

31 July 2014		ITEM 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Report on Thurrock Community Safety Partnership		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No	
Report of: Lucy Magill, Chair of Thurrock Community Safety Partnership		
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Graham Farrant, Chief Executive		
This report is: Public		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Performance:

All crime in Thurrock decreased by 4.1% for the year 2013/14 when compared against the previous year with 11186¹ crimes committed. Thurrock still has one of the highest crime rates in Essex, as well as a higher crime rate per 1,000 residents than our comparator community safety partnerships.

There were 5,510 incidents of Anti-social Behaviour in Thurrock in 2013/14 reported to Essex Police; a decrease of 4.5%, 258 fewer incidents, than in the previous year. In line with Essex Police, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) had a target to reduce crime by 1%.

Priorities:

The 2014/2015 Partnership Plan builds on the partnership's Strategic Assessment, helping us to develop and plan our activities to address the priorities outlined in the assessment whilst providing value for money, and an 'intelligence led' approach to community safety.

The priorities for 2013/2014 are:

1. Tackle anti-social behaviour and hate crime
2. Tackle violence against women and girls
3. Reduce youth offending and the reoffending rates of adults and youths;
4. Reduce domestic burglary and vehicle crime

Police and Crime Plan:

¹. These are preliminary Essex Police statistics and not yet confirmed by the Home Office

The Police and Crime Plan outlines the Police and Crime Commissioner's ambition in bringing together the police and wider partners more effectively to reduce crime, improve community safety and support victims of crime across Essex. The areas of focus remain as 2013/14 :

- Ensuring local solutions meet local problems
- Reducing domestic abuse
- Supporting victims of crime
- Reducing youth offending and all types of re-offending
- Tackling the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse and mental health issues
- Improving road safety
- Improving crime prevention
- Increasing efficiency in policing through collaborative working and innovation

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2013/14

2.2 That Overview and Scrutiny support the recommendations within the strategic assessment for 2013

2.3 That Overview and Scrutiny committee support the 4 priorities of the CSP for the year 2014/15, which are:

- 1. Tackle anti-social behaviour and hate crime**
- 2. Tackle violence against women and girls**
- 3. Reduce youth offending and the reoffending rates of adults and youths;**
- 4. Reduce domestic burglary and vehicle crime**

2.4 That Overview and Scrutiny committee note the links that have been made to support delivery of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

3.1 This purpose of this report is to:

i) Update the committee on the of delivery of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) priorities for 2013/14;

ii) Highlight the priorities and actions to deliver the priorities in 2014/15 based on the findings of the strategic assessment of 2013;

iii) Demonstrate how the TCSP will support the PCC in delivery of the Police and crime plan.

3.2 In October our partners came together to develop the strategic assessment; the purpose of which is to inform the CSP about the scale and scope of crime, disorder and community safety issues within Thurrock. It went on to inform the

Partnerships plan for 2014 / 2015 and contribute towards the overall strategic assessment for Essex and the Police and Crime Plan.

The highest proportion of crime in Thurrock surrounds anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, theft from a motor vehicle, other theft and criminal damage.

The majority of offenders are male between the ages of 16 and 20 years.

The main wards of concern, going forward for Thurrock are, Grays Riverside, West Thurrock & South Stifford (including Lakeside), Aveley Uplands and Tilbury Riverside.

- 3.3 Our Priority crimes were selected using a risk matrix which considered varying factors such as public concern, seriousness, harm and cost. The highest ranking were selected as Thurrock's priorities:
1. Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate crime
 2. Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). By broadening out domestic abuse, a clear priority, to VAWG we have been able to include those categories which were not included within the risk matrix due to lack of intelligence/reporting on them but professionals know are having an impact on our communities - in particular the vulnerable, such as child exploitation, rape, and honour based abuse.
 3. Reduce Youth Offending and Reoffending Rates - adult and youth. Offenders need to be prioritised by crime type based on our priority crimes, which are: vehicle crime and domestic burglary.
 4. Reduce Domestic Burglary and Vehicle Crime.

Due to an increase in reported racial hate crime and an identified need to increase the reporting of all strands of hate crime (crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's: disability; race or ethnicity; religion or belief; sexual orientation; or transgender identity) this has been added to our existing priorities for 2014/2015.

3.3.1 Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and hate crime

Key Findings:

- ASB has reduced by 6% this year compared to the previous 12 months.
- Disturbances are the highest number of ASB offences
- 20% of offenders of ASB are aged under 18
- Hate crime incidents have increased by 28%, the majority are race related
- The main hotspot for ASB and hate crime is Grays Riverside

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Identify "adults at risk" and ensure appropriate support in place
- Increase reporting of Hate Crime across all strands
- Develop preventative programmes to reduce perpetrators of ASB and hate crime, including that related to substance misuse
- Deter and detect the use of drugs in or around licensed premises that is associated with ASB

3.3.2 Tackle violence against women and girls

Key Findings:

Domestic abuse:

- There was a 12% reduction in incidents of domestic abuse
- 47% involved repeat victims, an increase on previous year
- 81% of victims were female, typically aged between 21 and 25
- 85% of offenders were male, also aged between 21 and 25
- Hot spot areas are Grays Riverside and W Thurrock and S Stifford.

