

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

# Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **4 October 2018**

**Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL**

## Membership:

Councillors Lynn Worrall (Chair), Angela Lawrence (Vice-Chair), Qaisar Abbas, Mike Fletcher, Ben Maney and Elizabeth Rigby

## Substitutes:

Councillors Alex Anderson, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Terry Piccolo and Gerard Rice

## Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2. Minutes</b>	<b>5 - 12</b>
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5 July 2018.	
<b>3. Items of Urgent Business</b>	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
<b>4. Declaration of Interests</b>	
<b>5. Environmental Enforcement Update</b>	<b>13 - 20</b>
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**Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:**

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Agenda published on: **26 September 2018**

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## DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

### Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

### When should you declare an interest at a meeting?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



**Does the business to be transacted at the meeting**

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

**any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

**What is a Non-Pecuniary interest?** – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

### **Pecuniary**

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

**Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:**

- **Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;**
- **Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and**
- **leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon**

**If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps**

### **Non- pecuniary**

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



**You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.**

## Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
  - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
  - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
  - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
  - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
  - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
  - Fewer public buildings with better services
3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
  - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
  - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
  - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 July 2018 at 7.00 pm**

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**Present:** Councillors Lynn Worrall (Chair), Angela Sheridan (Vice-Chair), Qaisar Abbas, Mike Fletcher, Ben Maney and Elizabeth Rigby

**In attendance:** Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways  
Claire Harvey, Strategic Lead for Waste Services  
Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure, Environment & Highways  
Alli Stanford, Contracts and Business Development Team Leader  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 22 February 2018 were approved as a correct record.

### **2. Items of Urgent Business**

No matters of urgent business were received.

### **3. Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

### **4. Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre - 12 month update following in-source**

Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways, thanked Beau Stanford-Francis and his team for their hard work in completing the report and advised that Beau had subsequently left the employment of Thurrock Council. Julie Rogers updated Members on the progress and performance of the Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre since it had been returned under the Council's control in June 2017. Julie Rogers detailed the ongoing improvements and the redevelopment programme that had been identified in the report.

The Chair thanked Julie Rogers for the report and noted that the current site was old, possibly not fit for purpose and required improvements and hoped that the planned developments would provide this.

The Chair stated that the current members of the committee had not seen the proposed development plans and asked that these be sent to all Members. The Chair also requested a site visit to the Linford Centre and this would be arranged by democratic services.

Councillor Sheridan stated that she had visited the site this week and although the Council had taken steps in the right direction the site was dreadful and the permit scheme was not working successfully. Councillor Sheridan questioned why the trial week had not continued for longer and why there were no signs at the site advising residents of the permitting scheme. She also felt that there should be a facility to issue permits on site. Councillor Sheridan also questioned how the centre would cope with the increase in potential homes being built in the borough.

Councillor Rigby agreed that permits should be issued on site.

Julie Rogers stated reports and plans presented to Members at the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2017 and to Cabinet in December 2017 would be forwarded to Members for information and would be happy to host a visit to the Linford Centre. Julie Rogers confirmed that the indicative plans formed part of the pre-planning application.

Julie Rogers stated that the trial week had not continued as less than 8% of residents who were allowed to access the site subsequently applied for a permit. She also advised that the site did not have broadband facilities currently which prevented issue at site currently. While the trial was in place congestion had been caused on the access road by residents queuing to get onto the site and that safety of the site was paramount. Julie Rogers stated complaints were not being received and where Councillors are receiving complaints they should encourage residents to use the Council's complaints procedure. She advised that the site license was at risk if the Council continued to allow abuse of the site by trade and the Council must do all they can to protect it. The current turnaround on permits was seven days, she acknowledged the frustration for residents and advised the team were doing all they can to reduce the timescales involved and are focussed on an automated solution as soon as possible.

Julie Rogers stated the installation of the copper line had now taken place, and in the next few weeks broadband would be live. This would provide a great opportunity for the automatic number plate recognition system which would monitor vehicles coming onto the site. Signage for the site was in the design process and would be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Abbas questioned whether residents still had to provide identification of address before using the Linford Centre. How had the figures for the decrease in fly tipping in the borough been calculated and asked if records were kept for follow up enforcement, should a waste load be refused at the site. He also stated that the Council could have done more than just putting notification of the permit scheme in Council Tax Bills.



Julie Rogers stated awareness had increased on the site; vehicle registrations of rejected loads were taken by staff and body worn cameras captured the information required. In instances of fly tipping this information could be used to match up with offenders. Julie Rogers stated the exercise carried out in 2017 had targeted activity on the site and offenders were identified as people travelling in from outside the borough. That fly tipping figures were based on van loads and the criteria set by DEFRA.

Councillor Abbas asked what further steps could be undertaken. Julie Rogers stated for every fly tipping incident reported a member of the team would visit and record all the evidence and call in enforcement officers if required to explore such evidence. If evidence was sufficient action would be taken and include prosecution where appropriate. Further awareness for local residents will take place to discourage them paying cash for items to be disposed of and the need to check that person had the appropriate waste disposal license. If evidence was found in fly tipped waste and was linked back to that resident they could be liable for fines and potential prosecution. Work with the communications team was taking place for signage in hotspot areas and CCTV activity would be increased as a deterrent, where appropriate.

Councillor Fletcher stated when he had used the Linford Centre over the last 6 to 9 months he had not been asked for any identification. Alli Stanford stated that the security over the permit scheme had taken priority but would check with staff on site that this process was being undertaken.

Councillor Fletcher stated residents should be made more aware of the permit scheme before they actually get to the site. That communications should be improved and the link on the web site more readily available. Councillor Fletcher questioned whether there was any delay in the planning application. Julie Rogers stated that work was still ongoing and on track to be presented to the Planning Committee in October.

Councillor Fletcher questioned the limited amount of space and the access road into the Linford Centre and had consideration been made to change this point of access. Julie Rogers stated the provisional plans addressed the access point with a middle lane being introduced for traffic turning right and the route through the site would change.

Councillor Maney welcomed the project and the services that are currently being provided and relied on by Thurrock residents. He questioned whether the Linford Centre was ideally situated and what consideration had been taken into account when looking at longer term needs and the importance of keeping the site open while redevelopment took place. Julie Rogers confirmed that alternative sites had been looked at and the conclusions of these would be included in the comprehensive plans that would form part of the planning application. Julie Rogers stated that consideration was currently being given as to whether the site could safely operate a limited service during redevelopment and if it could not alternative temporary sites were being considered as a plan B.

Councillor Maney questioned why the other recycling centre had closed so quickly after opening and whether the Council had missed an opportunity to find another alternative site that would provide better services in the long term. Julie Rogers stated she was unable to comment due to this being undertaken prior to her joining Thurrock and would pick this item up with the team.

The Chair agreed with Councillor Maney that the Council could have potentially missed the opportunity of considering alternative sites.

The Chair questioned the safety and wellbeing of staff at the Linford Centre and how this would continue to be addressed when the proposed changes happen. Julie Rogers stated that staff were happier since the service had been brought back in house, working in a much safer working environment. Alli Stanford stated that staff were sometimes put in difficult positions and that the security were there to take this pressure off staff. That the security staff were well trained on how best to deal with difficult situations.

Julie Rogers stated that security had been brought in following an investigation and to deal with the repercussions of the permit scheme being introduced and would stay on site for as long as felt necessary.

Councillor Sheridan shared an incident with the committee that had occurred on site over the last couple of days. Julie Rogers stated that investigations would take place and anticipated that it was an isolated incident.

The Chair asked Members to agree on the recommendation made in the report.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.**

### **5. Recycling - Current position and planned actions**

Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways, referred Members to the report and updated them on the current position on recycling rates and stated that Thurrock Council, like other local authorities in the United Kingdom, had experienced a decline in levels of recycling. With the key focus of activity being a dedicated communication and education programme. Julie Rogers stated that the key approach for the coming year would be to continue to increase recycling rates with all the challenges she outlined and improve the quality of dry recycling materials, be addressing contamination.

The Chair thanked Julie Rogers for the report.

Councillor Sheridan stated the sticker idea was good and it was great to see that schools were getting involved. Councillor Sheridan observed that the current stickers on bins had worn out and asked whether these could be

replaced. That the Council should be more aware when distributing rubbish sacks to local forums that these were recyclable waste sacks.

Councillor Rigby questioned how contamination was detected. Julie Rogers stated that generally the crew would lift the bin lid and identify if contamination was evident. Where contaminated bins were identified these bins would be locked out. Julie Rogers stated that work with the communications team was taking place to better inform residents of the key contaminants and educate residents as to the appropriate bins for these items.

Councillor Fletcher stated the Council should follow their own rules and provide recyclable waste sacks to local forums, groups and businesses. Those local businesses were confused and required clearer guidance on how best to recycle and asked whether these forums could help to educate residents. Julie Rogers stated a trial to test clear sided euro bins was underway, particularly in communal areas. These could be also used as an educational tool and filled with contaminated items to demonstrate to such forums and was happy to commit to attendance at forums to educate and encourage recycling.

Councillor Abbas questioned whether Julie Rogers believed the national target of 50% of all household waste to be recycled reused and composted was achievable. Julie Rogers stated that where she had worked previously the authority was the worst nationally for recycling at 11%, through a complete change of collection to fortnightly collections and a paid for garden waste service, in year one they increased to 45% and currently sit comfortably at 55%. Therefore the figure could be achieved but it would depend on appetite for change.

Councillor Abbas asked whether the bin stickers could identify the contaminated items. Julie Rogers stated a balance had to be made to ensure that the Key Performance Indicators for collection were still being met, crews adding stickers to bins and identifying contaminated items could slow the collection process.

Councillor Maney questioned whether a breakdown list of each ward in the borough could be provided that would identify the worst contaminated areas. Julie Rogers stated that currently the days of the week identified the worst contaminated areas. With the introduction of the PDA system this would be able to accurately record by household and identify those residents not participating with recycling so only those properties would be targeted long term.

Councillor Rigby questioned whether alternative approaches could be considered to understand resident's perceptions to recycling.

The Chair stated that signs could be provided that identified the costs of recycling that may encourage more residents to do their bit.

The Chair stated that bins in cemeteries should form part of the brown bin review.

The Chair questioned how the decline of usage of brown bins in the winter months could be addressed.

Daren Spring stated that a bin review was being undertaken which would address recycling bins and educate residents how best to use the recycling bins currently in situ in the high street and some recreational areas. Euro size bins for cemeteries had now been sourced and would be used within the cemeteries. Educating residents would be ongoing in all areas in terms of what items can and cannot be put in the bins.

Julie Rogers stated that there was a significant drop off of the use of brown bins in the winter months, with predominantly small amounts of food waste being presented. Julie Rogers agreed to review the brown bins and come back with proposals to reflect ideas from the committee for further consideration. The intention was for the reduced resource requirement to be implemented in educating and encouraging behaviour change to increase recycling.

Councillor Sheridan asked why residents could not apply for a further or a larger brown bin. Claire Harvey stated that this facility was available now to residents and could be ordered on-line from the Council's web site. Councillor Sheridan stated the web site was confusing and had to be made more simplified for residents.

Councillor Maney supported the weekly bin collections but thought it futile to collect brown bins weekly in the winter. This item should be added to the work programme to enable Cabinet to make any further decisions.

The Chair also endorsed that the review would not reduce staffing.

The Chair asked Members to agree on the recommendations made in the report.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the report for information and comment.**
- 2. That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to receive a report back on the proposed pilot scheme in February 2019.**
- 3. That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to attend a site visit of the Linford Recycling Centre.**

## **6. Work Programme**

The Chair asked Members if there were any items to be added or discussed for the work programme for the 2018-19 municipal year.

The Chair requested that an update report on the Community Safety Partnership be added to the 4 October 2018 Committee.

The Chair requested that a report on Anti-Social Behaviour and Gang Related Violence be added to the 4 October 2018 committee.

The Chair requested that an update report on Recycling to include Brown Bin Review be added to the 7 February 2019 committee.

The Chair requested that a report on the Bartec System be added to the 7 February 2019 committee.

Councillor Abbas requested that a report on Fly Tipping in Thurrock be presented.

Councillor Rigby requested that a report on Air Pollution be presented.

The Chair requested that a report on Refuse Collections be presented.

The Chair requested that a report on Ground Maintenance and Street Cleansing, to include Keep Britain Tidy, be presented.

Councillor Maney requested that a report on Parking on Verges be presented. Julie Rogers stated this item may fall under the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee and would advise Members at the next committee.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the item Community Safety Partnership be added to the 4 October 2018 Committee.**
- 2. That the item Anti-Social Behaviour and Gang Related Violence be added to the 4 October 2018 committee.**
- 3. That the item Fly Tipping in Thurrock be added to the 6 December 2018 committee.**
- 4. That the item Air Pollution be added to the 6 December 2018 committee.**
- 5. That the item Ground Maintenance and Street Cleansing, to include Keep Britain Tidy, be added to the 6 December 2018 committee.**

6. That the item Refuse Collections be added to the 7 February 2019 committee.
7. That the item Recycling to include Brown Bin Review be added to the 7 February 2019 committee.
8. That the item Bartec System Update be added to the 7 February 2019 committee.

