

4 February 2021	ITEM: 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non Key
Report of: Michelle Cunningham – Community Safety Partnership Manager	
Accountable Strategic Lead: Cheryl Wells, Strategic Lead – Community Safety, Emergency Planning & Resilience	
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report provides Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) in 2020 and provides insight into the priorities for the Partnership for 2021/22.

There are certain caveats and limitations to the data currently available within this report as the restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 have impacted on levels of crime committed and reported in 2020. This has resulted in crime types experiencing unprecedented significantly reduced or increased levels. As restrictions have changed, crime levels have continually readjusted. This report therefore provides a greater focus on activity than data.

The previous Strategic Assessment for Thurrock dated January 2020 was published shortly before the pandemic restrictions were implemented on 23 March 2020. As the current data set significantly reflects crime within a pandemic environment the data may not accurately inform priorities for the following year where similar restrictions may not be in place and therefore Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership Board has agreed to retain the priorities identified in the previous assessment for the year 2021-22.

Therefore, as last year, the priorities for the coming year for Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will remain as:

1. Violence Against Women and Girls – including domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and rape of all genders
2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability
3. Local Community and Visibility
4. Tackling Offending and reducing Residential Burglary
5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

The increased investment from Thurrock Council has continued to support an ASB Officer within Community Safety Partnership (CSP), 4 additional town centre police team officers, Op Caesar throughout the summer of 2020, and the role of the gangs and Child Criminal Exploitation lead which has now become a permanent post.

The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Board, of which Thurrock is a Partner, have received £1.16m of funding in the year 20/21 for both proactive and reactive work in tackling Serious Violence whereby this is defined as “Community Violence – acts of interpersonal violence committed in public spaces”.

We continue to work alongside Essex Police who have invested the following into Thurrock in 2020:

- Two local Community Safety & Engagement Officers (CSEO's) who work closely with the local CSP in trying to improve confidence in the local area and promote the work they are undertaking.
- They have developed Op Bluebird, which is Essex Polices response to clandestine entry through our ports and road networks, to share information and intelligence widely amongst statutory and law enforcement agencies to make our communities and Ports safer, ensuring a joined up multiagency approach to tackle organised immigration crime and to address the increasing threat of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- A business crime team who are working to tackle and prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour with a focus on Grays High Street so that every Business feels safe without the fear of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour committed by the minority. They are also currently working with local shops in Purfleet specifically on the Garrison Estate.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2020 and support the retention of the 5 priorities of the Community Safety Partnership for the year 2020/21, which are:

1. **Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls**
2. **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**
3. **Local Community and Visibility**

4. Tackling Offending
5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- 1.2 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny committee recognise the changing environment and risks that poses to keeping communities safe.**
- 1.3 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognise the requirement to continue to work collaboratively across Essex on the Police and Fire Crime Commissioners Violence and Vulnerability framework and to deliver on the recommendations within the Annual Public Health Report on Serious Youth Violence.**
- 1.4 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny understand the impact on the Council of the Domestic Abuse Bill.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Priorities for the CSP for 2020/21 were agreed as:**

- 1. Violence Against Women and Girls** – including domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and rape of all genders
- 2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**
 - Tackle Violence with and without injury
 - Tackle gang related activity and offensive weapons
 - Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime
 - Raise awareness of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery
- 3. Local Community and Visibility**
 - Identify & tackle Anti-social Behaviour
 - Community Engagement / Increased Visibility
- 4. Tackling Offending** and reducing Residential Burglary
- 5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism**
 - Preventing Violent Extremism locally

These are summarised in Appendix 1: Plan on a Page.

