 11-14 year olds at a separate event to discuss keeping their bank accounts safe.

- **Actively promote and support Neighbourhood Watch and Owl messaging.**

The co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch attends the Joint Action Group and their lead volunteer supports the partnership at events.

In 2017/18 there was an increase of 1891 addresses on OWL. There have been 497 signups during 2018/19 up until the end of February 2019. There has been a clean-up and removal of addresses without valid contact details so there is an overall decrease compared to 2017/18.

3.1.3 Reduce Environmental ASB and make public areas in Stevenage safer.

Herts Fire & Rescue have completed **40** arson audits and reassurance events including proactive targeting of high call areas by volunteer arson patrols. There have been **14 Arson Patrols in the patrols in the past twelve months.**

Environmental Enforcement is now part of the Community Safety function. **Since the implementation of the function into the service in May 2018 we have dealt with 1,102 reports and taken the following enforcement action.** The Shared Internal Audit Service has completed an audit of the ASB and Environmental Enforcement functions, by introducing patch working officers have a designated patch for both functions.

Served Community Protection Notice Warnings	31
Removed and Crushed a vehicle	24
Served a Fixed Penalty Notice	17
Sold our service to another organisation	1
Taken action against their tenancy	21

PRIORITY THEME 2: Safeguarding, Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse

3.1.4 The agreed actions and objectives for Safeguarding included:

- **Develop a training plan to deliver safeguarding awareness sessions for CSP partners and SBC staff to raise awareness of people at risk of abuse and neglect, including publicising of training delivered by HSCB.**

We have introduced e-learning for safeguarding, domestic abuse and modern slavery. Below are the figures from the e-learning module and other training carried for the CSP:

Safeguarding e-learning	101
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Domestic Abuse e-learning	49
Modern Slavery e-learning	508
Safeguarding DSP	41
Modern Slavery - Front Line Officer	141
SADA Domestic abuse champions training	73

- **Identify opportunities to raise awareness of safeguarding issues, including identifying the signs and reporting pathways.**

The team are working co-operatively with the County Community Safety Unit to increase the number of third party reporting centres in Stevenage. The Community Safety Youth Ambassadors have attended training and are working with North Herts College to establish this as a third party reporting centre.

- **Co-ordinate a specialised partnership event to raise awareness of the various forms of hate crime and professional services available to victims.**

The partnership hosted a Hate Crime conference in September 2017 for professionals. The conference was well attended by partner agencies with 58 delegates.

PRIORITY THEME 3: Modern Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

3.1.5 The agreed actions and objectives for Modern Slavery included:

- **Increase awareness of Modern Slavery and CSE concerns**
Produce

Following the signing of the Modern Slavery Charter we have implemented a Modern Slavery/CSE Action Plan and a service for those who are or have been victims of modern slavery. We hosted a Modern Slavery Conference in February targeted at professionals, local business and hotels.

In regard to CSE we have had one Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting (MARM) which has been closed.

- **Improve communications and support for victims of Modern Slavery and CSE.**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) awareness packs were sent out to all local hotels and a CSE/Modern slavery partnership action plan has been produced. An event led by the police was held in May 2018.

PRIORITY THEME 4: Alcohol and Drug Related Crime and Disorder

3.1.6 The agreed actions and objectives for Alcohol Related Crime and disorder included:

- **Review crime and incident data linked to specific crimes**
Messages to venues showing the world cup in the summer were given out via Pubwatch, which were helpful and led to a generally peaceful World Cup with low levels of ASB and crime reported across Stevenage

OPStarboard has been introduced to ensure we have a co-ordinated approach to dealing with knife crime in Stevenage. We held an Extraordinary RAG in October and introduced a Knife Crime Action Plan and a steering group made up of professionals with an expertise in youth nuisance and behaviour.

- **Support ASB perpetrators with drug/alcohol misuse.**
The No More Service is working closely with Housing Options and secured £15,000 to run a pilot with a focus on one to one support for individuals that “present” at the council with drug, alcohol or have a background of offending. **Since the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) legislation we have received 6 referrals for Housing through the Adult Offender Protocol pathway. In comparison during 2017-18 we received 6 referrals.**

There have been a number of police operations and targeted interventions around drug misuse following co-operative working with partners and residents.

Stevenage individuals are discussed during the closed session at Joint Action Group meetings (JAG) at which stage partners will discuss any opportunities for intervention activity.