The meeting finished at 8.22 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

<b>4 October 2018</b>		<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Environmental Enforcement Update</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All		<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Phil Carver, Strategic Lead – Enforcement and Community Protection		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene and Leisure		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## Executive Summary

This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, service achievements and future priorities for the Environmental Enforcement Team.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the performance and service achievements and support the future priorities for Environmental Enforcement which is linked to the Council's priorities.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** The Environmental Enforcement Team consists of one Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer and four Environmental Enforcement Officers. The purpose of the Environmental Enforcement Team is to investigate breaches of legislation in regards to Environmental Crime and some aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 2.2** The service investigates and enforces within the scheme of delegation which includes the following:
- Fly-tipping and Accumulated Waste on Public Land
  - Abandoned Vehicles
  - Littering
  - Dog Fouling
  - Commercial Waste Offences

- Domestic Waste Offences
- Fly-Posting and Graffiti
- Public Space Protection Order
- Community Protection Warnings/Notices
- Advertising boards
- Unauthorised Encampments
- Vehicles for sale on the highway
- Vehicle repairs
- Nuisance parking

The above list is not exhaustive.

- 2.3 When the Officers have concluded their investigations into environmental crime, there are several options when considering how to deal with an offender. These include; warnings, fixed penalty notices, simple cautions and prosecutions.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

#### **3.1 Service Achievements for Calendar Year 2017**

- 3.1.1 During the calendar year 2017 Environmental Enforcement Service consisted of two Environmental Enforcement Officers and one Environmental Enforcement Supervisor who covered the whole of Thurrock, dealing with Environmental Crime and some aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour. During 2017 the Environmental Enforcement Services achieved the following:

- 3005 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued with a 72% payment rate
- 4 Community Protection Notices were issued
- 54 Abandoned vehicles removed
- 3739 service requests were issued to the team
- During 2017, 106 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering offences were prosecuted in the Magistrates Court. 119 cases proven; 2 cases lost and 40 yet to be heard, court date set. Upon conviction the average fines imposed by the courts £440 with the Council's Legal Services costs of £358 and victim surcharge £44. However, these fines are not awarded to the Council they are awarded to the Court.
- On 7 December 2016, Kingdom Services Group began their pilot scheme working on behalf of Thurrock Council tackling littering offences. As a result of the successful pilot scheme, a full procurement exercise was undertaken and in December 2017 Kingdom Services Group were contracted for a 5 year period.



- Environmental Enforcement Team issued 7 fixed penalty notices totalling £1,400 for vehicles that were assessed as abandoned at the car park at the rear of Dock Road & Lansdowne Road, Tilbury.
- Joint tasking operations were set up with the Police and Environmental Enforcement Service enforcing the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Zone that came into force in July 2017. This was carried out once a week in Grays Town Centre. A total of 111 fixed penalty notices were issued under the PSPO. The PSPOs and fixed penalty notices were issued for street drinking and failing to surrender alcohol, swearing, or using foul and abusive language or threatening behaviour.
- 16 fixed penalty notices were issued as a result of fly Tipping incidents that were reported to Thurrock Council during the calendar year of 2017 with a 100% payment rate.
- All Thurrock businesses premises were visited by the Environmental Enforcement Officers and inspections were carried out in relation to the disposal of their commercial waste. As a result 60 businesses were found to be non-compliant with their waste duty of care. Resulting in 9 non-compliant businesses being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £300. This totalled £2700.
- There were 81 unauthorised encampments reported. Most of these encampments were dealt with by the council using the court process.

### **3.2 Service Achievements for Calendar Year 2018**

- 3.2.1 In July 2018, three Environmental Enforcement Officers were recruited increasing the number of Environmental Enforcement Officers in the Service to four, plus one Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer.
- 3.2.2 This increase allowed for a new way of working to be introduced namely the 'Quadrant Model'. The Borough of Thurrock is now split into four areas with one Environmental Enforcement Officer assigned to one quarter of the Borough. This model allows each Environmental Enforcement Officer to concentrate on a specific area and target any activity concerning Environmental Enforcement including Anti-Social Behaviour based on specific Quadrant issues in liaison with the police.
- 3.2.3 From 1st April 2018 the Government increased FPN values and Thurrock Council implemented them accordingly. These increases are detailed below:
- Littering increased from £80 to £150.
  - Flyposting (included advertising boards) and graffiti increased from £80 to £150.
  - Unauthorised distribution of free printed matter increased from £80 to £150.
  - 2349 fixed penalty notices were issued with a payment rate of 64%.

- 20 Community Protection Notices were issued by Environmental Enforcement Officers
- 18 Abandoned vehicles removed by Environmental Enforcement Officers
- 1451 service requests were issued to the team
- 15 fixed penalty notices for breaches of the Public Space Protection Order were issued to members of the public.
- There were 555 fly tipping incidents that were investigated by Thurrock Council Environmental Enforcement Officers of which 10 were issued Fixed Penalty Notices at £400 each. A total of £4000 was paid. The reason for the low percentage is mainly due to insufficient evidence.
- There were 63 unauthorised encampments reported. Public Highway and Council owned land that has been subject to unauthorised encampments are all inspected for preventative measures such as target hardening. There are various ways in which target hardening can be used such as natural planting of trees surrounded by bunding; wooden/metal fencing; pressure treated wooden bollards; metal or wooden knee rails and various gates with padlocks with special covers which cover the padlock. When assessing the best options for target hardening the Council take into consideration preservation of the locality.
- So far in 2018, 58 Fixed Penalty Notices are in the processes of being prosecuted for littering offences in the Magistrates Court. These cases are currently pending court hearing dates.
- The recent restructure within Environment and Highways Directorate brings together the Environmental Enforcement Officers, Civil Enforcement Officers, Kingdom Enforcement, Community Safety Partnership and CCTV. This structure will provide greater collaboration and efficient ways of working, providing greater capacity and ability to tackle Enviro-Crime within Thurrock; it will also help to achieve our goal of improving safety within the community.
- The Environmental Enforcement Officers are now equipped with Digital Radios to ensure their safety whilst lone working and to enable them to communicate with other officers including; CCTV, Parking, Community Safety and Kingdom Enforcement. The sophisticated Digital Radio system allows the Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer to efficiently deploy officers and CCTV when a priority investigation is reported, which will greatly improve efficiency of the service and officers, especially those assigned to the Quadrant Model.
- A new uniform was purchased in 2018 for the Environmental Enforcement Officers and comprises of high visibility jackets, black

trousers, safety boots and polo t-shirt. The t-shirt details Thurrock Council logo and Officer's designation on the left hand pocket. This provides a visual presence when officers are working on the streets of Thurrock.

- The Police and the Environmental Enforcement service have initiated a new joint partnership operation where once every three weeks they will be targeting known hotspot areas for Environmental and some aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour crime in Thurrock.
- Thurrock residents complained to Thurrock Council regarding HGV's parking on the public foot paths and grass verges at The Manorway in Stanford-le-Hope. As the HGV's were causing criminal damage to footpaths and grass verges, the Community Protection Notice Process was implemented to stop the HGV's causing this damage. The Environmental Enforcement service commenced a special night patrol from 6pm to 2am one night a week over a 6 week period to tackle the issue. As a result of the Environmental Enforcement Officers continuous enforcement action the amount of HGV's parking in this area has reduced significantly and so have the complaints from residents. The HGV companies were also issued with Community Protection Warnings, Notices and Fixed Penalty Notices as they are ultimately responsible for the conduct of their drivers.

To date the following have been issued:

- 1) 129 Community Protection Warnings were issued to HGV drivers (and their companies) for parking on the footpath/grass verge and they were asked to move on immediately by the Environmental Enforcement Officers.
- 2) 18 Community Protection Notice were issued to HGV drivers (and their companies) after they breached the Community Protection Warning after they had refused to move their vehicle.
- 3) 6 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued (2 for a driver and 4 for the company) after failing to remove their vehicle.

### **3.3 Future**

Unauthorised encampments have been dealt with through applications at a Magistrate's court for Eviction Orders. However this process takes approximately two weeks and further time to evict the individuals which can cause distress for the local residents. Therefore, Thurrock Council with the support of the Police and Essex Countywide Traveller Unit has begun the process to apply for a High Court injunction Borough Wide. Should the Injunction be granted and in place, this will mean that any individual who has encampment within the area of the injunction order maybe removed much faster than the current process via a magistrate court.

A letter has been submitted for approval to request the same powers that London Boroughs have for Highways Act offences. These offences include for example, depositing skips on the highway without permission, depositing materials etc. on a made-up carriageway, depositing anything on the highway to the interruption of the user. The benefits to the council and residents by the Environmental Enforcement service being able to enforce the Highways Act is a cleaner, greener and safer environment for those who visit, live and work in Thurrock Council.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, service achievements and future priorities for the Environmental Enforcement Team.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 N/A

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 6.1 There has been continuous improvement in the quality of the environment due to the work that the Environmental Enforcement Service has carried out to date. This ensures that Thurrock Council's priorities regarding People, Place and Prosperity are being met.

#### **7. Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Management Accountant (Environment & Highways Directorate and Place Directorate)**  
**Finance & ICT**

The Environmental Enforcement team has increased from two Environmental Enforcement Officers to four. These two posts are due to be cost natural and funded by income generation. Payment rates for Litter, Fly Posting and Graffiti and Free Printed Literature Fixed Penalty Notices have increased from £80 to £150.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Adam Rulewski**  
**Barrister - Litigation and Prosecutions Law and Governance**

All relevant Codes such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; the Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act 1996, along with all relevant policies and procedures are adhered to by all Environmental Enforcement Officers of the Council.

The Local Authority has a duty to prevent crime and disorder (s17 Criminal Justice Act 1988). The Local Authority has wide ranging powers and duties under The Environmental Protection Act 1990, Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Building Act 1984, Highways Act 1980, Traffic Management Act 2004 and related subordinate and primary legislation, to address those areas of responsibility outlined at 2.2 above.

Where it is necessary or expedient to protect or promote the interests of the inhabitants of its area, the Local Authority may institute proceedings (s222 Local Government Act 1972).

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Community Development Officer**

The wide spread illegal activity in respect of Enviro-crime and some aspects of Anti-social behaviour a zero tolerance approach taken will ensure that all offenders who commit offences will be penalised consistently.

Concessions are made for young people under 16 and those who are classified as vulnerable including those who suffer from relevant mental health conditions.

A Community Equality Impact Assessment will inform any further actions required to ensure fair enforcement.

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

The Council's Environmental Enforcement and the Contracted Enforcement Service will continue to involve officers enforcing the Grays Town Centre Public Space Protection Order.

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

9. **Appendices to the report**

None

**Report Author:**

Phil Carver

Strategic Lead – Enforcement and Community Protection

Environment and Highways

<b>4 October 2018</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update Report</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All		<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Julie Rogers, Chair of Thurrock Community Safety Partnership		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> N/A		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## Executive Summary

This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on performance, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership in 2017/18, and outlines the continuing priorities for the Partnership for 2018/19.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 **Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for 2017/18 and support the three priorities for 2018/19, linked to support delivery of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner's priorities, outlined in the Executive Summary (Priorities).**
- 1.2 **Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the continually changing landscape and challenge that are faced by Thurrock Council and its partners to combat an increase in violent crime.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

Performance: All crime reported to Essex Police, in Thurrock increased by 10% for the year 2017/18 when compared against the previous year with

14,415<sup>1</sup> crimes committed, Essex saw an 11% increase in reported crime rates.

There were, 5073<sup>2</sup> incidents of Anti-Social behavior (ASB) in Thurrock in 2017/18 reported to Essex Police; a decrease of 6.8%, 369 fewer recorded incidents, than in the previous year, Essex saw a 5.4% decrease in reported ASB.

### Priorities:

The strategic assessment, conducted in 2017 was based on a risk matrix which considered varying factors such as public concern, seriousness, harm and cost. This intelligence led approach informed the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Plan and activities for 2017/18, identifying three key priorities with actions to identify root cause issues and work proactively to deter and prevent.

The priorities for 2017/18 and 2018/19 are to:

- 1. Reduce Youth offending and re-offending of adults & young people**  
To address volumes of Violent crime, both with and without injury and Domestic burglary.
- 2. Reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims from:** Domestic Abuse, Sexual offences including rape, Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Gang Related Violence, Hate crime, Anti-Social behaviour, Cyber Bullying, Honour Based Abuse i.e. Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation and Serious Organised Crime in relation to Modern Day Slavery & Human Trafficking.
- 3. Violent extremism** Delivering the Governments counter terrorism strategy – Prevent, locally.

### Police and Crime Plan:

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership must pay due regard to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner priorities which are presented within the 2016/20 Police and Crime Plan, with seven focus areas:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Crack down on ASB
- Break the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reverse the trend in serious violence
- Tackle gangs and organised crime
- Protect children and vulnerable people
- Improve safety on our roads

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<sup>1</sup> . Published data by ONS

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea>

<sup>2</sup> As recorded and reported by Essex Police statistics



2.1 Summary of crime performance for 1/4/17 to 31/3/18 compared to 2016/17 as reported to Essex Police:

Victim Based Crime	Offences			
Crime Type	2016/7	2017/8	# diff.	% diff.
<b>Violence Against the Person</b>	3266	3940	674	20.6
Violence with injury	1248	1297	49	3.9
Violence without injury	1387	1721	334	24.1
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	243	315	72	29.6
<b>Robbery</b>	144	205	61	42.4
<b>Burglary (all types)</b>	1350	1238	-112	-8.3
<b>Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)</b>	1833	2012	179	9.8
<b>Theft</b>	3090	3219	129	4.2
<b>Criminal Damage incl. Arson</b>	1656	1652	-4	-0.2
<b>Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences</b>	192	185	-7	-3.6
<b>Possession of Weapons</b>	82	119	37	45.1

2.1.1 The table above shows Police recorded crime for the year 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. This identifies a rise in Violence against the Person of 20.6%, of which 35.4% is domestic related. National statistics are showing an increase of 19% and Essex an increase of 22%. The increase in possession of weapons is a worrying trend and is borne out by those coming into the youth criminal justice system.