- 2.1.1 In addition, the risk matrix identified the Emerging priority of arson and we committed to investigate the data further. On investigation this was a change to recording and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) assured us that there hadn't been a spike in arson incidents in 2019 but that all incidents been attended were now been recorded. They have continued to work with operational crews, fire investigators and safer communities' team to target arson along with accidental fires.**

- 2.2 These five core priorities will all support the Chief Constable's vision with regards to a focus on the four V's, namely:
- Violence
 - Vulnerability
 - Visibility
 - Victims
- 2.3 The CSP must pay due regard to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities which have been extended within his Police and Crime Plan following the delay in the PFCC election due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹
- 2.4 The Extended Plan builds on the priorities set out in the 2016 Police and Crime Plan and sets ambitious new goals. The plan notes that whilst significant progress has been made there is still more to do and of particular focus in the next year will be our joint efforts to reduce violence and violent crime in our communities. This work is being led by the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership and involves strong preventative action to stop young people and the vulnerable being drawn into a life of crime.
- 2.5 Another increasing area of focus in the Extended Plan is the need to break the cycle of domestic abuse and we continue to work through the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) and with Essex Police to achieve this by preventing it happening in the first place, supporting victims, and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- 2.6 The approach of the PFCC continues to be based on building positive local relationships and collaboration with key partners to deliver collective success against our shared priorities. The priorities remain as:
1. More Local, visible and accessible policing
 2. Cracking down on anti-social behaviour
 3. Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
 4. Tackling gangs and serious violence
 5. Disrupting and preventing organised crime
 6. Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm
 7. Improving safety on our roads
- 2.7 Thurrock's CSP, Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care and Public Health Director all continue to work closely with the Violence and Vulnerability Unit who in their model for 2020-21 included the following six work streams:
- i. Influence and help shape wider parts of the system (especially in terms of universal and early intervention)
 - ii. Targeted locations, programmes of work in targeted locations, geographical 'hotspots' and / or targeted 'reachable' moments

¹ Source: Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

- iii. Workforce Development
- iv. Better understanding:
 - of provision in Essex and whether it is effective
 - ongoing & improved data analysis
- v. High risk; known to be at risk; and involved in violence / crime, working with individuals who are causing the most harm through violence in Essex
- vi. Voice of communities, working with the voluntary and community sector to shape our approach to violence reduction

2.8 Summary of **crime performance** for 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2020 compared to 2018/19²:

Victim Based Crime	Offences			
	2018/19	2019/20	# diff.	% diff.
Violence Against the Person	6428	6328	-100	-1.6
Sexual Offences	373	385	12	3.2
Robbery	229	191	-38	-16.6
Burglary (all types)	1183	756	-427	-36.1
Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	2277	1785	-492	-21.6
Theft	3451	2587	-864	-25
Criminal Damage incl. Arson	2027	1678	-349	-17.2
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	242	227	-15	-6.2
Domestic Abuse	3113	2772	-341	-11
Possession of Weapons	171	156	-15	-8.8

- 2.9 This crime data comes with the caveat that it reflects that from 23rd March to 4th July there were exceptional circumstances with people working at home and all non-essential venues closed. The only crime showing an increase in reports to police data is sexual offences, conversely Essex as a force is showing a reported reduction. Some reports are of offences that were committed historically. A detailed analytical report on these offences has been produced and will be reviewed by the CSP and Sexual Violence and Abuse Board.
- 2.10 Across Essex, **Anti-Social Behaviour** (ASB) reporting increased by 11.76%³, with 48,233 calls in the period 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2020 compared to 43,158 the previous year. In comparison Thurrock increased by 18.93%. This was mainly due to the pandemic where there has been a rise in complaints of ASB. These have been in relation to breaches of Covid rules and this is anticipated to continue as new restrictions are imposed there will be further complaints of individuals failing to comply.

² Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

³ Source: Essex Police Storm system

2.11 The four new ASB categories recorded by Essex Police in relation to Covid are:

New categories	No	Explanation
Covid breach	80	Includes premises open when prohibited, failure to wear masks etc.
Covid Quarantine	23	Persons not quarantining on return from listed countries
Social distancing	381	Dwelling, business and public spaces where Social Distance guidelines are not met
Rule of Six	16	Groups/gatherings in excess of 6 permitted persons

2.12 Overall, there were 5,064 ASB incidents in the District and the highest ASB types, excluding Covid specific types, were Disturbance (1,057) and Nuisance (1,025). There were 226 Nuisance Neighbour calls. Nuisance Vehicle calls increased to 519 this period compared to 250 in the previous year, equating to a rise of 48.28%.

