

**Community Select Committee meeting 31 March 2016 - briefing****Scrutiny of the SoSafe action plan 2015/16 and proposed action plan for 2016/17****Priority themes – 2015/16**

For the current year, priority themes were agreed as follows:

- domestic abuse (DA)
- reassurance / public engagement
- health and mental health
- children and young people.

**Domestic abuse (DA) - summary of activities and outcomes 2015/16**

The agreed actions and objectives for domestic abuse included:

1. Disrupting perpetrators through:
  - continuation of Herts Change perpetrator programme - 74% (14/19) of the cohort has completed the programme this year
  - Op Acorn to target high risk perpetrators – won national award and is being considered for wider roll out in Herts.
2. Monitoring the domestic homicide review (DHR) action plan. Partner actions were monitored, reviewed and discussed at Responsible Authority Group (RAG) meetings. Partners were challenged when necessary and issues arising from implementation of certain actions were referred to the newly formed county Domestic Abuse Executive Board. The action plan was signed off as complete by the RAG in January 2016.

The annual strategic assessment (2016) records an increase of 35.4% in DA related crime (compared to the strategic assessment data for 2015). This makes Stevenage 10<sup>th</sup> in the county rankings (1<sup>st</sup> being the best, 10<sup>th</sup> the worst); a situation which has remained consistent for several years. It should be noted that the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) conducted a review into reporting and recording procedures during 2014/15. Recommendations resulted in a change to those procedures in Hertfordshire. As a result, all districts have seen increases in domestic abuse recorded crimes (some as much as 150%). This increase has stayed at similar levels throughout 2015/16, with a 39% increase in Q3 (compared to Q3 in 2014/15).

At the end of Q3, all six of the expected action plan objectives for this priority were complete.

**Reassurance / public engagement – summary of activities and objectives 2015/16**

The agreed actions and objectives for reassurance activities included:

1. Proactive and targeted multi agency operations including:
  - Silver Street Meets which helped partners to engage with over 300 older and vulnerable people this year, providing personal safety advice and reassurance.

- Operation Sponge Pudding, working with the Community Meals Service and engaging with a further 200 people to identify those who are vulnerable and in need of additional support.
  - Operation Twist which increases police and multi agency visibility in the town centre in the build up to Christmas, deterring pick pockets and shoplifters. As a result, there were a number of 'no crime' days recorded during that period.
  - Hate crime awareness week, during which the Council hosted a seminar with local speakers who told a packed chamber about their personal experiences. SBC also became a third party reporting site and six officers have been trained to deal with victims wishing to report.
2. Monitoring the night time economy through engagement with licensed premises and door staff; working with licensees on individual action plans to protect their businesses from theft and violent crime. Joint visits by the police and Council continued, to ensure compliance with the Licensing Act 2003, and recommendations for test purchasing sites were put forward to Trading Standards by the Operational Delivery Group (ODG). This has helped to decrease crime in the night time economy and make Stevenage a safe place for a night out.
  3. Support for Watch schemes:
    - Neighbourhood Watch is on schedule to meet its target of 1000 new members in Stevenage this year. OWL (online watch liaison) messages have been used proactively this year, with one message resulting in an 11 year old missing boy being found by a member within 40 minutes of the message being delivered.
    - Pub Watch has gone from strength to strength by using its online communication system, exceeding our target of 10 new members in the first half of the year.
  4. Social media is used by partners to provide positive messages and reassurance to the public; as well as appealing for intelligence and assistance to needed to deter and solve crime. A multitude of messages are sent out each quarter by individual agencies. We are currently looking at the best ways to send out shared messages.
  5. Engagement with and development of communications with other partners including local businesses and multi faith groups, which led to the police delegating officers as single points of contact (SPOC) for each group within the protected characteristics.
  6. Protected characteristics have been considered by SoSafe this year, and as previously mentioned Stevenage police have developed SPOCs for each group. As well as this, a comprehensive list of community leaders has been compiled for the use of all SoSafe partners in engagement work. We have also been working with the Regional Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit (CTIU) on the Prevent agenda, aiding referrals when young people and adults are thought to be at risk of radicalisation; and addressing the Council's new duty under the Counter Terrorism Act 2015 by developing four officers to deliver WRAP (workshop to raise awareness of Prevent) training. Four training sessions have been delivered so far (to safeguarding designated senior persons and external partners. A range of sessions will be developed for Council staff and Members during the next financial year.
  7. Opportunities to reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB) are identified through ODG, and the group has taken the following approaches to adult related ASB this year:
    - Utilising the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to explore the opportunity to implement a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO); issue Community Protection Notices (CPN)

for a variety of offences including nuisance behaviour, criminal damage (including damage to vehicles), noise, street drinking and providing alcohol to people already under the influence; and using dispersal notices when appropriate.