- **Reduce street begging and associated ASB in “hot spot” areas**
The team and the police were partners and runners-up in the Mick Fogarty Problem Solving Awards in June 2018, which highlighted the partnership approach to tackling street begging in the town. The work continues around this issue with the introduction of Operation Urban which will target the street homeless. Community Safety Officers and the Police will complete “Twilight” walks to talk to those sleeping rough. At the last Homelessness count there were 11 individuals. The police have completed a mapping exercise with details of any ASB/crime and we have supplied details on whether they have presented at the council and whether they have a Housing Plan.
- **Identify and disrupt perpetrators**
Representatives of the Community Safety Team attend meeting to discuss high risk offenders and their management. Currently the team support **33 high risk offenders**, management of the offenders include, drug and or alcohol testing, home visits management of the behaviour contracts and Team around the client meetings with partners including the Public Protection Unit and Probation.

PRIORITY THEME 5: Knife Crime

3.1.7 The agreed actions and objectives for Knife Crime included:

- **Participate in partnership educational campaign with young people to highlight the dangers of carrying a knife.**
The police Operation Edge initiative showcases films from six Stevenage Schools made by the student. Questionnaires have also been given out to the schools

and we are waiting for the data. This will give the CSP a better understanding of the use of knives in the town.

Herts Fire and Rescue have introduced “choose a different ending” within their Life Project. During the last six months 12 individuals have completed the course in Stevenage.

- **Improve SoSafe Communications**

Through Operation Starboard and RAG a decision was made that we need a co-ordinated approach to our communication with the community. A joint Communication Plan is being drafted between the police and ourselves.

PRIORITY THEME 6: Scams and Fraud

3.1.8 The agreed actions and objectives for Scams and Fraud included:

- **Develop local intelligence relating to scams and target intervention accordingly**

A Test Purchasing operation ran in September 2018. The operation targets underage sales and possible Child Sexual Exploitation.

The partnership arrange and attend multi-agency targeted operations throughout the year based on local intelligence We attend Multiple Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings, Police Prolific Persistent Offender (PPO) meetings and Multiple Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) on a regular basis.

Trading Standards have a “most vulnerable” which they share a the Joint Action Group (JAG)

- **Develop intelligence of vulnerable individuals and target intervention through a multi-agency approach.**

Vulnerable individuals who are highlighted through the CSP and internally are discussed at the Multiple Needs Working Group, SADA Panel meeting and various professional meetings

The team and partners take part in the Wellbeing Days with Housing and supported tenants who were affected or highlighted as vulnerable during the recent issue with bed bugs.

REVIEW FINDINGS

4 Review of 2018/19 Action Plan

4.1.1 The 2018/19 Community Safety Action Plan had a total of 53 expected outcomes. Out of those outcomes, 51 have been completed with further evidence added to the Action Plan. There are two outstanding actions, one around youth intervention and other was having a representative from Children’s Services attend JAG. Although they are not attending JAG they are regularly attending RAG.

4.1.2 The SoSafe Community Safety Partnership continues to work collaboratively towards shared goals to prevent and reduce crime and ASB in Stevenage. The partnership continues to operate in an unknown future with a difficult financial environment, there is recognition that a number of existing activities are having a positive impact but are reliant on time-limited funding.

4.1.3 There have been a focus on co-operative working with partners this year with partners of CSP committed to building on this progress, to continue making Stevenage a safer place for residents and visitors. Both RAG and JAG have developed strong working relationships through innovation and imagination. SoSafe partners are passionate about creating safer environments for our communities in Stevenage. The service has been working with members of the community by consulting with them at a number of events, drop-in and by delivering surveys to local residents. This enables the service to continually improve the services we deliver.

4.1.4 Moving forward SoSafe is committed to developing new strategies and using recognised best practice aimed at tackling crime and disorder and targeted approach to those crimes that are highlighted in the news around the country and that have also impacted on Stevenage. The partnership intends to develop further out partnership working will hard to reach and minority groups, and focusing on promoting the work of the partnership with the community to provide reassurance and promote the proactive work that the partnership are doing to improve community safety in Stevenage. There will also be further opportunities to work with local communities through the Co-operative Neighbourhood Management programme to drive improvements by working directly with local residents.

4.2 Action plan process 2019/20

4.2.1 Priorities for the forthcoming year are developed predominantly through the Annual Strategic Assessment. The assessment provides an overview of the risk associated with a variety of crime types, backed up by relevant data, and is provided to local authorities in Hertfordshire from the County Community Safety Unit (CCSU).