2.1.2 The 4% increase in violent crime with injury is lower than the 9% increase seen across Essex. None of the incidents had a gang marker, but two were attributed to county line drug offences (County lines refer to groups or gangs exploiting young people or vulnerable adults to carry and sell drugs across county boundaries).

2.1.3 47 incidents were reported where a knife was used to stab, slash or cut by another – an increase from 33 in the previous year, 8 of which were domestic, 11 drugs related and 4 potentially marked as gang related.

2.1.4 19 offences were reported where a noxious or unknown substance was used.

2.1.5 Vehicle crime overall has increased, however there has been a 5.5% reduction in theft from a vehicle.

2.1.6 Following a spike in the reporting of racial/religious offences in 2016/17 Thurrock has seen a decrease in this reported crime type, which is in contrast to an increase seen nationally.

2.1.7 Priorities focused on “hidden crimes”, which often go unreported, but have a huge impact on vulnerable victims leading to long term health and well-being

concerns and ultimately the potential for safeguarding procedures. The partnership continues to raise awareness of these crimes within the community and has action plans in place to encourage reporting to the Police or to specialist organisations, identify root causes, taking preventative action and ensuring safeguarding is in place.

2.1.8 Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) is defined under section 2 of the Anti-Social behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as:

- Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person;
- Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises; or
- Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

While Police are responsible for tackling certain ASB, Thurrock Council Environment team deals with:

- abandoned vehicles
- graffiti
- fly tipping
- noise (including loud music from parties, neighbour's, alarms, animals and pubs and clubs).

Thurrock Councils Housing Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) team deal with ASB where the person causing the problem is a council tenant or it affects a council tenant and where the ASB is any act that causes – or is likely to cause – alarm, harassment or distress to anyone living in a different household to the person responsible. Examples of ASB include:

- noise nuisance
- drug taking and dealing
- threatening or rowdy behaviour
- violence and disorder
- vandalism

2.1.9 Anti-Social behaviour reported to Essex Police has reduced in year, however feedback through resident forums and community engagement events indicate this is not the experience, or perception, of our residents. There continues to be an ongoing challenge encouraging reporting of ASB to appropriate agencies, in particular where drugs are involved for fear of reprisals. The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership continues to promote anonymous reporting to Crimestoppers.

2.1.10 Five case reviews of ASB were requested in the year to March 2018, of which 2 met the threshold. One was successfully resolved and the second is ongoing.

2.1.11 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership has a statutory duty for re-offending and all partners are required to prioritise, through the Integrated Offender Management Scheme, those causing most harm to the community. The reduction seen in burglary can in part be attributed to the work of partners:

- Intervention and Enforcement by the Police and Community Rehabilitation Company Integrated Offender Management team in Thurrock.
- Working with Trading Standards and Housing teams, Essex Police delivered the Burglary initiative, providing residents and sheltered housing tenants with crime prevention advice, and information about distraction burglary.
- Improved security measures were introduced by Well Homes.
- Target hardening and improvements to enhance resident security, as well as use of Thurrock Council managed CCTV and the ongoing contribution from use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and activity of Neighbourhood Watch and Active Citizens.

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

#### 3.1 Partnership Work in 2017/18

Good progress has been made in relation to the actions agreed by the Partnership, against the key objectives. Evidence is evaluated to ascertain the effect on presentation and as will be seen from the table below; further work is required and will continue into 2018/19.

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Re-Offending</b>	<b>Safeguard vulnerable victims from hidden harm</b>	<b>Violent Extremism</b>
<b>Good evidence</b>	Young people engaging in youth at risk project  YOS prevention Programmes	Awareness of on-line exploitation by young people  Joint patrols in hot spot areas of ASB Response to Hate Crime with 118 trained ambassadors  Stay safe for Learning Disabled event	Ideology Training increasing awareness on approaches  PREVENT duty embedded within schools and LA
<b>Promising evidence</b>	Referrals to restorative justice project  PSPO to tackle street drinking in Grays	Refreshed VAWG strategy in  Partnership work to tackle gang related violence  Gangline delivered awareness training to 120 professionals  Child Sexual Exploitation aware	Referral process and links to safeguarding

		training for Licensed taxi drivers, licensed premises and hotels	
<b>Rolling Out</b>	Partnership approach to tackle ASB in Purfleet and Aveley	<p>J9 training for professionals – Over 200 now trained</p> <p>Raising awareness of vulnerable people being exploited (cuckooed)</p> <p>Barriers to address road layout used for car cruising</p> <p>Project MAYA, a specialist Support service for BAME (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic) individuals</p>	Members working formed
<b>In Develop- Ment</b>	<p>Perpetrator awareness within PASS team</p> <p>Changes to Integrated Offender Management</p>	<p>Awareness raising programme on sexual violence / abuse</p> <p>Gangline mentoring programme and workshops in schools</p> <p>Community safety partnership hub</p>	Use of Let's Talk About It to facilitate discussions with communities

### 3.2 Council Response to ASB in 2017/18

The Council, through the Environment and Housing Services play a key role of addressing some aspects of ASB across the borough.

#### 3.2.1 Thurrock Councils Environmental Enforcement team have issued notices and dealt with the following from 1 January 2018 to date:

- 20 Community Protection Notices issued by Officers.
- 18 Abandoned vehicles removed.
- 1451 service requests issued to officers.
- 15 fixed penalty notices for breaches of the Public Space Protection Order in Grays issued to members of the public.
- 555 fly tipping incidents were investigated by Thurrock Council Environmental Enforcement Officers, of which 10 were issued Fixed Penalty Notices at £400 each. A total of £4000 was paid. The reason for the low percentage is mainly due to insufficient evidence.
- 63 unauthorised encampments were reported. Public Highway and Council owned land that has been subject to unauthorised encampments are all inspected for preventative measures such as target hardening. There are various ways in which target hardening can be used such as natural planting of trees surrounded by bunding; wooden/metal fencing; pressure treated wooden bollards; metal or wooden knee rails and various

gates with padlocks with special covers which cover the padlock. When assessing the best options for target hardening the Council take into consideration preservation of the locality.

- So far in 2018, 58 Fixed Penalty Notices are in the processes of being prosecuted for littering offences in the Magistrates Court. These cases are currently pending court hearing dates.
- 129 Community Protection Warnings were issued to HGV drivers (and their companies) for parking on the footpath/grass verge and they were asked to move on immediately by the Environmental Enforcement Officers.
- 18 Community Protection Notice were issued to HGV drivers (and their companies) after they breached the Community Protection Warning, refusing to move their vehicle.
- 6 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued (2 for a driver and 4 for the company) after failing to remove their vehicle.

3.2.2 The Thurrock Housing ASB Team carry out high visibility out of hours patrols. The officers are accompanied by Essex Police officers and target estates and hotspots which are the subject of intelligence received from residents, local businesses and community partners. Since the start of 2018, the officers have carried out a total of 38 hours of patrols.

As a result of the patrols the team have achieved the following outcomes from the 1 January 2018 to date:

- 10 Community Protection Warnings issued
- 8 Final warning letters issued
- 1 Acceptable behaviour agreement issued
- 1 Possession of stolen quad bike
- 10 Reassurance visits to victims
- 2 notices of possession issued
- 1 ASB Injunction issued

### 3.3 **Work planned to deliver on priorities in 2018/19**

#### 3.3.1 **Reduce Re-offending**

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Develop and deliver on Thurrock's re-offending and Integrated Offender Management strategy.
- Look at how we address alcohol as a high criminogenic need of our priority offenders.
- Work with Thurrock Council Prevention Advice and Support Services who use and utilise established services to support families, where ASB and offending behaviour has been identified.
- Continue to promote restorative justice as a response to offending.

- Continue to utilise young people at risk programme, delivered by Prevention Advice and Support Services and YOS to deter young people from offending.
- Educate young people on the consequences of possession of offensive weapons.

### **3.3.2 Reduce Harm to and Safeguard Vulnerable Victims**

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls**

- Recruit Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Coordinator to drive forward the delivery of the VAWG strategy (Appendix 1) in Thurrock.
- Continue working with the Thurrock Housing Safeguarding Team and Changing Pathways to provide support for all victims of domestic abuse, including standard and medium risk.
- Raise awareness of honour based abuse to professionals.
- Commission work to develop response by children's social care and housing teams to working with perpetrators.
- Continue to roll out J9 training to raise awareness of domestic abuse and with SERICC develop an awareness programme on Sexual exploitation and abuse through challenging myths.
- Raise awareness of stalking through the 16 days of action events.
- Support project MAYA – a specific service for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic communities to tackle so called honour based abuse.

### **3.3.3 Anti-Social Behaviour**

Members of the Community Safety Partnership from the Community Policing Team, Housing, ASB Housing Team, Environmental Health, Local Area Coordinators, fire service and community safety have taken the Police marquee to provide high visibility and engagement in the Garrison, Derwent Parade, Calcutta Road, Corringham library, Blackshots and Grays High Street, alongside a meeting with Thurrock Borough Council Housing Tenants of Garrison Estate, Flowers Estate, Derwent Parade, Tilbury High Rise, Aveley and Seabrooke Rise with Police, Housing, ASB and Community Safety representatives.

There are some common themes that residents told us in all areas:

1. Residents either not confident to report ASB, or no longer have confidence that it will be responded to.
2. Quad and motorbike nuisance.
3. General ASB perceived to be by young people and linked to drug taking.
4. Lack of visibility of Police presence.

These themes were also reiterated to the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner in his annual meeting with residents held in Grays on 11 September.

The Leader of the Council has provided £250K of additional funding to assist with tackling ASB in Thurrock, targeted specifically to address the concerns raised by residents in the local community. To date this has enabled:

- Improved CCTV coverage on the Garrison, Seabrooke Rise and Derwent Parade, alongside lighting improvements to support the use of CCTV.
- Secured doors in communal blocks to prevent entry and planned for removal of structures which encourage youths to congregate.
- Operations by Police and Council teams to increase visibility and enforcement in hot spot areas to identify perpetrators and provide intervention and/or enforcement.
- Engagement with residents through the successful Purfleet community day.

And will deliver prevention work with young people at risk of causing ASB.

In addition the partnership continues to:

- Share high risk victims with multi agency partners through locality action groups to enable safeguarding and victim focused outcomes.
- Police Public Spaces Protection Order in Grays and West Thurrock and identify other areas where PSPO's may support reduction in ASB.
- Support a fun day in Tilbury to bring the community together.
- Consult with the public on Houses of Multi Occupancy scheme by the Private Housing team.

### **Hate Crime**

- High risk victims shared with multi agency partners through locality action groups to enable safeguarding and victim focused outcomes.
- Build, pride, responsibility and respect within communities, through supporting community engagement events in Tilbury and Purfleet.
- Continue to promote the hate crime ambassador role and promote hate incident reporting centres through "stop it now" project and monthly training hosted by Thurrock Council.
- Engage with communities through the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police.
- Support local delivery of the Essex Hate Crime Strategy - Appendix 2.

### **Gang Related Violence**

- Support the use of the Prevent, Disrupt, Enforce model to manage identified gang nominals in Thurrock. In August these additional proactive

operations have led to the arrest of 12 people in relation to a number of offences, including for possession of weapons and drugs, in relation to drug dealing under the Mis-use of Drugs Act. This will be complemented by Covert operations.

- Continued to raise awareness of gang related violence amongst professionals through training by gangline and YOS to children's social care.
- Engaged with providers to deliver interventions through mentoring and prevention projects in schools.
- Increased awareness of gang related violence and links to Child Sexual Exploitation and missing persons across departments and agencies.
- Raise awareness of "cuckooing" amongst vulnerable communities through training and events.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

- Ensure Child Sexual Exploitation embedded within gang related violence work.
- Work with licensing to increase awareness amongst taxi providers and licensed premises.

### **Modern Day Slavery**

- Continue to raise awareness on this issue with partners and community alike to improve reporting levels.

#### **3.3.4 PREVENT Violent Extremism**

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will continue to:

- Identify local threats and monitor.
- Encourage greater awareness and challenge within communities, including a member working group.
- Support Cohesion and integration between different communities to foster positive relations.
- Ensure professionals have awareness and are able to act appropriately on concerns.
- Safeguard those that are vulnerable to extremism.

#### **3.3.5 The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted:**

1. There is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm.
2. Older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders
3. Young people are at greater risk of sexual exploitation, cyber bullying and gang related violence.



4. Hate crime within the disabled, transgender, and sexual orientation communities continues to have low rates of reporting.
5. Learning disabled are at risk of being “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence.
6. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence/abuse.
7. There is a gap around information with regards to same sex domestic abuse victims.
8. Hot spot areas for crime are West Thurrock and South Stifford, Grays Riverside, Ockendon and Aveley & Uplands wards.

3.3.6 The structure of the partnership is in line with the priorities to ensure coordinated activity.

### 3.4 **Summary**

3.4.1 Thurrock Community Safety Partnership remains committed, through its members, to working with the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to develop and implement innovative programmes to tackle crime, keep our communities safe and improve support for victims.

3.4.2 Trend analysis, which formed part of the research to develop these delivery plans, confirmed that whilst reported levels of ASB continue to fall, reported crime is increasing, particularly the categories of violence against the person; vehicle offences; and robbery.

3.4.3 The key challenges faced by the CSP for the coming year are to:

- Tackle the changing pattern of gang related violence Increase reporting by residents, particularly in relation to drug dealing and Anti-Social behaviour.
- Increase confidence of residents that actions are in place to address the above issues.