- Reacting to emerging and existing hotspots through multi agency problem solving methods, for example making a number of arrests in relation to organised begging 'gangs,' based on shared intelligence and evidence gathering (e.g. CCTV, anecdotal evidence, witness statements, community impact statements). Our target for a 3% reduction of ASB in Bedwell has been exceeded, demonstrating a 17% decrease in that area at Q3.

At the end of Q3, of the 21 expected outcomes for this priority, 12 were complete, five were on target to be completed by the end of the financial year and four were incomplete (mainly due to end of year data not being available).

The annual strategic assessment (2016) shows (compared to the previous year):

- theft from person (which includes pick pocketing) decreased by 25.4% (Stevenage is 8<sup>th</sup> in the county for this crime type)
- vehicle crime (including criminal damage) decreased by 36.2% (Stevenage is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county for this crime type)
- personal robbery decreased by 24.6%
- burglary increased by 4.4% (which equates to 7 incidents – however, Stevenage remains 1<sup>st</sup> in the county for this crime type)
- burglary other decreased by 5% (Stevenage is 9<sup>th</sup> in the county for this crime type)
- ASB increased by 15.8% (Stevenage is 7<sup>th</sup> in the county for this crime type)
- hate crime increased by 26.6% - this may be partly due to the increase in awareness raising and high profile stories in the media, plus easier methods of reporting via third party reporting sites
- violence against the person increased by 43% following an increasing trend across all districts. This is thought to be partly due to changes in police crime recording and the inclusion of domestic abuse figures. (Stevenage is 10<sup>th</sup> in the county for this crime type).

Encouragingly, the results of the Council's recent resident survey showed that the proportion of residents who feel unsafe in their local area after dark fell from 42% (2013) to 38% (2015). Tackling crime and ASB was selected as a main priority by almost four fifths (79%) of residents, and came out as the top priority when a rank analysis was undertaken. This is a repeat of the result seen in 2013.

## **Health and mental health – summary of activities and outcomes for 2015/16**

The agreed actions and objectives for health related activities included:

1. Improving information sharing in particular with the NHS. NHS data from A&E has been received on a regular basis. This involves the recording of violent crime with alcohol as a contributing factor. To date, no specific hot spots have been identified, with the majority of violent and alcohol related crime taking place in people's homes, and not as a result of the night time economy. Partners continue to engage with Lister Hospital in regards to issues such as hospital absconders and crime taking place on hospital premises.
2. Support for people with drug and alcohol problems through the No More project continues, and the project handles 8-12 clients each quarter, undertaking a range of actions to help reduce their addictions and get their lives back on track.

The annual strategic assessment (2016) shows (compared to the previous year):

- an increase of 22.4% alcohol related offences(127 offences) on the previous year, where alcohol is perceived to be a contributing factor (Stevenage is 9<sup>th</sup> in the county for alcohol-related crime)
- possession of Class A drugs decreased by 21.7% (13 offences)
- possession of other drugs decreased by 42.4% (136 offences)
- trafficking of Class A drugs increased by 221.4% (62 offences) which can be attributed to proactive police operations to disrupt drug dealers.

At the end of Q3, of the nine expected outcomes for this priority, three were complete and six were on target to be completed by the end of the financial year.

### **Children and young people – summary of activities and outcomes for 2015/16**

The agreed actions and objectives for activities involving children and young people were:

1. Supporting countywide work around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through the 'Say It If You See It' campaign. We engaged with hotels, licensees and taxi drivers in Stevenage, providing guidance booklets and publicity materials. Four ODG members also undertook 'train the trainer' courses in order to deliver CSE awareness sessions across the council and to our partners.
2. Improving engagement with young people by:
  - ensuring police youth SPOC engagement with schools, children's centres, youth groups and youth workers
  - working with YMCA and Child UK to engage with young people in Shephall regarding provision of activities and plans for 15 The Hyde youth hub
  - ensuring that the new strategic ASB coordinator attends youth engagement team meetings to provide an overview of issues in the borough.
3. Preventing violent crime by supporting Billy's Wish, an anti-knife crime charity. We provided the charity with funding to deliver their educational programme to all Stevenage senior schools. The programme has now been fully developed and is being rolled out across Hertfordshire.
4. Supporting families through the Family Intervention Project. All of the clients referred to the project this year have sustained their tenancies and had their ASB cases closed.
5. Engaging with young perpetrators by taking a similar approach to the No More project, using targeted interventions for young people already engaging in crime and unacceptable behaviour. This is a fairly recent development, with four young people undertaking the programme so far.
6. Preventing road traffic accidents among younger drivers through targeted events and action days led by Herts Fire and Rescue Service. This year, two 'Learn to Live' events have been delivered to 500 Stevenage teenagers, with various smaller events taking place at North Herts College and sixth forms.
7. Preventing radicalisation through £10k of Home Office funding, which has been used to:

- commission Youth Connexions to deliver a series of workshops to Stevenage senior schools
- fund a project teaching gardening and business skills to young asylum seekers living in Stevenage and unable to work or claim benefits.