2.13 The total number of anti-social behaviour cases reported to Thurrock Council's ASB team from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 was 474. There has been a rise in the number of complaints about drug related activity in South Ockenden (122) and is second to Tilbury (132) for the number of reports. The main category for reports was in relation to drugs (62) followed by youth nuisance (48) and Harassment (43).

2.14 Essex Police monitor **public perception** of crime by regularly surveying residents across the County to gather and evaluate efforts to address crime. Responses to Quarter 1, 2020/2021 survey which include the initial pandemic lockdown provide the following insights across the County⁴:

- 80% of countywide respondents agreed that the police understood community issues.
- 69% of respondents felt that Essex Police and partner organisations were dealing with ASB.
- 63% felt the same partners were working to prevent crime.
- Essex residents who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem continued to decrease significantly from 27% in the same quarter 2019/20 to 20% in 2020/21.

⁴ Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

2.15 In addition to the regular questions the survey asked Covid19 specific questions:

- 73.3% of those surveyed have confidence in the approach Essex Police is taking in pandemic policing.
- 78.5% fully support the Essex Police approach to the pandemic.
- Complaints about police in relation to Covid19 were led by lack of face coverings and social distancing by Essex Police officers.

Thurrock Q2 2020/21 Public Perception Survey Results ⁵

Question	Year ending Sept 2019	Year ending Sept 2020	% Change
Confidence in local Policing (% strongly/tend to agree)	56%	62%	6% 
Importance of a regular uniformed police presence in the area (% very important)	71%	74%	3% 
Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community (% strongly/tend to agree)	56%	70%	14% 
Feel informed about what the Police are doing in my local area (% very/fairly informed)	36%	43%	7% 
Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job	60%	66%	6% 
Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB (% strongly/tend to agree)	42%	51%	9% 
Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in your area in the last 12 months	41%	33%	-8% 
Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police (% very/fairly confident)	67%	66%	-1% 

⁵ Source: Thurrock Community Safety Engagement Officer

Key Insights

- The biggest improvement has been seen in Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community with 14% more agreeing with this statement
- There has been a slight dip in those being confident that they will receive a good service from Essex Police.

3. Activity by Priority in 2020

3.1 Violence Against Women and Girls - Covid-19

3.1.1 The unprecedented global pandemic and national lockdown changed the world in March 2020. Individuals working in safeguarding roles had no choice but to move predominantly to online processes of engagement. Understandably, this lack of physical contact with some clients was a serious concern for all. TCSP worked closely with our partners both internally and across Essex to continue service delivery and to respond and safeguard victims of VAWG crimes. As a member of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB), Thurrock domestic abuse practitioners and partners contributed towards the coordinated approach across Essex. This coordination and monitoring was replicated across several internal services to capture changes in demand and emerging concerns.

3.1.2 Achievements across the VAWG agenda

- Training delivered on domestic abuse through 'J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training' to professionals as well as developing and delivering community focused J9 awareness sessions. Sexual violence and abuse awareness delivered through 'Challenging Myths Changing Attitudes'. Both programmes were adapted to enable virtual delivery.
- We played an active part in celebrating International Women's Day and promoted '16 days of activism'.
- Thurrock DAIT (Domestic Abuse Investigation Team) were successful in obtaining the first Stalking Protection Order in Essex.
- Thurrock Public Health completed a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into Sexual Violence & Abuse which was launched at the Thurrock Sexual Violence and Abuse Summit in March 2020. The recommendations will be delivered through the Sexual Violence and Vulnerability Partnership.
- Op Goldcrest (allowing young people the opportunity to anonymously provide evidence of experiences without involving the Police) and Op Encompass (sharing information with schools in relation to incidents of Domestic Abuse) were piloted in Thurrock.
- The Housing Safeguarding Team have supported an increase number of survivors of domestic abuse with some month's caseload figures doubling since last year. During Covid-19 lockdown they have conducted out of hours patrols for safeguarding to be able to make contact and visits in evenings when it may be more convenient for residents.