3.4.4 Whilst developing individual action plans on hidden harms impacting young people; specifically gang related violence; Child Sexual Exploitation; on line safety; and Prevent it is important to recognise that there is a common theme in that the young people impacted by these crimes, sometimes as offenders, are themselves vulnerable due to a variety of factors including exploitation; substance misuse; school exclusion; going missing from home; and exposure to domestic abuse.

3.4.5 Our multi-agency groups, set up to tackle operational issues around crime, offenders and Anti-Social behaviour continue to deliver improvements in community safety for our residents, in particular our most vulnerable through close working with adult safeguarding teams.

3.4.6 The appointment of a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) coordinator demonstrates the Council commitment to raising awareness of VAWG and delivery of our strategy.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 This report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership in 2017/18 and provide insight into the priorities for the Partnership for 2018/19.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 The issues with regards to lack of confidence to report and poor visibility of policing have been highlighted by the CVS through feedback from community forums as well as at resident meetings.
- 5.2 The Essex Police Public Perception Survey Results show a 5% improvement in satisfaction with the level of policing in Thurrock for Quarter 1 (April – June) compared to Quarter 4 2017/18 (January – March).

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

**People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time.
  - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing.
  - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together.
- 6.2 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership action plan links closely to and supports delivery of Essex's domestic abuse commissioning strategy 2015-2020.
- 6.3 The strategic assessment in identifying the 3 priorities took into account recent consultation with residents in some areas of the borough and it is our understanding that in many cases Anti-Social behaviour is going unreported and therefore the reported reduction in ASB is not providing an accurate picture.

#### **7. Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Management Accountant**

The Community Safety Partnership has a grant from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, the same as last year and an £18,343 contribution from Thurrock Council. These funds have all been allocated to support delivery of the priorities.

## **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
**Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Community Development Manager**

Our Equality Impact Assessment has been refreshed following the strategic assessment and the gaps identified in 3.4 are recognised within our action plans.

## **7.4 Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder

This report will help the Council and its Partners ensure that they are delivering on its commitments to Section 17.

## **8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Partnership Strategic assessment 2017
- Partnership Delivery Plan:  
[www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership)
- Police and Crime Plan:  
[www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/)
- ASB case review report:  
[www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/asb-scr-2018-v01.pdf](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/asb-scr-2018-v01.pdf)

## **9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Thurrock Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Appendix 2 - Essex Hate Crime Prevention Strategy.

**Report Author:**

Michelle Cunningham

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager

Environment and Highways

# **A Strategy to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in Thurrock 2017-2020**

**Whilst this strategy is focused on the needs of women and girls** as a deliberate response to the disproportionate impact of the crimes of domestic and sexual violence and abuse on them, it also fully recognises and responds to the fact that men can be victims of these crimes, too. Similarly, it recognises that not all perpetrators are men.

**Thurrock Community Safety Partnership** is committed to meeting the needs of both women and men by tackling all forms of exploitation and abuse across Thurrock and by delivering protection and legal redress for all.



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# **1. Foreword**

As the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, I am delighted to welcome this three-year strategy to tackle violence against women and girls in Thurrock. The strategy outlines our response to a wide range of serious crimes, affecting all sections of the community.

As well as domestic and sexual violence and abuse, responding to honour based abuse, child sexual exploitation and other harmful cultural practices is included.

Whilst it is recognised that women and girls are disproportionately affected, men can also be victims of violence and abuse, this Strategy accordingly, addresses the needs of all victims. It also looks to respond robustly to perpetrators, to reduce the number of victims of these offences.

All this is conducted within the framework of a strong and collaborative Community Safety Partnership and I look forward to seeing the positive results that will be achieved by the agencies within it.

**Cllr Brian Little**  
**Portfolio Holder for Community Safety**  
**Thurrock Council**

# **2. Vision**

The vision of this strategy is for everyone in Thurrock to live a life free from domestic and sexual violence and abuse and harmful practices, defined below as 'Violence against Women and Girls' (VAWG).

### 3. Purpose

The government's National Statement of Expectations for Violence Against Women and Girls Services (December, 2016), identifies a range of policies that should be considered in any effective strategy to combat VAWG. It describes VAWG as a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes, including:

- domestic violence and abuse
- sexual violence
- child sexual abuse
- stalking
- so-called "honour-based" violence, including forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- gang-related violence
- human trafficking

The National Statement emphasises that we can only deliver an effective VAWG Strategy if we:

- **put the victim at the centre of service delivery**
- **have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims safe**
- **take a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG**
- **safeguard individuals at every point**
- **raise local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG**

In line with the national approach on this agenda, this Strategy is therefore focused on the needs of women and girls as victims and is a deliberate response to the disproportionate impact of VAWG crimes on women and girls. The latest figures show that in Thurrock, 76.8% of victims were women and 23.3% were men. Nevertheless, the needs of men as victims are recognised and responded to just as robustly as female victims.

In responding to perpetrators, it is also recognised that women, as well as men, can be perpetrators. The latest figures for Thurrock confirm that 23.7% of perpetrators were women with 76.3% men. The gender split in Thurrock for victims and perpetrators almost exactly mirrors the proportions seen nationally.

We know that violence can affect women and girls regardless of their age, race, religion, socio-economic background, sexual orientation or marital status. It can take place in relationships, including same-sex relationships, in families, and in communities.

This strategy and supporting action plan is intended to drive activity in Thurrock in a transparent and dynamic format to respond to the challenges of the National Statement. To help do this the action plan is formatted to show clearly how we intend to deliver against each of the aims identified in the statement, using the outcomes of the VAWG conference held in November 2016. These set out existing and potential service gaps and how the VAWG partners in Thurrock are responding to these gaps.



## 4. Governance

The response in Thurrock to VAWG, is in alignment with the government's 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020' (March, 2016) and the National Statement of Expectations, referred to above. More locally it supports the outcomes of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) and the delivery of the Board's 'Joint Commissioning Strategy for Domestic Abuse, 2015-20'.

Within Thurrock itself the VAWG Governance Group, reporting directly to the TCSP, identifies and implements local action with increasing effectiveness, to deliver against the Action Plan in support of the Strategy. The Action Plan is updated in advance of every meeting to ensure it is kept fully updated. The Group also feeds into the Thurrock Adult Safeguarding Board; the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children's Board; and the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board.

A welcome development is that the SETDAB has expanded the remit of its work to incorporate a widened definition of domestic abuse, but this does not yet include sexual abuse and sexual violence. In Thurrock the government's definition, which does include these additional offences, is adopted.

## 5. Legal framework

The legal framework that supports the work outlined in this Strategy is underpinned by several key pieces of legislation. These include:

- **The Equalities Act 2010**, which places a duty on all local authorities and public bodies to eliminate unlawful victimisation, harassment and discrimination on the grounds of gender.
- **The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004**, which introduced the requirement, from 13 April, 2011, for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct a Domestic Homicide Review of the circumstances surrounding the death of any person aged 16 or over, whose death was, or appears to be, a domestic homicide. Thurrock CSP liaises closely with all the other CSPs in Essex to monitor and adopt national good practice as well as the outcomes of Essex DHRs, to strengthen preventative measures to reduce the risks associated with such tragedies. The CSPs are supported by the establishment, in July 2017, of a centralised unit within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- **The Care Act 2014**, which places adult safeguarding on a legal footing and directs the way in which it must be undertaken by local authorities.
- **The Children Act 1989**, which places a responsibility on local authorities to safeguard children and, as amended by the Adoption and Children Act, 2002, adds to the definition of harm those children suffering impairment "from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another."

## 6. Evidence base

The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales<sup>1</sup> suggests there is a long-term downward trend in the proportion of 16 to 59 year-olds experiencing any form of reported domestic abuse, with latest

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<sup>1</sup> 'Focus on violent crime and sexual offences, England and Wales; year ending Mar 2016' – Office for National Statistics, February 2017

figures indicating that 7.7% of women and 4.4% of men had been abused in the latest 12-month period. This compared to the 11.5% of women and 6.4% of men reporting domestic abuse in 2005-06.

However, more than one in four women and more than one in ten males have experienced domestic abuse at least once since the age of 16. We also know that abuse affects significant numbers of people over the age of 59 and data is now being captured to direct activity at both national and local level to deal with this area which has not always had the attention it requires. Latest police data confirms that in 2016, 15.6% of victims of domestic abuse in Thurrock were over the age of 45, compared with the county average of 13.0%.

In Thurrock, in the twelve months to December 2016, according to the police<sup>2</sup>, there were 1,055 female and 319 males victims of domestic abuse over the age of 16.

When compared against the population as a whole in Thurrock, this was the equivalent of 16.8 female victims per 1,000 population, compared with an Essex average of 13.6, giving Thurrock the fourth highest district ratio, behind Tendring (19.1); Harlow (18.3); and Basildon (17.3). For male victims the Thurrock ratio was 5.3 per 1,000 head of population. This compared with an Essex average of 4.3; the same ratio of 5.3 was seen in Basildon and Harlow and less than Tendring (6.5) and Southend (5.7).

The combined rate for both female and male victims in Thurrock was 11.2 per 1,000 head of population, compared with 9.1 for the whole of Essex, placing the district fourth behind Tendring (13.2); Basildon (11.6); and Harlow (12.2 offences per 1,000 head of population).

This is despite reporting levels remaining low. Research shows that still only 26% of women and 10% of men told police of their most recent experience. That said, more victims do at least disclose to someone than used to be the case. During the period 2001 to 2016, the proportion of women disclosing any form of abuse rose from 69% to 88%, whilst the proportion of male victims disclosing during the same period, rose from 37% to 61%.

The challenge is therefore how best to improve the public's awareness of the services available and the referral pathways to access them so that an even greater proportion of these cases are brought to notice of the relevant agencies, enabling more victims to be protected and more perpetrators brought to justice.

## **7. Police data**

### **Domestic abuse offences vs. incidents**

The phrase "total domestic abuse incidents" includes all domestic abuse investigations and can be divided into crimes and non-crimes. The terms "crime" and "offences" is used interchangeably but relates to the notifiable crime types defined by the Home Office that make up the recorded crime figures. Domestic abuse offences are therefore recorded crimes that are domestic in nature, for example an assault by one partner on another.

Domestic incidents are any other investigations that are domestic in nature but no crimes have occurred or been disclosed to the police. An example could be a drunken verbal argument between partners to which the Police are called to attend.

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<sup>2</sup> Essex Police Domestic Abuse Data summary pack – 12 months to March 2017

## Solved crime

The crime is regarded as solved when a perpetrator has been recorded as responsible for committing the offence and has been dealt with by one of the approved methods of disposal.

The table below gives details of those incidents reported to police both county-wide and in Thurrock. It can be seen that whilst there was a 4.2% increase in reporting across the county in 2016/17, compared with the previous 12 months, from 30,719 to 32,009 incidents. In Thurrock the number of incidents reported in 2016/17, fell by 5.7% (183 incidents) compared to the previous period, from 3,219, to 3,036. That was still over 8 incidents per day.

Similarly, whilst recorded offences increased across the whole county by 7.2%, from 12,779 to 13,697, a reduction of 2.6% was seen in Thurrock, from 1,418 to 1,381. Nevertheless, domestic abuse cases still accounted for 10.6% of all crime locally.

Area	Incidents			Offences			Solved Rate		
	2015/16	2016/17	Change	2015/16	2016/17	Change	2015/16	2016/17	Change
<b>Essex</b>	30,719	32,009	+1,290 (4.2%)	12,779	13,697	+918 (7.2%)	30.7%	26.2%	-4.5%
<b>Thurrock</b>	3,219	3,036	-183 (-5.7%)	1418	1381	-37 (-2.6%)	32.1%	27.9%	-4.2%

In terms of actual numbers of offences recorded in 2016/17, of the districts in Essex, Thurrock had the fifth highest total, as shown below:

- Tendring – 1,516
- Southend – 1,513
- Colchester – 1,407
- Thurrock – 1,381

## 8. Victims and perpetrators

In 2016/17, again using police data, there were a total of 2,975 victims of domestic abuse recorded in Thurrock. Of these, 2,284 (76.8%) were female and 691 (23.2%) were male. These are very similar to the proportions seen at County and national level. During the same period, there were 2,992 perpetrators identified, of which 2,284 (76.3%) were male and 708 (23.7%) were female, reflecting closely again the proportions seen elsewhere.

A study over the last four years shows that in Essex 75.8% of suspects were current or former intimate partners; 9.8% were adult children; 4.5% were siblings; 4.2% were parents towards adult children; and 3.5% were towards family members.

The connection between what used to be called the "toxic trio" between domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health is emphasised by these data which also identified that 18% of victims had substance misuse problems (7% drugs and 11% alcohol) and 35% had mental health issues. With perpetrators, the data shows that 93% had substance misuse problems (39% drugs and 54% alcohol) with 28% with mental health issues. Greater engagement between key agencies and partners, both countywide and locally, is progressing in order to harmonise services to victims and perpetrators, to reduce offences and improve aftercare.

To make this happen in Thurrock, the supporting action plan lists eight specific actions to support victims and seven in regard to perpetrators. Eleven actions are aimed at improving safeguarding and twelve to improve partnership working. All these are contained in the accompanying Action Plan. These include improving the response to the needs of both young people and the elderly specifically; neither of these groups have always received adequate focus previously in VAWG Strategies. Responding to VAWG in the workplace will also be addressed.

## Perpetrator programmes

In Thurrock the Domestic Violence Interventions Programme delivers a 26-week RESPECT-accredited perpetrator programme to ten men each year. Importantly, it also provides support for (ex) partners regarding practical and safety issues. The key performance indicators and feedback from course attendees and their (ex) partners is impressive.