8. Preventing youth ASB by:

- funding and developing various intervention and diversionary activities in Shephall, led by youth workers and charitable organisations – including sports activities, mentoring and cookery skills
- taking a multi agency approach to youth ASB in hot spot areas through the police led Operation Adsun, utilising our partner contacts and a range of ASB tools and powers when necessary – including issuing CPNs against parents of children habitually involved with ASB
- sharing information with our partners undertaking outreach work to target hotspot areas and children of concern
- supporting partners in activities leading to the formation of a youth hub at the Hyde.

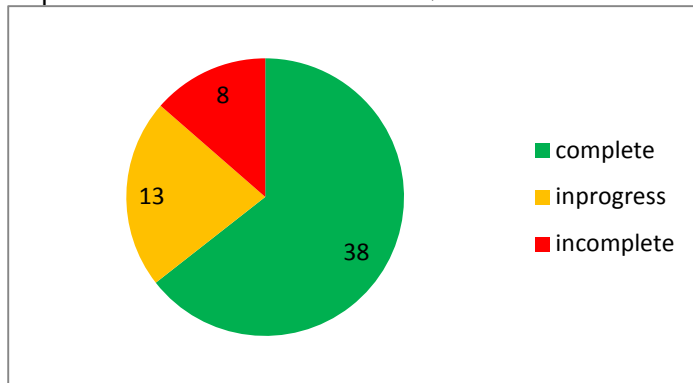
During Q3, it was noted that youth ASB in Shephall has decreased considerably, and although showing a slight year on year increase of 2.8%, this is minimal in comparison to the figures recorded during the same period of the previous year (+64.5%).

At the end of Q3, of the 23 expected outcomes for this priority, 17 were complete , two were on target for completion by the end of the financial year and four were incomplete (mainly due to end of year data being unavailable).

**Conclusion - 2015/16 results to date**

At the end of Q3, of the 59 expected outcomes within the community safety action plan 2015/16, 38 were complete (64%), 13 were on target for completion by the end of the financial year (22%) and 8 were incomplete, pending end of year data (14%).

Expected Outcomes – status at Q3



The Community Safety Partnership continues to work well together, towards shared goals in terms of reducing and preventing crime. We have been operating within a difficult financial environment, which led to some minor elements of the action plan being revised, after a mid year review by the RAG concluded that limited capacity and resources did not make those actions viable. However, partners have achieved much this year and remain committed to building on that progress. Both RAG and ODG

have developed strong partnership relationships through innovation and imagination. Our partners are passionate about creating safe environments for our communities.

Moving forward into 2016/17, SoSafe is committed to reinforce and expand partnership networks to fully involve our health partners in information and intelligence sharing; and to ensure that we are reaching the harder to reach elements of our community through better communications.

### **Action plan process 2016/17**

The priorities for 2016/17 were identified 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. Data is recorded and collected for the period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015.

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

- current and emerging issues
- data from Q1, Q2 and Q3 2015/16
- a survey of SoSafe partners to ascertain priority areas
- actions discussed at the annual action planning workshop
- Stevenage resident's survey
- overarching aims of the SoSafe community safety strategy 2015/18.

The plan also has due regard to:

- relevant county strategies (domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol)
- BeNCH CRC (Beds, Northants, Cambs & Herts Community Rehabilitation Company) reducing reoffending strategy
- changes in legislation and Home Office guidance, in particular additional responsibilities and duties for local authorities and community safety partnerships
- Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) crime and policing plan.

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 the Operational Delivery Group (ODG). The plan does not record the work of individual agencies in tackling the priorities.

The action plan is updated quarterly by the lead officers for each action. It is a 'live' document and is assessed regularly by ODG in light of shifting priorities and emerging issues. The RAG receives quarterly updates on progress against the plan; and as the community safety grant provider, the PCC receives twice yearly reports.

The action plan for 2016/17 is currently in draft one stage and scheduled for completion by the end of April when it will be signed off by the RAG.

### **Priorities for 2016/17**

This year, the action planning survey and workshop resulted in partners identifying priority themes and will focus on what SoSafe believes to be the highest priority SMART<sup>1</sup> actions. In light of continued pressure on staff and resources, this will ensure that activities are specific, targeted and outcomes

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<sup>1</sup> SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely.

focussed. Outcomes may refer to quantitative or qualitative data; or personal outcomes and achievements for individuals and groups. The priority themes for 2016/17 are likely to be:

- ASB
- safeguarding
- reassurance
- violent crime
- information sharing
- serious / organised crime (SOC) and drug crimes.