3.2 Gang related violence and offensive weapons

- Our Operational Gang Related Violence Group has continued to meet and in 2019/20 the group managed 66 cases of which 25 were highlighted as Red i.e. high risk. 21 re-offended which is 32% of the cohort (below the national average for re-offending by generic adult and juvenile offenders), 31 nominals underwent gang intervention, knife prevention programmes, intervention from a GRV partner or a 3rd party commissioned by the CSP. 5 nominals are recorded as having exited gangs, however it is difficult to evidence this on a long term basis.
- Since April, Op Raptor have continued to enforce the Gang Injunctions obtained on 11 members of the C17 gang and further interim injunctions have been served.
- Thurrock has an experienced gangs and Criminal Child Exploitation lead who is working across professionals within Children's social care to develop mapping processes around young people at risk of or involved in exploitation and or gang related violence. A monthly report is produced in relation to contextualised safeguarding and as a result CSP has worked with licensed premises and British Transport Police in areas of concern identified.
- Through the funding provided by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit we have commenced Localities work in Grays, Tilbury and Purfleet, which includes additional outreach work being provided by Red Balloon.
- Thurrock Council's youth services deliver detached youth work across the borough on 3 evenings and Sundays and share concerns and intelligence regards County Line activity. They have continued to deliver a Mentoring Programme to young people with 5 young people currently being supported with 4 pending referrals from the out of court disposal panel. 8 young people were engaged in the CREW+ project (Group mentoring plus activity) during the summer holidays.
- Following identification that Cuckooing was an emerging risk for vulnerable members of our community a working group put in place a protocol, flow process for managing and method of capturing intelligence.

3.3 Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from hate crime

- We now have 224 Hate Crime Ambassadors in Thurrock following more training being delivered virtually during hate crime awareness week in Oct 20. All training now includes mate crime.
- In addition we have 9 Hate Incident Reporting Centres
- We have managed 8 referrals to our Locality Action Group in relation to racism (4), Transgender (1), sexuality (1) and due to vulnerabilities linked to disability (2).

3.4 Anti-social behaviour

- In the 10 months to end of October 2020 the CSP received 54 referrals from partners who have concerns around individuals for discussion at our Locality Action Groups which are attended by multiple statutory and

voluntary agencies, this has resulted in successful outcomes for our vulnerable victims.

- In 2020, Thurrock Council received 11 requests for an anti-social behaviour case review. Two of these were followed up with successful outcomes, including Community Protection Warnings being served.
- The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Grays High Street was reviewed and extended in April 2020, a total of 52 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served to members of the public linked to breaches of the order and 119 warnings were issued, after the disposal of their alcohol and offenders were moved on from the PSPO zone.
- The PSPO in place to address car cruising in West Thurrock has been tested over the summer but has been robustly enforced by the Community Policing Team, in partnership with the Environmental Enforcement Team and operations resulted in 30 Fixed Penalty Notices being issued.
- Our youth services offer Street Football sessions as part of their detached/ outreach work in the four identified areas of social deprivation in Thurrock; Purfleet, Aveley, Grays and Tilbury, and on a weekly basis, support young people who are at risk of offending and criminal activity.
- We have strived to improve public confidence and satisfaction by engaging with local residents by developing local actions plans in ASB hotspots. Chadwell St Mary was identified in last year's needs assessment as having an increase of ASB, a street meet was held with residents and target hardening measures put in place.
- Prior to lockdown we were working closely with 3 secondary schools to identify young people at risk of exclusion or offending in their local community actions put in place The ASB analytical report 2019 identified a reduction in ASB in Tilbury Riverside Ward which had decreased by 34.9% and Ockendon ward by 37.9%. We believe positive partnership working with schools in the areas contributed to this reduction.
- The Private Housing Team has granted 147 HMO licenses under Mandatory and Additional HMO Licensing. The scheme has encouraged residents to report complaints about poor housing conditions, noise, rubbish, overgrown gardens, rodents and pests. Going forward they will use new powers to tackle rogue landlords including the use of civil penalty notices for housing offences
- The council CCTV service captured a total of 2078 incidents on camera for Police and Council investigation. Where ASB hotspot areas are highlighted, we use mobile CCTV cameras to gather further intelligence.
- In 2020, we have implemented target hardening measures to 12 areas which were vulnerable to fly tipping, unauthorised encampments and off road motorbikes.
- We have successfully applied to the High Court for an interim injunction prohibiting unauthorised encampments. It is anticipated that Thurrock will apply for the full injunction in early 2021. This has led to a reduction of 12 unauthorised encampments in 2020 compared to 2019 (accepting that some of this is in relation to Government guidelines in relation to Covid-19.)