Whilst other perpetrator programmes are in place across Essex, they tend to be small scale and very locally based. It is clear there is scope to link these more effectively. Consequently, it is extremely encouraging to see that a successful countywide bid to the Transformation Fund, in which Thurrock was a key contributor, has secured £450,000, over the next three years to upgrade the response to perpetrators. This is focused on five key areas, comprising:

1. targeting "Bystander Intervention", which seeks to challenge attitudes, especially focused on the university student population
2. early intervention, including male mentoring, aimed at the 13 to 18 age group
3. increasing service capacity, including to sexual violence
4. perpetrator outreach
5. perpetrator programmes in Chelmsford Prison

Progress in these five areas will be closely monitored and key partners will be kept updated.

## 9. Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities

Using data for 2015/16, research conducted by the Place Team, Organisational Intelligence of Essex County Council, (Domestic Abuse in BME Communities – August 2016) has shown that of the 30,539 domestic abuse incidents reported in Essex, 10.2% involved members of the BAME communities. This is in line with the proportion of the whole population of Essex which come from BME communities, which is 10.5%.

In Thurrock, 29,010, residents come from members of BAME communities – the equivalent of 19.1% of the district's population. Five of the top ten wards in Essex with the highest BAME percentage population are in Thurrock. These are:

Top 10 position	Ward	% population
2nd	South Chafford	40.3%
4th	Grays Riverside	38.8%
5th	West Thurrock and South Stifford	36.7%
7th	Chafford and North Stifford	31.7%
8th	Grays Thurrock	26.9%

Of the total number of domestic abuse cases in Thurrock, 22.6% involved BAME residents, which suggests that effective engagement with BAME communities, vital to ensure all victims of VAWG can access services may be in place. This is especially important in Thurrock as we had 626 BAME victims during this period, the highest number in the County, well above the 494 victims in Southend, the district with the second highest number.

A number of these victims were deemed to have "No Access to Public Funds", which causes further complications in responding effectively and sensitively to their needs.

The action plan, as well as covering generic support for victims and perpetrators, includes specific work to scope the extent of domestic abuse amongst BAME communities, including those victims with no recourse to public funds.

## **10. Domestic homicide reviews (DHRs)**

Nationally, over the last three years, 60% of all female homicides and 14% of all male homicides (amounting to 29% of all homicides) were found to be due to domestic abuse. Since April 2011, Community Safety Partnerships have had the statutory responsibility to conduct DHRs in all cases of domestic homicide. These are intended to provide an opportunity to learn any lessons from the circumstances of each case and identify and implement any service improvements.

Since that time there have, by July 2017, been 28 domestic homicides in Essex, each requiring a DHR, although thankfully, the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership has yet to face the challenges of conducting one. In July, 2017, in a very positive and well-received initiative by the Police and Crime Commissioner, a centralised unit was set up to support CSPs with the substantial administration requirements of DHRs, without removing their statutory responsibilities for them.

The recommendations of published DHRs are studied closely, both in Thurrock and around the county, to learn from the lessons reported in them and to implement any responses to them. These have often indicated problems with data sharing. Also, that many perpetrators were in treatment for substance misuse or mental health issues and had missed appointments prior to committing the homicides. Work is in hand to develop more effective referral pathways to address these recurring weaknesses as speedily as possible.

## **11. Independent domestic violence advocates (IDVAs)**

IDVAs help keep victims and their children safe from harm from violent partners or family. Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis, to assess the level of risk. They:

- discuss the range of suitable options
- develop plans for immediate safety – including practical steps for victims to protect themselves and their children
- develop plans for longer-term safety
- represent their clients at the MARAC
- help apply sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts, including housing options

In 2016/17, there were 282 referrals to the IDVA service in Thurrock, roughly 8% of the Essex-wide total of 3,472. Whilst both in Thurrock and Essex as a whole, the IDVAs do provide an

excellent service, there is continuing concern that almost all referrals still come only from the police.

Nationally the percentage of police referrals is between 60% and 75%. In Essex, however, the figure rises to 84% and in Thurrock to 95% (268 of the 282 referrals).

Action will be taken by the VAWG Governance Group to increase awareness of the role of IDVAs and referral pathways with partner agencies to ensure that all appropriate cases are brought to notice and acted upon. The quality of the IDVA service will continue to be evaluated through engagement with the contract monitoring undertaken by staff in the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

## **12. Domestic violence protection notices (DVPNs)**

A DVPN is aimed at a perpetrator aged 18 years or over, who has been violent or threatened violence at the time of a domestic incident or presents an on-going risk of violence to the victim. It allows immediate conditions to be placed on perpetrators by police that can prohibit them from returning to the family home and prevent direct contact with the victim and children as well as attending the area in which the victim resides. The objective is to allow the victim and the perpetrator to have a period of reflection which gives police and partner agencies time to consider further, more coordinated action

The DVPN is also the initial stage of advising a domestic violence perpetrator that the police will be seeking a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) against them. This allows the police and assisting agencies to build on existing procedures and bridges the current protective gap, providing immediate emergency protection for the victim, allowing them space to explore the options available and make informed decisions regarding their safety. An application for a DVPO must be heard at court within 48 hours and can last from 14 days to 28 days.

Since the introduction of DVPNs in June 2014, data from Essex Police indicates that 835 DVPO applications were made, of which 733 DVPOs were granted by the courts. In Thurrock, a total of 167 DVPNs have been issued, since they came into force, as shown below:

- 2014 – 31
- 2015 – 91
- 2016 – 36
- 2017 year to date – 9

Action will be taken to ensure close links between police at local and central level, including staff in Operation Juno and Operation Shield – the on-going police operations against perpetrators are maintained further to improve liaison between them and local stakeholders and partners. This will include work on high-risk perpetrators.

## **13. Sanctuary scheme**

The Sanctuary scheme supports victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence or hate crime by providing professionally installed security measures to allow those experiencing these crimes to target-harden their homes. This enables them to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, and they so wish to do so. In Thurrock, the council offers this service to victims of all tenures and work with registered providers in the borough to safeguard all survivors.

Whilst referrals are accepted from both internal and external agencies, the majority of referrals are made from Essex Police, social care or housing staff.

The number of referrals has increased markedly over the last three years, as can be seen from these figures:

- 2014/15 – 56 referrals
- 2015/16 – 105 referrals
- 2016/17 – 135 referrals.

The staff members of the council's Housing team also deal with domestic abuse cases involving residents. These have increased in 2016/17, by 29 cases (13.5%) compared to the previous year, from 215 cases to 244 cases.

## 14. Changing Pathways

Changing Pathways is a specialist domestic abuse support provider in Thurrock and South East Essex. Its services for survivors of domestic abuse in Thurrock include:

- a locally based refuge for women and children who are at risk of serious harm and unable to remain in their own home
- specialist children and young people support for children living in the refuge
- a floating support service to support individuals experiencing domestic abuse and living in the community
- one to one parenting support programme through the Brighter Futures Early Help service
- specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) offering culturally sensitive domestic abuse support to the local BAME community
- health-focused IDVAs with Basildon University Hospital
- support for victims of stalking and harassment
- specialist and confidential domestic abuse adult and child counselling for service users

The majority (96%) of service users in Thurrock, between 1 February and 30 June 2017, were female, whilst 35% of service users identified themselves as coming from BAME communities. A further 20% of service users identified as having a disability and 70% of total service users were aged between 21 and 40 years.

### Multiple / complex needs

Between 1 April and 30 June 2017, 70% of Thurrock refuge residents were being supported by our practitioners with their needs that could be considered as multiple/complex. The support needs of these residents were as follows:

Support needs*	% in need
Substance misuse	13%
Alcohol misuse	19%
Poor mental health	63%
Child protection / child in need	19%
Immigration needs	6%

## 15. Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC)

The MARAC is located in the MASH and holds meetings every Wednesday morning to assess the response to all high-risk cases DV cases. The result is that every case has been heard within seven days, half the target date set by the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Team Steering Group.

The latest review report (July 2017), identifies that between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2017, 45 cases were heard, of which 29 involved children and the remaining 16 were adult-only cases.

Referrals are mainly from police, with only 9 from other agencies. This is outside the recommended ratio and work is in hand to raise awareness of the role of the MARAC and of its reporting pathways.

Very encouragingly, only 2 cases of repeat referrals were seen and feedback from clients has been extremely positive.

## 16. Honour based abuse (HBA)

HBA is defined by the National Police Chiefs' Council as:

*"any incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of an individual, family and / or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour."*

The very use of the term "honour" in relation to the offences referred to and categorised as HBA is, itself, controversial. HBA covers a wide range of offences, not just those involving violence, such as assaults, kidnap, murder and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), but also harassment; criminal damage; arson and forced marriage. It differs from domestic abuse in that the perpetrator may not necessarily be an intimate partner or family member, but can be more than one individual and come from other families and the wider community to which the victim belongs.

Identifying that these offences are motivated by the protection or defence of so-called "honour" can be a challenge, accordingly, data at national, County and local level remains less than comprehensive, but considerable efforts are being made to improve it, to enable responses to be focused as effectively as possible. The findings of Karma Nirvana, a charity supporting men and women at risk of forced marriage or other HBA offences, is very helpful in identifying the most effective approach to be taken.

The two specific offences within the wider definition of HBA that are most commonly associated with it are Forced Marriage and FGM.

### Forced marriage

Forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor. Data gathered by Essex Police (Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Problem Profile – January 2017), shows that in 2015/16, there were 12 cases of forced marriage. Action will be taken to raise awareness of this offence with students in local academies and schools, as well as amongst frontline staff in partner agencies, with whom greater understanding of referral routes will be a focus.



## Female genital mutilation (FGM)

During the same period there were 4 cases of FGM, which is defined as any procedure that intentionally alters or causes injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons and 75 other HBA offences reported to police. Of these 55% came to notice from the reporting of a crime and the remaining 45% were created to protect and safeguard a victim, or potential victim.

In Thurrock a member of the Barnardo's National FGM Centre is attached to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). In 2016/17, this staff member received 13 referrals and conducted 5 telephone consultations. The referrals came from midwives (12), schools (3), police (2) and the courts (1). Ten of the referrals related to families of Nigerian origin and the rest from Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Uganda. Two FGM Protection Orders were taken out and several others referred for further interventions by the FGM Centre.

The staff member also delivers awareness raising and training for front-line staff, to drive up knowledge of this offence and how to respond to cases when they come to light.

A wide-ranging programme of 13 actions in regard to the overarching challenges of HBA is included in the action plan. A further 16 actions focus on ensuring a robust professional response to FGM, amongst which be establishing closer links with local community and faith groups, as well as schools and frontline staff.

## 17. Human trafficking

Whilst human trafficking is within the wider definition VAWG, it is dealt with by the TCSP as part of its response to modern day slavery, the details of which are contained in the separate Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Action Plan.

## 18. Sexual abuse and exploitation

Concerns about the under-reporting of domestic abuse cases are also very evident in the official figures for sexual violence. The latest figures for Thurrock are as follows;

	Rape offences	Rape offences solved	Other sexual offences	Other sexual offences solved
2015/16	157	24	102	25
2016/17	144	24	97	5
Change	-13	none	-5	-20

The South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC) is a Thurrock based specialist service provider for all victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse.

SERICC provides services in Thurrock, Basildon, Brentwood, Harlow and Epping and is the lead partner for Synergy Essex, a partnership of Essex Rape Crisis Centres. SERICC offer specialist sexual violence support services including:

- **Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA)** providing specialist support and advocacy for victims and survivors throughout the Criminal Justice System

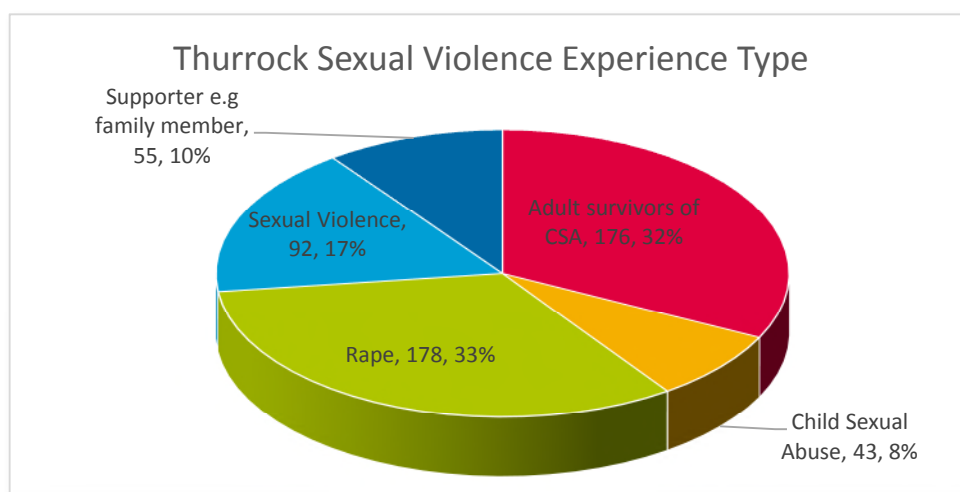
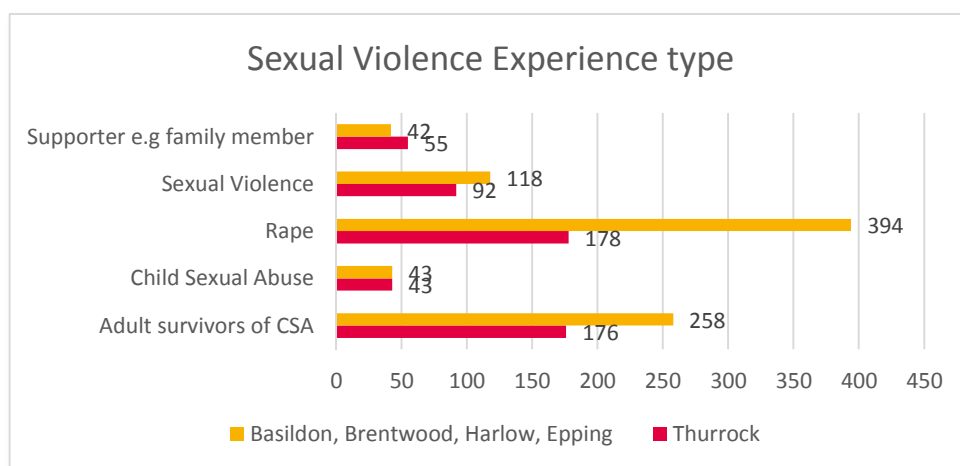
- **Sexual Violence Advocacy Support** providing sexual violence advocacy in relation to homelessness, debt, interruption to employment/education and independent living.
- **Specialist Sexual Violence Counselling Service** offering specialist, confidential counselling and support to anyone who has experienced any form of sexual violence.
- **Children and Families** providing direct work with children and young people that have experienced sexual violence/abuse and the wider family members, including siblings and parents who are impacted by sexual violence.

