

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 6 September 2018

ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT (REP1813)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is presented to Members to provide the annual Community Safety update, particularly in regards to the Council's statutory obligation to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder, this work being progressed through the Waveney Community Safety Partnership.
2. It provides information on particular funded projects and work highlighting early intervention, personal safety, good citizenship and positive role model experiences for many children/young people, who may lack a positive family influence. It also supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Suffolk Police key priorities.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health & Safety
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Supporting Officers:	<p>Richard Best East Suffolk Communities Manager 01502 523605 Richard.best@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Julia Catterwell East Suffolk Communities Officer 01394 817607 Julia.catterwell@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</p>
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It remains a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to work in partnership with the Police and partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We achieve this through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), where 'responsible partners,' namely the Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation and the Police, work collaboratively in partnership. Although Suffolk Coastal and Waveney still lead their own sovereign CSPs, they do hold joint meetings and work very closely together to promote community safety across East Suffolk. The meetings are supported by the council's community safety officers, through the Communities team and chaired on an alternate basis by the Waveney and Suffolk Coastal respective Cabinet Members for Community Health. We have a joint Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Action Plan that compliments the Police & Crime Commissioners Police & Crime Plan for Suffolk. (Appendix A)
- 1.2 Some CSP partners take a more leading role than others, as with most partnerships and it is recognised that the Councils' Communities Team certainly take the leading role within the East Suffolk CSP's, with the Police also providing positive support through the Lowestoft Rising Interventions Group and annual community safety initiatives, such as Summer Activities. Work continues to ensure greater engagement and partnership contribution in 2018-19.
- 1.3 The CSP Chairman, supported by the Community Officer (with community safety specialism), also takes a lead on East Suffolk Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's), regarding homicides that occur within their relevant district. Waveney has had one such occurrence in the last three years, which is completed and the resulting action plan signed off by the CSP. Suffolk Coastal has had two such occurrences in the last three years, with the first review completed and signed off by the Home Office in 2016, which was held up as good practise. The second review is currently being progressed. East Suffolk is now leading on its third DHR review in as many years. The Suffolk Countywide DHR protocol was recently updated to reflect good practise based on the West Suffolk and East Suffolk practical experience of DHR's. The Second case is work in progress in terms of development of the report.

2 PROJECT WORK 2016-17

- 2.1 Although funding is more difficult to obtain in the current climate, as previously reported, we still manage to provide a number of community projects each year, including the following:-
- **Lowestoft Rising Interventions Group** – The meetings and process started in 2013 in response to the high levels of anti social behaviour (ASB) being caused in the Town Centre by street drinkers. The holistic multi agency approach to tackle the street drinking was extremely successful reducing the initial cohort of 35 identified drinkers down to 2 or 3 within a year. The Interventions Group then started to deal with hidden cases as well as those obvious street drinkers. The group have now taken on and managed some 120 separate cases with positive results. The current caseload is circa 25 individuals with a mix of homelessness, drugs, alcohol and mental health issues. The interventions work is supported by 3 full time MEAM workers (making every adult matter) who support and assist those in need to access the right services in the best way. Partner organisations supporting the group include Police, Probation, Turning Point, Church groups, Waveney District Council (WDC), Access Community Trust, Salvation Army, Food Bank, Anglia Care

Trust, Homegroup, Herring House High support Unit, James Paget Hospital accident and emergency department (JPH), Hope House, Adam Outreach, Genesis Housing, Social Care-adult, Town Chaplaincy and Community Nurse services all working across the system to create the best outcome.