- Following surplus funding made available by members to address ASB in Thurrock an ASB officer was employed in Oct 2019 to investigate cases where the complainants are privately renting or owner/occupiers. We have seen an increase in reports due to Covid- 19 with the cases relating predominantly to noise nuisance, neighbour disputes, drug taking and youth congregation. Between January and October 2020 these investigations have resulted in:

- 2 Community Protection Warnings being issued
- 23 Noise Warning letters issued
- 9 referrals to multi-agency Locality Action Group
- 6 Safeguarding referrals
- 2 referrals to the Restorative Justice service

The CSP team also work closely with Essex Police's new business crime unit to tackle offences committed in business premises across the borough.

- Through additional Council funding in 2019/20 the Community Safety Partnership resourced Operation Caesar, run by Essex Police to tackle the nuisance caused by off road vehicles behaving in an anti-social manner. Funding enabled operations to run until September 2020 with the following results:

ACTION TAKEN	Jul 19 - Jun 20
Incidents attended	124
Fail to stop	86
S 59 warnings	43
Intel reports	33
Stop search	29
Other traffic process/offence	19
Careless driving	18
Words of advice (engaged whilst setting up to ride)	13
Arrests	7
S165	6
Stolen vehicle recovered	5
Vehicle search	4
Prohibition notice	4
Excess Speed	3
CPWs	3
Vehicle seized	3
Driving otherwise than in accordance with a license	3
No seatbelt	1

3.5 Community engagement and increased visibility

- Essex Police have this year invested in local Community Safety & Engagement Officers (CSEO's) of which there are 2 in Thurrock who work closely with the local CSP in trying to improve confidence in the local area and promote the work they are undertaking.
- They have provided regular and varied posts on Facebook and as a result seen page likes up by 60% and post engagement up by 56%. Followers have increased from 7,890 in July to 9,346 in Dec.
- Working closely with Thurrock Council's resident engagement team 4 socially distanced street meets have been held. Rather than choosing a town centre these meets are held in a street that has been highlighted with issues by either local councillors, LAG meetings, CSP manager or Community Policing Team (CPT). A leaflet drop of around 30/35 addresses is made before the meet and so far these have been well attended and positively received. They are held in partnership with CSP, Thurrock council teams covering ASB, Housing, Estates & Resident engagement which has led to a focus on long term solutions to the issues raised.
- In thinking how to engage with the public differently a virtual question and answer session on ASB in Tilbury has been held.
- Engagement has started with groups within Thurrock such as Thurrock BME ltd, Thurrock NGC (Nepalese & Gurkha community), and Tilbury educational & cultural association.
- As part of black history month in October, an online event – Let's Talk Policing in Thurrock, A conversation with BAME community leaders was held and has led to the setting up of Thurrock's Fairness & Equality Challenge Panel, which held its first panel in December.
- Prior to National Lockdown, working with Thurrock CVS we had held one community workshop to look at the issue of serious youth violence
- Our Independent Advisory Group has continued to meet and discussed numerous topics in relation to the varied work in Essex Police, including the role of the Missing Person Liaison Officer.
- The CSP has supported the Well Homes project to protect vulnerable residents and older people through targeted visits, fire risk assessments and winter warm initiatives and since January 2020, 185 Well Homes Assessments have been carried out.