The chart overleaf indicates the steady growth in the demand for services, counselling and support over the last three years;

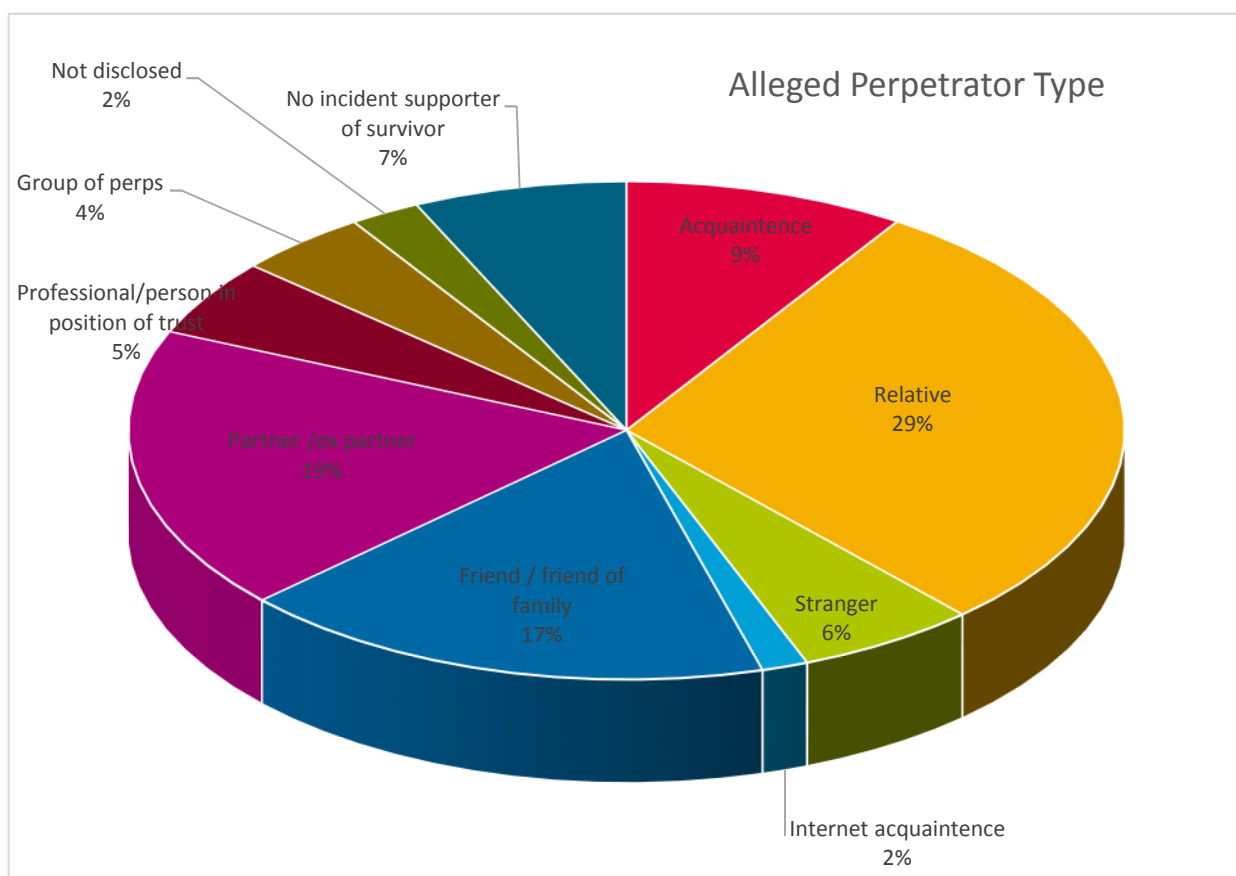
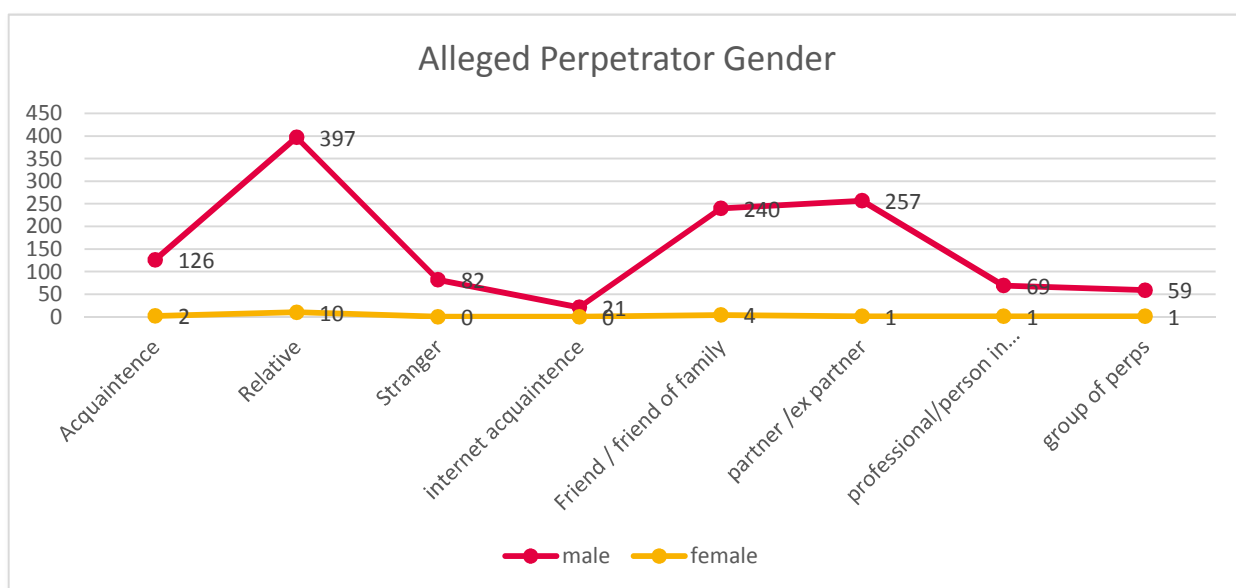
Thurrock only contacts	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
One to one support sessions	2,937	3,822	3,982
Telephone/email contacts	6,998	11,214	13,370

## 2016/17 SERICC service user statistics

This chart below details the experience of sexual violence disclosed by service users who used SERICC's services between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017. Experiences may have been recent or non-recent.

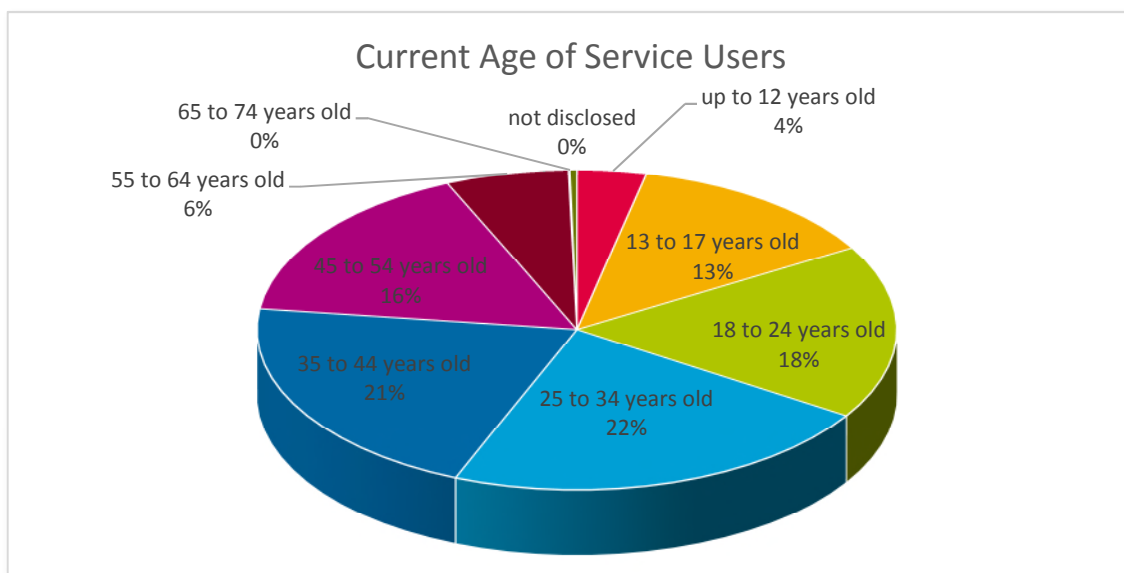


The charts below show the breakdown of the gender of the alleged perpetrator and the relationship between them, of all disclosed experiences of sexual violence and abuse between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.



- 94% of services users knew the alleged perpetrator.
- 98.64% of alleged perpetrators were male.
- The category "Group of perpetrators" relates to organised sexual offences carried out by more than one perpetrator at one time.

The chart below shows the current age of those accessing SERICC services.



The youngest victim/survivor was age 4; the oldest victim/survivor was age 74.

The action plan includes 21 actions in regard to sexual abuse and exploitation, covering awareness raising, referral pathways, support for victims and other tangible measures to improve the service further for them.

## 19. Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The SARC, based in Brentwood Community Hospital, is funded by a partnership between Essex Police and NHS England. It provides a service to men, women and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted, which might be either acute or historic in nature.

The service can be accessed by the police, any outside agency, or the client themselves and consists of the following immediate and / or ongoing care.

### Immediate care:

- forensic evidence collection by trained specialist medical staff
- medical care, including emergency contraception or HIV post-exposure prophylaxis
- specialist Sexual Offences Trained Officers (SOTOs) from Essex Police
- crisis workers

### Ongoing care:

- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and counselling is provided at the SARC by the Essex Rape Crisis Partnership

The annual activity report for 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, reports that there were 298 referrals, which included 22 self-referrals. Specific data for the full year is not available, but a shorter period shows that 12 cases were from Thurrock.

Additionally, full-year data shows that 6% of referrals were male, 1% transgender and 93% female.

## 20. Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

The sexual exploitation of children and young people involves exploitive situations, contexts and relationships where they, or a third person, or persons, receive "something" (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affections, gifts or money), as a result of them performing and/or others performing on them sexual activities. This can include forms of grooming.

The common themes seem to be that these offences are complex and are usually hidden both from the public and professionals. There are rarely straightforward responses to these challenges and data on the prevalence of child sexual exploitation have only recently begun to be collected. Nevertheless, it must be assumed to be taking place and Thurrock is committed to the countywide approach as contained in the Southend, Essex and Thurrock CSE Strategy, which contains the following seven themes:

- prevention
- identification
- assessment of risk factors / intervention / protection
- engagement with children/young people
- impact
- disruption of perpetrators and enforcement
- support for victims of CSE

Local activity has included awareness raising by staff from the Council's Licensing Department and the CSE Manager, with hotels and taxi drivers, which has been well-received. The Action Plan includes a section dedicated to directing activity against this criminal activity.

## 21. Stalking

There is no agreed definition of stalking but it is described as a pattern of repeated, unwanted behaviour that causes the individual to feel distressed or scared. It has an impact on all areas of the community, not just the individual victim, but also friends, family, work colleagues and other associates. Recent research into 350 domestic homicides showed that stalking behaviours were present in 94% of cases. This has led stalking to be described as murder in slow motion.

A nationwide survey in 2016 – 'The Stalker In Your Pocket' – showed nearly a fifth of all British adult women (18%) and 8% of all British adult men had been stalked. 20% of people are stalked by someone they don't know. Despite this high prevalence, the police recorded only 4,168 stalking offences in the 12 months to June 2016. Even fewer – 1,102 cases – were prosecuted in the courts in 2015/16.

In August 2016, Changing Pathways set up a specialist stalking service for individuals in Thurrock and southeast Essex funded by the Big Lottery. In the first 12 months, the service has provided intensive support to over 70 individuals experiencing stalking and as the service becomes established, it is anticipated that referrals to the service will increase.

To add to this service, a further 6 actions are contained in a dedicated section of the action plan, to drive activity to improve how we deal with this issue, including maintaining links with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to promote awareness raising on an annual basis; developing self-assessment tools and making available personal safety equipment, such as alarms, for individuals and communities.

# Appendix 1 – Equality impact assessment

<b>Name of service or policy</b>	Thurrock violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2017/20
<b>Lead officer contact details</b>	Jim Nicolson
<b>Why is this service or policy development/review needed?</b>	
To inform the annual refresh of the strategy and subsequent action plan to highlight and address any community or equalities anomalies. These to be incorporated within the three year action plan	

## 1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities? Look at what you know – what does your research tell you?