Sexual Offences:

- There were 161 reported sexual offences this year, a 17% increase
- 89% of victims were female, typically aged between 11 and 15 years.
- Hot spot areas are Grays Thurrock and Tilbury Riverside
Elder abuse (sexual violence and domestic abuse) continues to be a concern and we will continue to link into Safeguarding adults to identify gaps

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Identify and intervene appropriately with victims of violence
- Support repeat and vulnerable victims through MARAC(multi-agency risk assessment conference), IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy) and access to specialist sexual violence support services
- Raise awareness of e-safety for young people
- Raise profile of human trafficking as an issue

3.3.3 Reduce re-offending

Key Findings:

- Lifestyle indicators contributing to offending in Thurrock are: thinking and behaviour; lifestyle and associates; and relationships.
- Young people committed 220 offences; Violent crime was the most common offence committed by this cohort
- Youth first time entrants to the youth justice system remain low
- Troubled families criteria means they are involved in a high number of targets in line with the CSP and are key to reducing re-offending

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Identify repeat offenders and refer to the Integrated Offender Management scheme
- Identify young people on cusp of offending and provide early intervention
- Address relationship needs in offenders

3.3.4 Reduce domestic burglary and vehicle crime

Key Findings:

Domestic burglary:

- After a significant increase in this crime at the start of the year we are now seeing a reduction. Millennium burglaries (breaking into homes for car keys) continue to be of concern
- 93% of offenders were male
- There is a peak in burglaries in winter months
- Hot spots are Aveley Uplands, Grays Thurrock, Ockendon and Belhus

Vehicle Crime:

- Reductions in vehicle crime have been significant at the end of 2013
- 74% of offenders were male, typically aged between 16 and 20
- The hot spot area is West Thurrock and South Stifford

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Target hot spot areas and victim profiles of crime
- Increase residents awareness of crime prevention

3.4 The strategic assessment supports the agreement of the 4 identified priorities for Thurrock, however makes the following recommendations to support delivery:

3.4.1 The risk matrix, whilst identifying the recording of crime types and community concerns does not identify where there is a greater risk for some vulnerable groups

3.4.2 The growth in social networks is leading to an increase in on line bullying and sexual exploitation, often unreported

3.4.3 The Social Welfare Bill is having an impact on the crime and demographics of Thurrock, in particular hate crime

3.4.4 Serious youth violence, whilst there is no current concern continues to be a risk for Thurrock and many other areas of Essex

3.4.5 The use of Novel Psychotic Substances is increasing, the extent of usage is currently unknown

3.4.6 Violent extremism continues to be a risk Nationally and for Thurrock

3.4.7 There is a heightened risk that there are unidentified victims of Human Trafficking within Thurrock

3.4.8 In addition there are two changes to organisations with the recommissioning for the Drug and Alcohol Team and the Transforming Rehabilitation project which may have a short term impact on crime and offending.

3.5 The structure of the partnership has been reviewed in line with the priorities to ensure coordinated activity

3.6 The Police and Crime Commissioner has provided Thurrock CSP with £58,050. This has supported a number of projects in Thurrock which will deliver on the following focus areas of the PCC:

- Ensuring local solutions meet local problems
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership shares a crime analyst which directs operations and activity to improve community safety for residents.

- Reducing domestic abuse

Thurrock Community Safety Partnerships preventing risky behaviours project aimed at working with 75 young people will raise awareness of domestic abuse and seek to reduce through supporting victims and making perpetrators aware of the consequences

- Reducing youth offending and youth re-offending

This will be addressed through an activities day for troubled families, highlighting the consequences of crime within the risky behaviour project, and tasking (including stay safe operations)

- Tackling the consequences of drugs, alcohol abuse and mental health

Thurrock Community Safety Partnerships is supporting the community alcohol partnership in Ockendon, aimed to tackle underage drinking and tackle ASB.

- Improving crime prevention

Will be delivered by intelligence led activity, identified by the analyst and prioritised for action by Thurrock Community Safety Partnership tasking group who have been given a budget to target mini localised projects

- Increasing efficiency on policing through collaborative working

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will support this area through intelligence led activity, identified by the analyst and prioritised for a range of actions across partners by tasking.

3.7 We will be producing our next strategic assessment in quarter 3 (Dec 2014) which will enable us to refresh our priorities and delivery plan for 2015/16

4 IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

4.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's strategic objective to: Build pride and respect to create safer communities.

4.2 The CSP action plan links closely to and supports delivery of Thurrock Council's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy

4.3 The strategic assessment in identifying the 4 priorities took into account community concerns and the partnership will take action to support the more vulnerable members of the community.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Mike Jones
Management Accountant

There are no financial implications from this report

5.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: Alison Stuart
Principal Solicitor- Housing and Regeneration

There are no legal implications arising from this report

5.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: Teresa Evans
Equalities and Cohesion Officer

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. The CSP is committed to providing services and support to address the needs of all members of the community. Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been refreshed following the strategic assessment to:

- Consider issues relating to age, disability, gender, race, religion & belief and sexual orientation
- Obtain a clearer understanding of how different groups may be affected
- Develop responses to address the issues and identify good practice

5.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

This report will help the Partnership ensure that it is delivering on its commitments to Section 17.

6. **CONCLUSION**

6.1 The priorities for the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for 2013/14 are to:

1. Tackle Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime
2. Tackle violence against women and girls
3. Reduce Re-offending
4. Reduce domestic burglary and vehicle crime

6.2 The CSP have identified appropriate actions and resources to address the 4 priorities and have established a structure which facilitates working together and enables joined up delivery.

6.3 With reduced resources across partners the CSP is maximising resources available by multi-agency meetings for crime and ASB which are driven by intelligence.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- Partnership Strategic assessment 2013
- Partnership Delivery Plan
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership>
- Police and Crime commissioners Police and Crime Plan for Essex:
www.essex.police.uk/about/publications/policing_plan.aspx
- PCC community safety funding grant application

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- None, please see links above

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