3.6 Tackling Offending

- Reducing reoffending is a statutory duty of both Local Authorities and CSP's
- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company have delivered the following interventions aimed at reducing re-offending:
 - Since Oct 19 CRC are delivering interventions to BAME offenders using 4Front – this is currently being evaluated.

- Working with partners to offer women only environments for our women service users and Open Road have just completed their first Women's Programme in Thurrock. Due to C-19 capacity was limited to 5 with 100% completing
- A Homeless Prevention Taskforce was established for those at risk of homelessness upon release from HMP. To date 1 Thurrock resident has accessed the funding and was released to accommodation in Thurrock where he remains
- Project in a Box has allowed community payback work to continue during the pandemic with service users involved in mask making, keeping in touch cards and making Christmas presents for children in refuges. These items are then sold in charity shops, given to refuges and provided to prisoners who are unable to receive visits to keep in touch with families etc.
- There has been a continued focus on the promotion of Restorative Justice and we have hosted training for 35 attendees – mainly from housing, and it is envisaged this will see an increase in our referrals.
- The Public Health Well Homes project provides temporary housing accommodation to prolific ex-offenders and works closely with IOM and Thurrock Inclusions to provide employment and training interventions to increase their employment opportunities.

3.7 Counter Terrorism and Extremism

- Training has been developed into virtual learning with 2 sessions delivered and 2 more planned. Meanwhile the Home Office online training has been promoted
- Thurrock Council's events protocol and checklist now reflects checks required to ensure compliance to the Local Duty with regards to Prevent.
- Our member working group on Prevent have had a briefing from the Counter Terrorism team, attended hate crime awareness training and ideology training with Me and You Education

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Apart from the ongoing impact that Covid-19 continues to have on services, resourcing multiagency response through face to face meetings, residents engagement, increased and more high risk complex in nature cases of domestic abuse, and increased ASB- primarily in relation to neighbours and/or noise nuisance other key risks identified by the partnership are detailed in appendix 2 (horizon scanning – PESTELO) the Over view and scrutiny committees attention is drawn to the following areas of change / risk.
- 4.2 **DA Bill – Statutory Duty for LA's:** Part 4 of the 2020 Act introduces a new statutory duty on local authorities, placing clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation are met in a consistent way across England. Under this new duty Tier One authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking

local needs assessments, including developing and monitoring local strategies. We are also required to effectively commission services based on a robust needs assessment, and report back annually to Government. Subject to the successful passage the new duty will commence in April 2021.

Government has announced that Tier 1 authorities will receive a one off payment of £50,000 to help prepare them for the duty.^[1] The fund is required to be spent or allocated by April 2021, with a report to government on the expenditure due July 2021. The capacity building fund is not associated with the functions of the new duty and local authorities are not expected to deliver the duty before it comes into force.

- 4.3 Thurrock Council have the responsibility to deliver the requirements of the new duty and is in a very unique and encouraging position regarding the existing provision of safe accommodation. Whilst many other local authorities have had to rely on MHCLG funding to fund safe accommodation on a year-to-year basis, Thurrock Council have prioritised this area of support. In 2016, the Housing department established a Housing Safeguarding Team, frontline professionals dealing with domestic abuse victims and survivors. More recently in 2018 the department recommissioned the local women's refuge, safe accommodation, which is delivered by our local partner, Changing Pathways. The proposal for spending the capacity fund is in 3 key areas, Flexible Funding, Training & Awareness and Survivor Voices. *"Flexible funding is a designated funding pot that domestic abuse support workers can access quickly and easily for victim/survivors."* The implementation of flexible funding in the pilot sites has validated the need for this fund to be accompanied by high quality specialist domestic abuse support. Thurrock are already in this position with our dedicated Housing Safeguarding Team.
- 4.4 A percentage of this funding will enable Thurrock to expand the offer of the J9 programme or other specialist domestic abuse training to frontline staff and individuals with line management responsibilities. Voice and experience of survivors is paramount. The new duty calls for victim and survivor voices to be heard within both the needs assessments and the Board that exercises the functions delivering the duty. Thurrock have many providers who have their own groups that collate and have access to survivor voices, but most collate this information independently. The aim is to establish a central forum.
- 4.5 A proposal for spending the capacity building fund is in draft, and it comprises of elements including, but not limited to, additional domestic abuse training, victim/survivor voice forum and a domestic abuse flexible funding trial. All are still a proposal for now and for agreement in the coming weeks.
- 4.6 All members of the CSP are aware pf the potential for increased risk of community tensions and Hate Crime reporting in relation to EU Exit. Robust monitoring is in place to ensure an appropriate response to any concerns raised.