Consider:

- national and local data sets – for example, key statistics and ward profiles
- complaints
- consultation and service monitoring information
- voluntary and community organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with 'protected characteristics'. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
<b>Local communities in general</b>	x			Tackling hidden offences across all spectres of society	By improved engagement and awareness raising, resulting in increased reporting and safeguarding.
<b>Age</b>	x			<p>The strategy addresses victims and perpetrators both elderly and young unlike previous national strategies.</p> <p>Sexual exploitation adversely impacts young people.</p> <p>Elder abuse is acknowledged as under reported and is being highlighted for action.</p>	Targeted campaigns such as Christmas 2017 for both elderly and young.

<b>Disability</b>	x			The strategy addresses sexual abuse of adults with learning disabilities.	Engagement with local voluntary groups and addressing offender behaviour.
				Mental health issues are addressed within the connection to domestic abuse and substance misuse.	By seeking to harmonise the services available to respond to clients' needs.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>		x		The scope of the strategy doesn't cover gender reassignment.	
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	x			Addresses abuse within all domestic relationships and highlights forced marriage in particular.	By greater transparency with communities linked to forced marriage.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	x			Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse – the strategy reinforces the responses to domestic abuse.	By increased engagement with midwifery services and FGM.
<b>Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)</b>	x			<p>Improving engagement and reporting levels from all BAME communities. 19% of Thurrock residents come from BAME communities compared to the county average of 10.5%.</p> <p>22.6% of Thurrock victims of domestic abuse come from BAME communities compared to the County average of 10.2%. Reporting is therefore disproportionate.</p> <p>BAME communities are more at risk from Honour Based Abuse including FGM</p>	Ongoing work across Essex to increase awareness and reporting across BAME communities
<b>Religion or belief</b>		x		None of the established religions recognise the abuse highlighted within this strategy	

<b>Gender</b>	x		77% of victims were female, 24% of perpetrators are male. There is a greater focus on men as victims within this strategy.	Greater support and awareness for men as victims.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		x	The strategy makes no differentiation on sexual orientation and treats all victims and perpetrators regardless of sexual orientation.	We need to improve the accuracy of data of with regards to this community in order to drive activity and is reflected in the action plan.
<b>Any community issues identified for this location?</b>	x		<p>Whilst domestic abuse affects all communities, deprived wards have a higher reporting level. 5 of the top 10 wards of BAME communities in Essex are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Chafford</li> <li>• Grays Riverside</li> <li>• West Thurrock and South Stifford</li> <li>• Chafford and North Stifford</li> <li>• Grays Thurrock</li> </ul>	Targeted response to these wards.

## 2. Consultation

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development – for example, online consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups.

### Consultation details

The actions plan was developed following consultation with attendees at the VAWG conference 2016.

The following voluntary groups have been consulted with: Changing Pathways, SERICC, Safer Places, and Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions.

This strategy will be shared with Thurrock Council staff forums: Women's, LGBT, BAME and Disability.



### 3. Monitoring and review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented? These actions should be developed using the information gathered in Section 1 and 2 and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.

Action	By when	By who
The accompanying action plan identifies the gaps referred to above and also the responses over the next 3 years in order to address them	March 2020	Jim Nicolson and Thurrock VAWG governance group within the Community Safety Partnership

### 4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any council reports that are presented to Cabinet or overview and scrutiny committees. This will allow members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the community as a whole.

Take some time to précis your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Community Development and Equalities team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

#### Implications / customer impact

The implementation of the strategy and action plan will have a positive impact for victims who have not previously received the level of attention they merit. Improved harmonised interagency services will also tackle the root causes including early interventions with perpetrators and also work with BAME communities to forge a robust approach to Honour Based Abuse.

The strategy and action plan signpost a sensitive but thorough response to safeguard victims regardless of gender and ethnicity.

### 5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or head of service who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role – for example, project sponsor, head of service	Date
Jim Nicolson	Chair of the VAWG governance group	12/09/2017
Julie Rogers	Chair of the Community safety Partnership	26/09/2017
Natalie Warren	On behalf of Thurrock Council	24/09/2017

## Appendix 2 – Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
NPS	National probation service
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
YOS	Youth Offending Service

## Appendix 3 – Definitions of offences

**Domestic Abuse, including Intimate Partner Violence** has since March 2013 been defined as:

"any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

This can encompass, but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional".

Family members are defined as: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.

"Controlling behaviour" is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependant by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them, of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

"Coercive behaviour" is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim

**Forced Marriage** is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor

**Honour Based Violence/Abuse** (so called) is an international term used by many cultures for justification of abuse and violence. It is a crime or incident committed in order to protect or defend the family or community "honour"; this can often, but not always, go hand in hand with forced marriages.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons

**Sexual Violence and Abuse** can be defined as any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding:

- **Rape** is defined as penetrative sex with another person against their will. This includes vaginal, anal and oral penetration.
- **Sexual assault** covers any other sort of sexual contact and behaviour that is unwanted, ranging from touching to any other activity if it is sexual.
- **Child sexual abuse** is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent
- **Sexual Harassment** is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** – sexual exploitation of children and young people involves exploitive situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive "something" (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. (This can include forms of grooming)

**Sexual Exploitation** including trafficking for sexual exploitation the forcible or deceptive recruitment of woman, men and children, for the purposes of forced prostitution or sexual exploitation.

**Stalking** has no legal definition but the effect of such behaviour is to curtail a victim's freedom, and when carried out repeatedly amounts to a course of conduct, which may then cause significant alarm, harassment or distress to the victim. Stalking behaviour can be educated online and is known as cyber stalking.



# Essex Hate Crime Prevention Strategy 2018–2021



***“It’s being believed, that the crime  
is something that is important.  
It really does get you deep inside”.***

Victim of Hate Crime



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# Foreword



**Essex is a diverse and dynamic county where people from many different backgrounds and experiences live, work, and thrive. This is reflected in our county motto; ‘Many Minds, One Heart’.**

We know that hate crime – those offences and incidents which target victims for their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability – can cause great distress. This emotional impact has repercussions beyond the individual and can damage whole communities,

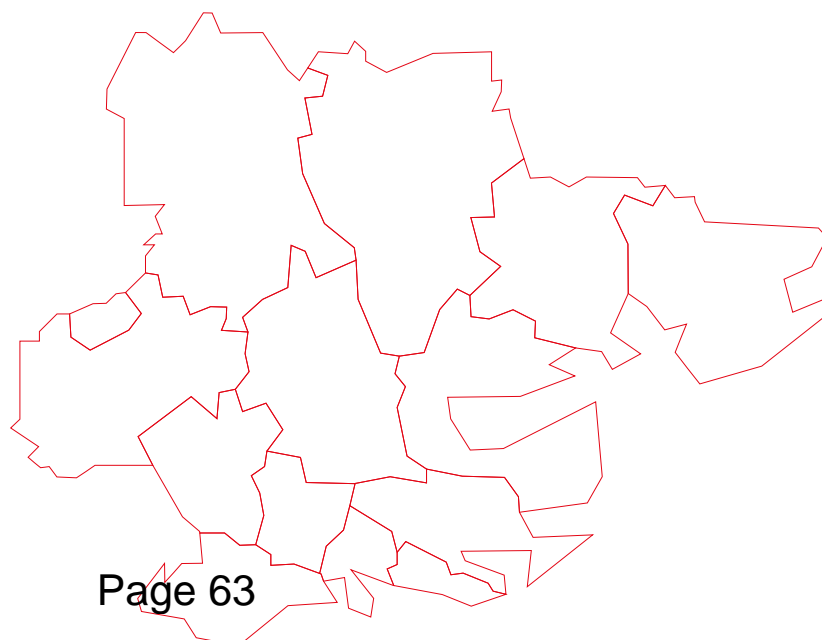
undermining the sense of security, belonging, and cohesion that should be a basic right for every resident of Essex.

Our message is clear – hate crime will not be tolerated. The people of Essex should be proud of their identities, both personal and communal, and should be free to express those identities without fear of censure or prejudice. We want communities to feel confident to report hate crime wherever and whenever it happens, and to know that the response they will receive from the police and other partners will be prompt, proportionate, and effective.

This strategy and accompanying action plan are an important commitment to working together to tackling these key issues. The Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership, which includes key partners such as Essex Police, the Office of the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner, Victim Support, and others, will be responsible for delivering against the aims of the strategy and will report quarterly to Safer Essex on its progress.

As chair of Safer Essex I know the issues faced by our residents and society today can only be addressed by all of the public services joining together – alongside our voluntary organisations – to tackle the key issues. We cannot look at the challenges as ‘That is a police issue’, ‘That is health issue’, or ‘That is a council issue’; the determinants are affected by all of our actions, or non-action, and can only be addressed by working collectively.

**Ian Davidson,**  
Chair of Safer Essex



# Executive Summary

**Hate crime is defined as any incident which is perceived as being motivated by prejudice or hostility towards an individual due to their Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Disability. Hate Crime has the potential to impact not just individual victims but also wider communities within Essex.**

Hate Crime will not be permitted in Essex and it is the responsibility of all partners to deliver an effective and robust response to incidents and ensure communities are educated about, and invested in, reporting hate crime.

This strategy and accompanying action plan will address how services respond to hate crime within Essex. It will be monitored by the Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership, under of the governance of Safer Essex. The strategy shares the aims of the Future of Essex, the partnership vision of of a county where every single person has the support, the opportunity, and the self-belief to fulfil the promise of their potential, particularly in the ambitions to unite behind a sense of identity and strengthen communities through participation.

This strategy outlines five key themes that the Partnership will address. These are:

- 1. Understanding hate crime**
- 2. Preventing hate crime**
- 3. Increasing the reporting of hate crime**
- 4. Increasing access to support for victims**
- 5. Improving the operational response to hate crimes.**

The Partnership will assume the responsibility to monitor and deliver against the strategy and deliver progress updates to Safer Essex, with Safer Essex endorsing key initiatives.



# Introduction

Hate crime is defined as any incident – that may constitute a criminal offence – which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hostility towards a protected characteristic. These protected characteristics are Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Disability.

*“People find it embarrassing to admit they have been subjected to hate because why would anyone want to admit ‘I’ve been treated like that?’”*

Victim of Hate Crime

Individual responses to hate crime vary, but research has shown that hate incidents or crime generally have a greater emotional impact on victims than incidents or crime not motivated by hate. Research by Victim Support found that the impact of hate crime can include fear, particularly of repeat attacks; anger; illness including depression and physical ailments; trauma in children; restrictions in lifestyle; and substantial financial loss.

As hate crimes target certain shared characteristics, the impact of hate crime can be felt across communities, and is not restricted to the individual targeted.

Hate crime has been extensively reported on over the last 18 months, particularly following the rise of reported incidents following the July 2016 referendum and similar spikes in reporting following international and domestic incidents such as the London and Manchester terror attacks. At the same time, online hate crime has received attention both for the perceived lack of response from social media companies and a Crown Prosecution Service commitment to pursue online hate crime with equal vigour as offline hate crime. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary has also declared its intention to examine police forces on their response to hate crime over the next inspection period.

As such, hate crime remains an issue with a considerable media profile. Hate Crime reporting has varied in Essex over the last few years. The 1,135 hate incidents reported in 2014–2015 fell to 1,079 in 2015–2016, with Essex being just one of six forces showing a reduction in hate incidents over this time, but rose to 1,931 in 2016–2017. This increase of 60% (compared to a 29% increase nationally) is likely a reflection of increased public awareness and the frequency of inciting incidents such as those mentioned above.

The breakdown of motivating factors in Essex show:

Race 73%  
Disability 9.5%  
Sexual orientation 9.4%  
Religion 6.4%  
Gender identity 1.7%

*“I thought ‘if I report this it’s only going to get worse, it’s not going to get any better’ and I just lived that way. I thought maybe if I keep quiet they will stop. I didn’t want to make the situation worse by reporting it so I let it go on and it went on for years.”*

Victim of Hate Crime

Hate crimes fall under the jurisdiction of the Community Policing Teams (CPT) within Essex Police. These teams are supported by the civilian hate crime officers, who risk-assess and support high and medium risk hate crimes, as well as any repeat incidents. Essex Police also host the Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs), panels attended by community members that scrutinise police action, both locally in each borough and county-wide. Matters discussed at these panels include Stop and Search, community tensions, and hate crime.

Despite increases in reporting it can be difficult to calculate the true prevalence of hate crime and its root attitudes, due to the under-reporting of hate crime in general and the particularly low representation for certain groups vulnerable to hate crime, such as the disabled and transgender communities.

In addition, the spikes in reporting that follow international and domestic events must be considered against the fluctuating rate of hate crime reporting during their corresponding weeks from the previous year, as well as the impact of a new police recording system and increased vigilance within the police service in identifying and recording hate crime.

***“It’s being believed, that the crime is something that is important. It really does get you deep inside.”***

Victim of Hate Crime

Nonetheless, we state in no uncertain terms that Hate Crime is the responsibility of all the residents and agencies of Essex to challenge and eradicate. ‘Hate crime’ also encompasses incidents that are not criminal offences yet are still motivated by prejudice, and the responsibility for responding to these incidents is wider than the law-enforcement and target-hardening offered by police forces. It must be the responsibility of a range of partners to address, and for the community to feel confident to report hate crime so it can be addressed by those partners.

The existence of third party reporting initiatives, rooted in communities and services outside of the traditional criminal justice agencies reflects the need for community involvement.