- **Government's PREVENT Strategy / WRAP Training** – A number of training Workshops have again been delivered to both internal service team's frontline staff and external partners including taxi drivers, Landlords and the Waveney pub watch partnership. The workshops are designed to raise awareness of the Prevent Radicalisation strategy to understand the PREVENT aims, the role and responsibility front line officers have in identifying those who may be vulnerable to terrorism and radicalisation; how the process works to prevent them becoming involved or supporting terrorism and how to report individuals who may be causing concern. Approximately 350 frontline staff and Councillors have attended this workshop and the workshop programme will continue in 2018/19.
- **Crucial Crew** The event provided learning and advice again this year regarding young people's personal safety. The event included hot topics such as road safety, internet safety, fire safety, water safety and consequences of committing ASB. This programme was delivered to over 1000 year 6 pupils and is run by the local rotary clubs.
- **Lowestoft Beach activities** - This was the fifth consecutive summer beach activities event to be held in Kirkley, Lowestoft. Numbers continue to grow year on year and the event is reaching those young people in disadvantaged areas. The event was informed again this year by the feedback received from the young people and their families from the previous year's event and from the partners providing the activities. Catch 22 take ownership with the planning and delivery of the event. Participants attended from NR31 2%, NR32 89%, NR33 53%, NR34 2% outside of Waveney 7%. There are ten sessions delivered over the summer holidays which are provided free of charge to the young people. The project is provided for young people mainly from disadvantaged backgrounds to try and experience new activities, to provide the young people with positive role model support and to provide diversionary activities twice a week throughout the summer holiday period to ensure the young people are engaged and active. Circa five hundred young people attended the event over the course of the summer period.
- **County Lines** - Class 'A' Drug dealing related gang activity remains a key threat for Suffolk. 'County lines' and the supply of class A drugs, from urban hubs to county hubs using mobile phones as deal lines are in existence in our Towns. These gangs pose a significant threat to vulnerable adults and children upon whom they rely to conduct and or facilitate this criminality. These gangs can impose high levels of violence, including the use of weapons and firearms to intimidate and control members of the group and associated victims. The East CSP's are holding a joint workshop with partners in July 2018 to discuss County Lines issues and concerns and develop a local Action Plan to raise awareness and to keep our communities safe from this threat.
- **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)** automatically replaced Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) 20 October 2017. Under the new Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, a review will be taking place with regard to the current PSPO's to assess the evidence for retaining after this initial three year period, for a further three years. The initial review with local police Inspectors concluded that in Lowestoft the PSPO legislation is still used effectively by officers to apprehend street drinkers and to confiscate their alcohol.
- **Domestic Abuse (DA)** Funding has been secured for Countywide Satellite accommodation and specialist support for DA victims. Three places have been secured in Suffolk Coastal and two places in Lowestoft have been filled.

3 CRIME REVIEW UPDATE

- 3.1 In general terms the Office of National Statistics show that offences rose in Suffolk by 18.6% between January 2017 and December 2017 with 52,524 recorded crimes in the county (excluding fraud) compared to the previous 12 months where there were 44,294 recorded crimes in Suffolk. However, Suffolk is in the top 20 forces for the safest places to live, with recorded crimes at 69.9 crimes per 1,000 populations compared to the national average 82.3 crimes per 1,000 populations. All reported crime is judged against the new assessment of THRIVE which enables calls to be assessed under threat, harm and risk criteria. This new assessment has provided an improvement in accuracy of incidents recorded and thought to be a factor in the increase of 'assault with less serious injury' incidents.
- 3.2 Suffolk Police have reported that "Analysis of the figures indicates that the key driving factors for the increases include a tighter focus on crime data integrity, new emerging crime categories such as malicious communication offences, more third party reporting and that more so than ever before, a belief that victims of crime feel confident reporting crimes to us, particularly those involving the most vulnerable communities and reports relating to sexual offences."
- 3.3 However Violence against the person (VATP) occurring during the night time economy (NTE) across the major towns in the East accounted for 7% (231 offences) of offences. The police advise that the way in which crime and disorder is now recorded and the greater focus on crime data integrity has impacted on local crime figures. Furthermore positive action is being taken by the Police where offences of Domestic Abuse occur and incidents are better identified during the initial conversation with the victim.
- The most impacted areas in Waveney were Lowestoft (London Road), Beccles and Bungay. Numbers are lower than the West and South SPC areas and did not indicate any significant increase on previous years. In 2017 there were a total of 44,294 crimes in Suffolk, a rise of 1% compared to 2015. In the East there has been a decrease in crime of 2,161 offences (15%) between 2015 and 2016. However, this reduction is not across all crime categories, for example there has been an increase in Violence against the Person and in 2016 it was the most recorded crime across the East. This year there has been a significant increase in ASB, particularly in Lowestoft, which is being addressed.
- 3.4 In regards to ASB, county-wide statistics show a 38% reduction on the 3 year rolling average with 2,688 fewer incidents over this period, however there are some areas where ASB levels rose. The main areas showing ASB incidents in Waveney were Lowestoft (Montgomery Avenue - noise related incidents and Night time economy incidents around some public House areas). Beccles incidents relate to speeding drivers and moped users, noise nuisance and neighbour disputes. Bungay incidents tend to relate to noisy motorists and moped riders. Main issues in Bungay relate to neighbour disputes, drunken behaviour and some noise youth related issues at specific sites.
- 3.5 There was an increase in sexual assault across the County, with an increase of 32.6% (485 more crimes) compared to the national average a 25% increase. Theft offences increased by 8.4% (1,441 more offences) compared to a national increase of 10.5%. Vehicle offences have increased by 11.8% (392 more crimes) compared to an increase nationally of 16.2%. Total burglaries have increased by 5.7% (225 more offences) compared to an 8.6% increase.
- 3.6 Some of the increases in incidents, as outlined in 3.1, are likely to be down to changes in recording and reporting data.