^[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-capacity-building-fund-for-local-authorities/guidance-for-local-authorities-on-the-domestic-abuse-capacity-building-fund#the-purpose-of-the-6-million-capacity-building-fund>

- 4.7 Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National road network and has been identified as a hot spot for human trafficking. The District Commander for Thurrock continues to lead on Portswatch improving the sharing of information between agencies and response to incursions. We are working with crimestoppers on launching a campaign aimed at improving harnessing community intelligence.
- 4.8 Lack of housing options in London leading to families moving out to Thurrock, increasing pressure on resources, particularly in terms of social care, youth offending and housing.
- 4.9 The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and whilst the injunctions placed on members of C17 continues to be enforced and have had a positive impact it has left a void in the market which will be exploited by others. The gang and criminal exploitation lead is working with OP Raptor (Essex Police response to gang related violence) and Children's Social Care to identify those at risk of being exploited and put in place interventions. The localities work funded by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit concentrates preventative work in Grays, Tilbury and Purfleet.
- 4.10 Last year's report recognised that the biggest challenge facing the CSP was to improve public confidence to continue to report community issues either to the Police, Council or anonymously to crimestoppers.
- 4.11 Essex Police have made a number of improvements to how they respond to contact from members of the public which can be seen in the Call Centre Stats below:

Essex Police Call Centre Stats	YTD	YTD Last Year*
FCR⁶ Call Handling (999)		
Average Answered Wait Time	00:00:07	00:00:10
FCR Non-Emergency (101)		
Average Answered Wait Time	00:02:59	00:03:39
Resolution Centre Call Handling - Public Calls		
Average Answered Wait Time	00:03:25	00:14:44

* These are up to 12th Dec 2020 for both this year and last year.

- 4.12 The FCR non-emergency calls are ones which need attendance but on a standard response, whereas the Resolution Centre are reports of crime that require recording but not necessarily any attendance. Calls to the Resolution Centre are the ones that have seen the most significant reduction year on year which is where previously residents may have experienced long wait times. In addition, Live Chat, was introduced in April 2020. It is staffed by Force Control Room operators which operate a digital 101 service from 7am to 11pm every day. On average there are 50 chats per day taking place. This

⁶ Force Control Room

number is steadily increasing due to promotion of the tool via Essex Police and partners. This is a way that the public can make contact to ask for advice without having to ring 101 or visit a police station. 92% of users say they would use the service again and 92% would recommend it to a friend. 71% of users say that had it not been available they would have rung 101, 5% would have visited a police station, 10% would have emailed officers / departments. 14% did not respond.

- 4.13 Members of the public can now also report Anti-Social Behaviour online via the Essex Police website. The reports go directly into the Force Control Room and are assessed for the most appropriate response. Again this reduces need for people to ring 101 to report an issue. We will continue to promote all ways that residents can contact the Police.