The third party reporting initiative in Essex operates via several Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) and associated Hate Crime Ambassadors (HCAs). A HIRC can act as an alternative pathway for reporting hate crimes/hate incidents rather than victims directly engaging with the police. They also provide advice and signposting to specialist support services. Hate Crime Ambassadors are community members that raise hate crime awareness and promote reporting of hate incidents and crimes. They can be based within organisations that operate as HIRCs or can be independent within their own communities or agencies.



The Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership has produced the following strategy to tackle these key issues and provide direction for stakeholders around the county regarding identifying, understanding, and dealing with hate crime and hate incidents.



# Purpose and Scope

Hate Crime will not be permitted in Essex and it is the responsibility of all partners to deliver an effective and robust response to incidents and ensure communities are educated about, and invested in, reporting hate crime.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide clear direction for stakeholders in Essex to achieve this aim. The strategy will establish the activities of the Partnership over the next three years and will define the means by which it will monitor and implement change. The strategy shares the aims of the Future of Essex, the partnership vision of a county where every single person has the support, the opportunity, and the self-belief to fulfil the promise of their potential, particularly in the ambitions to unite behind a sense of identity and strengthen communities through participation.

# Vision

The specific actions within the strategy are included in the action plan. These actions fall under five main themes:

- **Understanding hate crime** – We will utilise multiple intelligence sources regarding the prevalence, nature, and locus of hate crime and hate incidents in Essex to determine emerging trends and hot-spot areas. We will ensure the county is able to collect and disseminate the key messages around hate crime and that services have relevant and concise information on key areas of concern.
- **Preventing hate crime** – We will aim to reduce the incidence of hate crime and hate incidents by promoting the early identification of problem areas and co-ordinating intervention activities. We will ensure that hate crime remains a priority in key forums across Essex and promote and support preventative programmes such as the educational work in our schools that is delivered by key partners.
- **Increasing the reporting of hate crime** – We will co-ordinate the work of the Hate Crime Ambassadors and Hate Incident Reporting Centres across Essex and ensure key messaging is consistent across all partners. We will provide best practice around increasing reporting of hate crime and will ensure partners are invested in identifying and reporting hate crime. We will work with partners in both the public and private sector to promote the reporting of hate crime.
- **Increasing access to support for victims** – We will co-ordinate effective partnership working between community and county-wide victim services to ensure support for victims is visible and accessible. We will ensure both strategic and operational partners are able to effectively signpost and refer victims to appropriate providers and agencies.
- **Improving the operational response to hate crimes** – We will work to increase the satisfaction of victims accessing the police, criminal justice system, and support services, as well as making sure a wide range of appropriate outcomes are available for dealing with hate crime. We will provide best practice for operational partners and involve faith centres, community members, and victims to guide the work of key partners.

Our success will be measured against four primary objectives:

1. Improving victim satisfaction with the response to hate crime across Essex
2. Dismantling barriers to reporting hate crime
3. Improving the operational response to hate crime
4. Tackling hate crime by increasing the public awareness of hate crime and promoting positive values.

# Monitoring and Implementation

The Partnership will be guided by the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan, with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner acting as the overall sponsor of the approach.

The Partnership will engage with Safer Essex to endorse its key decisions and help promote its work throughout the county.

The Partnership has responsibility to monitor and deliver against the strategy and deliver quarterly progress reports to Safer Essex. The Partnership will be supported in delivery and implementation of the strategy by the Hate Crime Coordinator, who will provide regular updates to the Partnership.





# Appendix i

## Interdependencies

**This strategy has two key interdependencies with existing plans within Essex; the Police and Crime Plan and the Victim's Needs Assessment, both produced by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.**

The Police and Crime Plan contains specific commitments regarding hate crime, namely:

- Respond to the needs of individuals and local communities who are vulnerable to specific crime types such as hate crime, elder abuse, harassment, human trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and honour based abuse (HBA)
- Improve reporting of hate incidents through improved community engagement and greater use of Hate Crime Reporting Centres.

These commitments are reflected in specific actions within the Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021.

The Victim's Needs Assessment identifies several actions to improve the operational response to victim's needs. The most relevant of these to the Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021 is a commitment to examine the level of hate crime referrals to the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service. This has been adopted as a specific action into the Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021.





# Appendix ii

## Supporting documents

There are a number of sources of further information regarding hate crime in Essex and the national response to hate crime. A number of these documents provide valuable context for this strategy, as well as identifying objectives to progress as part of the action plan.

These documents include:

**Action Against Hate 2016** – Action Against Hate 2016 is the government’s plan for tackling hate crime. The priorities of the Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021 align with this document and several of the actions within have been translated into local actions for Essex.

**Hate Crime Strategic Profile** – A comprehensive analysis of hate crime in Essex was prepared by Essex County Council’s Intelligence and Insight department in December 2018. This provides clear guidance around the local issues and has informed the general approach and several specific actions in the Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021.

**Public Consultation Analysis** – The Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021 was open to public consultation until the 2 February 2018. The results were collated and analysed, and the approach and specific actions within the strategy were carefully considered to respond to the needs of residents of Essex.

**Essex Response to the Safer Bristol Multi-Agency Learning Review** – In December 2017, Safer Bristol published an independent review of the management of circumstances leading to the murder of Bijan Ebrahimi in 2013. There were several aspects to this management of circumstances which related directly to Bristol’s understanding, recording, and treatment of hate crime victims. The Essex Strategic Hate Crime Partnership produced their response to this review, which contained several actions that have been adopted into the Essex Hate Crime Strategy 2018–2021.

A copy of this document, the action plan, and supporting documents can be found at:  
[www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex)









***“People find it embarrassing  
to admit they have been  
subjected to hate because why  
would anyone want to admit  
‘I’ve been treated like that?’”***

Victim of Hate Crime



Developed by Victim Support in conjunction with the Safer Essex partners and the Office of the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Essex (July 2018).

If you require this document in another format, please contact: [neil.monk@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:neil.monk@victimsupport.org.uk)

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<b>4 October 2018</b>		<b>ITEM: 7</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Linford Household Waste &amp; Recycling Centre – Site Redevelopment Update</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All		<b>Key Decision:</b> N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Daren Spring - Assistant Director of Street Scene and Leisure		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Daren Spring - Assistant Director of Street Scene and Leisure		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers – Director of Environment and Highways		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## Executive Summary

Thurrock Council operates a single Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Linford. The site is operating significantly over capacity with the layout and infrastructure not being in keeping with modern sites. This reduces the opportunities to encourage re-use and recycling. The site was bought back in-house in June 2017 after the incumbent contractor rejected the opportunity to renew the contract for operating the site. This presented the Council with an opportunity to improve the site and take measures to encourage recycling and prevent unauthorised waste disposal at the site.

Subject to planning approval the Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet and Cabinet approved to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place (now the Director of Environment and Highways) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment for the procurement of contracts up to a value of £2.6 million for the redevelopment of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

This report provides an update on progress.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

**1.1 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Thurrock Council has a statutory obligation under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide residents with a facility for the disposal of bulky household waste. Thurrock Council currently operates a single site at Buckingham Hill Road in Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre which is situated on a former Essex County Council Landfill Site. The land that the site sits on is fully owned by Thurrock Council. In line with Environmental Permitting Regulations Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre is operated under licence from the Environment Agency with regular inspections being undertaken to ensure that the site is being run in accordance with the law. The site licence governs the site operations and the waste types that the site can accept; it also imposes requirements for site competent persons. Failure to comply with the terms of the licence can lead to the Council being prosecuted under Environmental Legislation or the restriction or closure of the site.

### **3. Current status of the site**

- 3.1 The current Household Waste and Recycling Centre is not in keeping with modern facilities at other boroughs. The size of the site is struggling to meet current demand and will not be able to support the boroughs projected growth agenda. As it currently stands the site would not be able to be re-configured to support charged commercial waste deposits, a greater range of recycling containers or a dedicated re-use facility.

#### **3.2 Land Management and Environmental Issues**

The site is located on a former Essex County Council municipal landfill site and there is paucity of data relating to ground conditions, surface water drainage and gas migration issues. Site redevelopment will need to include further ground condition surveys.

#### **3.3 Services and Utilities**

The site has a mains supply of water and a landline telephone and a Network connection. The site does not however; have mains sewerage or electricity. The workarounds to this include a portable generator to provide power which is costly and caused significant problems with powering site CCTV and security measures.

### **4. Current status of the Redevelopment Project**

- 4.1 A Planning application has been finalised and will be submitted by the end of September. Completion of the Planning process is estimated to take 2 months, Procurement and build is estimated to take 14 months. The timeline will be confirmed following completion of the Planning and subsequent Procurement Stage.
- 4.2 Consultancy support is being undertaken via procurement framework call off contract services. The procurement of the site redevelopment contracts will be

undertaken in line with the processes required under EU Procurement Regulations.

#### 4.3 Highways Access Improvements

As part of the scheme a dedicated right turn lane to reduce the queuing traffic on Buckingham Hill Road is being proposed. In addition the increased site area will allow for additional 'on-site' stacking to reduce queuing on the Public Highway. The exit for Commercial Vehicles and HGV's servicing the site will also be segregated from car access and egress which will greatly improve site safety.

#### 4.4 Connect the Site to Mains Power and Sewerage

Connecting the site to mains utilities will reduce revenue costs and will increase the reliability of site equipment and machinery. It will also allow for adequate lighting to be put in place during the winter months as well as removing the requirement for a septic tank, reducing costs and allowing for the drainage that will be required for site expansion. Recent commercial and residential redevelopments at Stanford-Le-Hope West mean that connection to mains service is now a viable option.

#### 4.5 Significant Increase in Recycling and Re-use Facilities On-site

An increased range of recycling and re-use containers on-site will allow for a greater amount of waste items to be recycled or re-used instead of them being disposed of via more expensive methods. Increased space will allow for greater opportunities for partnership with local re-use community groups which will allow a greater number of items such as furniture, bicycles, electrical items and even items such as crutches to find new homes.

#### 4.6 Introduction of a dedicated Commercial Waste Disposal Facility On-site

The site throughput data prior to the permitting scheme being implemented showed that a large amount of commercial waste was being disposed of at the site. An improved site layout and infrastructure will allow for the site to apply for an environmental permit for commercial waste disposal on-site. This will include the introduction of an electronic weighbridge with a dedicated commercial waste lane. This will provide an avenue for income generation and will provide commercial waste producers with a further avenue to dispose of their waste legally and responsibly.

### 5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

#### 5.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee October 2017 and Ward Members prior to that meeting.

### 6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 This report supports the Councils priority a clean environment that everyone has reason to take pride in.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Mark Terry**  
**Senior Financial Accountant**

Capital approved by Cabinet for site redevelopment is £2.6 Million.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
**Assistant Director of Law and Governance**

Under section 51 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 the Council has statutory obligation as a waste disposal authority to provide a facility for 'persons resident in its area' to dispose of household waste. Section 51(3) of the act makes provision for an authority to make changes for the deposit of Commercial or Industrial Waste.

The proposed value of the contracts for the redevelopment of the site is above the thresholds for the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and therefore a full and compliant EU Procurement process must be followed. In addition to the requirements of EU Procurement legislation the Procurement will be required to meet the Councils Contract Rules which sit within the Councils Constitution

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**

The redevelopment site will result in improved access to the site for those with accessibility requirements. The removal of stepped access to container and dedicated parking bays will resolve significant impediments that currently severely restrict site access by disabled and elderly people. A full Community Equalities Impact Assessment will be required as part of any redevelopment.

### **7.4 Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

Reduction in illegal waste disposal at Household Waste and Recycling Centre, the proposed Commercial Waste avenue at redeveloped site has the potential to reduce fly-tipping.



**8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Surrey County Council commercial vehicle access guidance  
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/apply-for-a-van-and-trailer-permit>
- Essex County Council Household Waste and Recycling Centre changes to waste acceptance policy at Waste & Recycling Centres:  
<http://www.recycleforessex.com/our-waste-strategy/changes/>
- WRAP Household Waste and Recycling Centre guidance for Local Authorities:  
[http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/INH0449\\_HWRC\\_Guidance\\_2015\\_7%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/INH0449_HWRC_Guidance_2015_7%20FINAL.pdf)

**9. Appendices to the report**

None

**Report Author:**

Daren Spring  
Assistant Director, Street Scene and Leisure  
Environment and Highways

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**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme  
2018/19**

Dates of Meetings: 11 June 2018, 5 July 2018, 4 October 2018, 6 December 2018, 7 February 2019

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
<b>11 June 2018 - CANCELLED</b>		
<b>5 July 2018</b>		
Recycling - Current position and planned actions	Julie Rogers	Officers
Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre - 12 month update following in-source	Beau Stanford-Francis	Officers
<b>4 October 2018</b>		
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update Report	Michelle Cunningham	Members
Environment Enforcement Update	Phil Carver	Officers
Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre – Site Redevelopment Update	Daren Spring	Officers
<b>6 December 2018</b>		

Fees & Charges Report	Andrew Austin / appropriate finance officer	Officers
Fly Tipping in Thurrock	Daren Spring	Members
Air Pollution	Gavin Dennett	Members
Tree Replacing	Daren Spring	Officers
Gang Related Violence	Michelle Cunningham	Members
Ground Maintenance and Street Cleansing (include KBT stats)	Daren Spring	Members
<b>7 February 2019</b>		
Recycling update, to include Brown Bin Review	Claire Harvey	Members
Strategy to Tackle Violence against Women and Girls in Thurrock, 2017/20	Michelle Cunningham	Members
Bartec System Update	Marcelle Puttergill	Members
Refuse Collections	Claire Harvey	Members

**Future reports for 2019/20:**