With regards Burglary – a change in how Burglary is now classified could account for the significant upturn in crime levels for this particular offence.

Prior to April 2017, Suffolk Constabulary differentiated between Burglary Dwelling (e.g. houses, flats/apartments, rooms in HMO, etc.) and Burglary Other than Dwelling (e.g. shops or other business premises, garden sheds, detached garages etc.). However, post April 2017, the Home Office indicated that in relation to Dwellings, the counting rules would change so that the offence would be classified as “Burglary – Residential Dwelling”. However the change also means that those structures such as sheds / outhouses/ detached garages etc., which do not form part of the actual dwelling but are located on land / gardens upon which the dwelling is sited, will now be included in the figures for Burglary – Residential.

4 HATE CRIME REPORT

- 4.1 The Suffolk Police boundaries are not coterminous with the District boundaries, so some of the wards in the East Suffolk policing command (East SPC), fall into Suffolk Coastal and West Suffolk. Therefore, although Lowestoft has a higher incident rate than some of the other towns and areas within East SPC, the overall data for East SPC does include incidents outside of Waveney.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the date the crime is submitted to Athena is the date that the crime or incident is added to the system. It is therefore accepted that late reporting or the reporting of historic incidents may add to the overall numbers during the reporting period.
- 4.3 A Hate Crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person’s race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability and against a person who is transgender or perceived transgender.
- 4.4 A Hate Incident is any non-crime incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person’s race or perceived race, religion or perceived religion, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, disability or perceived disability and against a person who is transgender or perceived transgender.
- 4.5 **Recorded quarter 4 data for the financial year 2017-2018**

HATE TYPE	East SPC
Hate Crime - Disability	26
Hate Crime - Racial	17
Hate Crime - Religion	1
Hate Crime - Racial or Religious	2
Hate Crime - Sexual Orientation	19
Hate Crime - Transgender	1
Hate Incident - Disability	0
Hate Incident - Racial	3
Hate Incident - Religion	0
Hate Incident - Sexual Orientation	1
Hate Incident - Transgender	0
Total	73

- 4.6 Lowestoft was a hotspot area in 2017-2018 with 46 crimes reported plus two incidents in quarter 4. A cluster of hate crimes occurred around the residential area of Kirkley. There were seven hate crimes in Beccles for the same period, but no hate incidents. However, when previously analysed, most of the incidents reported can be considered to be 'lower level incidents' which should provide a satisfactory level of assurance.

5 POLICING REVIEW

- 5.1 Difficulties were experienced in extracting up to date data from the Suffolk Police new data base system Athena, but the situation is now improving and more meaningful data is now available. The Communities Team Communities Officers, with a focus on community safety and ASB, will be trained to access the partnership version of the Athena system, until that time they continue to use the current E-CINS system.

6 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 6.1 By working in partnership we can contribute more effectively to ensuring the Business Plan vision of maintaining and sustaining improved quality of life for everyone, enabling communities to do more for themselves and to feel safer. Furthermore, under the Community Health Critical Success Factor – communities are being encouraged to take responsibility for their own mental health and physical health and well-being, so that they may lead active and healthy lives, while remaining safe within their homes and communities.

7 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

There is a Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference in place. The partnership Charing responsibility is shared between the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils' Cabinet Members for Community Health.

8. OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 8.1 This report has been prepared having taken into account the results of an Equality Impact Assessment.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Suffolk police provided the data within this report.
- 9.2 The Suffolk Coastal Scrutiny Committee considered and accepted a similar community safety report 7 July 2018

10 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 None.

11 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is updated with the work of the Waveney Community Safety Partnership and Council's continued direct involvement and contribution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee receives and notes the report.

APPENDICES**Appendix A**

CSP Action Plan 2017-18

BACKGROUND PAPERS : NONE