4.2.2 When planning for the forthcoming year, the partnership has also taken into account:

- Current and emerging issues
- Data from crime/ASB results for 2018/19
- A survey of SoSafe partners to ascertain priority areas
- Stevenage residents' survey
- The overarching aims of the SoSafe Community Safety Strategy 2018-21.

4.2.3 The partnership also has due regard to:

- Relevant county strategies (domestic abuse, violence crime, drugs and alcohol, hate crime, etc.)
- BeNCH CRC Reducing Reoffending Strategy
- Changes in legislation and Home Office guidance
- Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Police and Crime Plan and the "deep dive" in policing in Stevenage.

4.2.4 The action plan provides details about how the priorities are addressed by SoSafe. It records actions that are conducted through partnership working, which are documented through JAG and various other partnership meetings. The plan does not record the work of individual agencies in tackling priorities.

4.2.5 The action plan is updated quarterly by the Community Safety Team in collaboration with the lead officers for each action. It is a 'live' document and is assessed regularly by JAG in light of shifting priorities and emerging issues. RAG receives quarterly updates on progress against the plan.

4.2.6 Partners are encouraged to maintain a key focus on SMART¹ actions to ensure that the action plan can realistically be achieved within the time and resourcing boundaries available.

4.2.7 The action plan for 2018/19 is currently in the draft stage and scheduled for completion by April, when it will be signed and authorised by RAG.

5 Priorities for 2019/20

5.1 Following the production of the draft SoSafe Community Safety Strategy for 2018-2021 the 2019/20 action plan has been developed through our findings from JAG and a partnership meetings and consultation to finalise ideas and suggest actions to feed into the agreed priority themes. This will ensure that activities are SMART and outcomes are measurable and focused. Outcomes may refer to qualitative or quantitative data; or personal outcomes and achievements for agencies.

5.1.2 The partnership consultation commenced on the 4th March 2019; the action plan is being formulated and will be shared with partners at the next JAG meeting on the 26 March 2019 to be ratified by RAG on the 15 April 2019. The recommended priorities are:

- Knife Crime
- Homelessness
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children to include Modern Slavery and Domestic Abuse
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime
- Prevent including Hate Crime
- Serious and Organised Crime

¹ SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely

5.1.3 The finalised action plan will receive sign off at the April RAG meeting on the 15 April 2018 and will then been shared with relevant partners and officers.

6IMPLICATIONS

5.2 Financial Implications

5.2.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in Hertfordshire no longer receives allocated funds from the PCC's Office. The pre-allocated process was replaced with a bidding process whereby Hertfordshire CSPs are required to develop funding applications for initiatives or activities that the CSP intend to run in the coming year, which is then assessed against local priorities and the PCC's Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan.

5.2.2 The SoSafe partnership submitted two partnership bids based on our priorities including a youth knife crime project, a bid to raise awareness amongst parents regarding the challenges around drugs and alcohol, a bid to the police for a camera at the Oval to support the partnership working to tackle ASB and a further bid to The Action Fund for research project around fly tipping.

5.2.3 SoSafe will be actively researching and seeking new funding opportunities throughout 2019/20 to support implementation of the 20119/20 action plan. Members of the Community Safety Team attended Bid Writing Training.

5.3 Legal Implications

5.3.1 Production of the strategy is a legal requirement of the community safety partnership. The Crime and Disorder Act 1988 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 1996) requires the responsible authorities for an area to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and for the education of re-offending in the area.

5.4 Equalities and Diversity Implications

5.4.1 The council is committed to providing high quality services that are relevant to the needs and responsive to the views of all sections of the local community, irrespective of their race, gender, disability, culture, religion, age, sexual orientation or marital status. The General Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) requires the council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in the exercise of its functions.

5.4.2 There is recognition that crime and ASB can disproportionately impact upon those with protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act. The 2017 Hate Crime Conference and the Modern Slavery Conference in February 2019 hosted by the council highlighted the potential for this to happen at a local level. SoSafe will strive to involve the community in the design and delivery of the interventions which tackle crime and drive down disorder and anti-social behaviour. In light of the pending uncertainties in Europe the partnership

recognises the importance of building on our partnership working with groups around the town, including those from different faiths, BME groups and the traveller community, LGBT communities, women, girls and older people. It will be essential to ensure interventions meet specific needs for different parts of the community and are delivered in a meaningful and empowering way.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – 2018/19 Community Safety Action Plan