

<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 Development</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