5. Key areas of work planned to deliver on priorities in 2020/21

- 5.1 **Violence Against Women and Girls** - The key focus will be on continuing to deliver on the action plan which accompanies the 2020/23 strategy and ensuring compliance to the changes within the Domestic Abuse Bill
- 5.2 **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability - gang related violence** - Thurrock's Director of Public Health has published the Annual Public Health Report on Youth Violence and Vulnerability: The Crime paradox and a Public Health Response. This report makes 31 recommendations which alongside partners we are developing actions plans to respond to in relation to:
- Surveillance: understanding and monitoring the problem at a population level.
 - Primary Prevention: "inoculate" the wider community against the risk of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.
 - Secondary Prevention: intervention with those with existing risk factors to mitigate risk.
 - Tertiary Prevention: "treatment" of perpetrators and victims of violence to reduce further harm.
- 5.3 **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability – Hate Crime** We will continue to expand our Hate Crime Ambassador training and raise awareness of reporting. Our stay safe events for service users of Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions will be moving on line.
- 5.4 **Tackling Violence and Vulnerability – Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery** we will support the work of OP Bluebird, Portswatch and crimestoppers to increase information flow between our communities and professionals to safeguard victims from this organised form of criminality.

5.5 Local Community and Visibility

- We are looking to launch a public consultation into a Public Space Protection Order against which will prohibit dog fouling across the borough, dogs from play areas and place restrictions on dogs being on leads in cemeteries or when required to do so by an authorised person.
- We will continue to seek solutions to the motorbike nuisance issues in Thurrock and review the PSPO in place in West Thurrock.
- Implement a multi-agency plan in place to address an increase of ASB on the Garrison estate in West Thurrock and South Stifford ward.
- Work with the resident engagement team and Community Safety & Engagement Officers to develop alternative ways of engaging with all communities as well as develop the work with Thurrock's Fairness & Equality Challenge Panel.

5.6 Tackling Offending - We will continue to promote Essex Restorative Justice and mediation services to victims of ASB, utilise Community Justice Panels and encourage this as an option for hate crime. The Integrated Offender Management Programme will be expanded to include gang nominal and become the Prolific Offender Team. NPS and CRC will be coming together again as one service.

5.7 Counter Terrorism and Extremism - We will continue to respond to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and develop our communications plan and embed the statutory guidance in relation to Channel Panels.

5.8 The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted that there is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm and that older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders. Young people are at greater risk of exploitation including sexual, trafficking, cyber bullying, radicalisation and gang related violence. Hate crime within the disabled, transgender and sexual orientation communities continue to have low rates of reporting. Learning disabled are at risk of “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. There continues to be a gap around information about same sex domestic abuse victims.

6. Reasons for Recommendation

- 6.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on why our priorities for 2020/21 remain as current.
- 6.2 This report outlines the risks to the safety of our communities and the actions taken to mitigate those risks.
- 6.3 The response to “Community Violence” requires a multi-agency coordinated both proactive and reactive approach across Essex.

- 6.4 Members of the CGS O & S need to be aware of the implications of the Domestic Bill 2020 on the Local Authority.

7. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 7.1 N/A

8. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 8.1 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

- 8.2 We are working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to draft a narrative on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026 proposed new domain in relation to Community Safety, Development and Cohesion which, if agreed, will focus on the wider determinants of health including domestic violence, exploitation, ASB, safe places, feeling safe, gangs and county lines

9. Implications

9.1 Financial

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

The CSP has a grant from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, the same as last year and an £18,347 contribution from Thurrock Council. These funds have been allocated to support delivery of the priorities.

The PFCC and partners have been successful in obtaining additional funds to support targeted work to tackle violence and vulnerability.

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Law

There do not appear to be any direct legal implications arising from this report.

9.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The gaps identified in 3.15 with regards to equality are addressed within the action plans.

9.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Children Looked After)

This report outlines the Council and its Partners commitment to ensuring they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act legislation.

10. 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):

- DRAFT Partnership Strategic assessment 2020 (not yet published)
- Partnership Delivery Plan 2020/21
www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership
- Annual Public Health Report for Thurrock 2020
- Police and Crime Plan
www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/

11. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - CSP Priorities on a page

Appendix 2 - Horizon Scanning PESTELO

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager