

8 September 2022		ITEM: 7
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 Assistant Director: Cheryl Wells - Strategic Lead, Community Safety, Emergency Planning & Resilience		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) in 2021/22 and provides insight into the priorities and activities to address them for the Partnership for 2022/23.

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body as laid out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This legislation places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies, namely the Local Authority, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, and the Integrated Care Body to work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. These partners are required to formulate and implement strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area and to have in place a partnership plan for that area, setting out the CSP's priorities. (*Appendix 1*).

The plan must also have regard for the police and crime objectives set out in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan.

The local delivery plan sets out how the CSP will deliver on the priorities as identified in the Strategic Assessment for 2021. (*Appendix 2*) A Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to complete on an annual basis. The aim and purpose of the strategic assessment is to assist the CSP to determine the strategic priorities. These priorities inform the Partnership's 2022/23 Delivery Plan, which will assist in the allocation of appropriate resources to tackle the issues identified. Areas of risk and vulnerability are highlighted, and based on intelligence, priority issues are identified, alongside recommendations to address.

These priorities assist in identifying what the CSP should collectively work towards over the following year.

To ensure that all partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a Risk Matrix is carried out before the Strategic Assessment is written. Using this process ensures that partnership issues can be compared against each other in an intelligent and structured way to determine the Priorities for the CSP which are detailed at 2.2.

The Community Safety Partnership has a responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 'Community Safety'. Of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26. A key focus of this strategy is: ***Levelling the playing field.***

The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- **Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.**
- **We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.**

The CSP has a role to play in preventing and safeguarding the most vulnerable in our society from being victims of crime, abuse, and exploitation. In the tragic instances where this does occur, we want to ensure that victims/survivors are able to access appropriate support to cope and recover from their experiences.

In summary levelling the playing field for community safety will be achieved through:

- Preventing crimes, particularly abuse and exploitation, occurring in the first instance
- Consulting with the community to understand resident's concerns with regards to community safety and for residents to know what we are doing to address their concerns
- Strengthening approaches to safeguarding those who are vulnerable and face additional risk of experiencing abuse or exploitation
- Ensuring victims/survivors of abuse or exploitation are able to access appropriate services and support to cope and recover
- Ensuring the support and services available to victims/survivors of abuse or exploitation are holistic and trauma informed where appropriate.

This will level the playing field by:

- Reducing the number of victims locally, and therefore preventing the physical and mental impacts they might experience
- Preventing those who already experience vulnerabilities from facing further inequalities
- Ensuring victims/survivors are supported to cope and recover from their experience and are able to live safe, happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Ahead of the Serious Violence Duty we have recognised that a Public Health approach is required and have established a Violence and Vulnerability Board to coordinate the response by our 5 Boards (namely the Health and Wealth Being Board, Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board, Youth

Crime Governance Board and Community Safety Partnership) to implement the recommendations from the Annual Public Health Report 2020 on Serious Youth Violence. This will recognise youths from 11- 24 as well as recognising that children as young as primary school age can be exploited and drawn into gangs. To deliver this we work in close partnership with the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit.

Whilst hidden harms and exploitation are a key focus of our priorities and delivery plan we have recognised and included our communities' priorities in relation to tackling Anti-social Behaviour and increased opportunity for public engagement.

We continue to work alongside Essex Police and in particular:

- Local Community Safety & Engagement Officers (CSEO's) to engage with residents to promote the work they are undertaking and improve confidence in the local area
- The Modern-Day Slavery, Human Trafficking and Organised Immigration Crime team, who are supporting us with prevention through awareness raising and through Portswatch sharing information and intelligence widely amongst statutory and law enforcement agencies to make our communities and ports safer
- The Business Crime Team who are working to tackle and prevent Crime and Anti- Social Behaviour so that Businesses feel safe, without the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour committed by the minority.
- The continued support through our Town Centre Team, including an additional 4 officers funded by Thurrock Council

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2021/22 and satisfy themselves that the Community Safety Partnership priorities agreed for the year 2022/23 respond to the community safety issues raised by their residents

1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognise the collaborative working across our priorities with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to keep the community of Thurrock safe.

1.3 That Overview and Scrutiny understand the impact on the Council of the Serious Violence Duty

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) has a statutory duty to reduce crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour, and other behaviour affecting the local environment, including the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The TCSP has an integral role in delivering Thurrock's community strategy in relation to the priority "*Build pride, responsibility and respect.*" and the Health and Wellbeing strategy for Thurrock 22/26 in relation to Community Safety.

2.2 The Priorities for the CSP for 2022/23 were agreed as:

1. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
2. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment
3. **Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
4. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism:** Preventing Violent Extremism locally
5. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime** – including Sex/Gender based hate crime
6. **Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including off road motorbike nuisance
7. **Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**
8. **Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement**
9. **Tackling offending** – reducing high volume crimes e.g., burglary

Why are these a priority for Thurrock?¹:

2.3 **Priority 1. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

- Thurrock recognises that women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence and abuse. We also recognise and acknowledge that many of these types of crime remain unreported. Rooted in gender inequality VAWG is a systemic and pervasive human rights abuse stifling the lives and well-being of women and girls and preventing them from accessing opportunities.
- In our risk matrix sexual offences ranked number one, other sexual offences 4th and stalking and harassment 12th
- 451 females are currently accessing the specialist support services of SERICC and 49 males. There are more survivors who report to these services than Essex Police.
- We have seen an increase of 22.4% in relation to stalking and harassment in reports to Essex Police across 12 months. There has been a 23% increase in relation to Honour Based Abuse.

2.4 **Priority 2. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:**

- In our risk matrix Domestic Abuse (DA) overall ranked at number 4, with High risk being ranked 1st, medium risk 9th and standard risk 10th.
- Our strategy identified that over 50% of females accessing mental health services have experienced domestic violence / abuse and over 35% of abused women have experienced depression and anxiety orders.
- 34.6% of all reported violence against the person offences in Thurrock had a domestic abuse marker
- Thurrock is ranked as the 5th highest district in Essex in relation to Domestic Abuse offences

¹ Data taken from the 2021 Strategic Assessment which covers the period 1/10/20 to 30/9/21

2.5 **Priority 3. Violence and Vulnerability:**

- As part of the youth focused listening project Thurrock young people told us their no. 1 concern was knife crime/getting stabbed. 50% of respondents said they were worried about being exploited by gangs.
- Violent Crime ranked 4th on our risk matrix and is on an upward trajectory, although our crimes /1,000 residents remain lower than the average of our most similar family group.
- Possession of weapons ranked as our 11th highest risk and has seen an increase of offences against last year
- Of the 11 localities identified across Essex for action by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit 3 of them are in Thurrock
- We have an emerging gang in Thurrock with young people at risk of being exploited by them

2.6 **Priority 4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism:**

The terror attacks in October and November 2021 are clear reminders that this is an ever-present threat. No matter what the ideology that inspires the threat is, the aim is to inflict fear, harm, and damage on our communities.

By this remaining as a priority for the CSP it provides the framework for outlining how partners will continue to work with our communities to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation and to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, however it should be noted that there is no greater threat to Thurrock than anywhere else.

2.7 **Priority 5. Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**

- In 2021 Thurrock saw a 33% increase in reported hate crime, which is higher than that seen across Essex.
- There were 1.8 crimes per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the average of our most similar family group.
- This is a crime which often goes unreported, so we are unlikely to be looking at the full scale of the problem.
- In response to the national interest and activity that is taking place around violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls Essex Police have made a change in the recording of Hate Crime in Essex where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim and that gender-based hate crime will now be recorded by Essex Police and an investigation commenced. By prioritising this we will be better placed to understand the issues faced by women and girls in Thurrock.

2.8 **Priority 6. Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims - including off road motorbike nuisance**

- Essex Police have seen a 5.7% year on year increase in reporting – however it should be noted that this data is impacted by inclusion of COVID breaches.

- Although an improvement on previous year's 28% of residents surveyed as part of the public perception survey still feel that crime and ASB have become more of a problem in the last year.
- Members, businesses, and residents continue to report that this is a concern across the borough, and in particular in relation to off road motorbike nuisance.

2.9 **Priority 7. Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**

The full scale of modern-day slavery and human trafficking is unknown. Human trafficking is a crime against humanity, it is global, affects men and women, children and adults, UK nationals and migrants and as we know from Op Melrose in 2019 where 39 Vietnamese lost their lives this is happening in Thurrock.

2.10 **Priority 8. Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement**

"The Government is clear that everyone in this country should have the security and confidence that comes from having a safe street and a safe home, and this is central to the mission of levelling up."² The Government's strategic approach to cutting crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), reducing the number of victims of crime, and making the country safer is set out in the Beating Crime Plan. This priority sets out how Thurrock will focus our efforts on 'hotspot' areas where crimes are disproportionately concentrated.

The public perception survey (Q2 21/22) highlighted that only around a third of Thurrock residents (34%) feel well-informed about what police are doing in their area, down from 43% - joint second lowest District.

2.11 **Priority 9. Tackling offending**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have a statutory duty to assist with reducing reoffending. Partners must therefore work together to prevent offenders from re-entering the criminal justice system and creating potentially more victims, as well as ensure that offenders are given the opportunity to engage within the Restorative Justice process where appropriate.³

We have started to see an increase in our reoffending rates of the cohort managed by our Youth Offending Service.

2.12 In addition, anecdotally we have identified as Emerging Areas of Concern:

- E-scooters – concerns raised by members and residents.
- Drink spiking – whilst not seen in Thurrock yet this is an issue being reported across the Country.

2.13 These priorities will all support the Chief Constables vision with regards to a focus on the four V's, namely:

- Violence

² "Safer Streets Fund Round 4 Prospectus - GOV.UK

³ SET Reducing reoffending strategy 2021

- Vulnerability
- Visibility
- Victims

2.14 Our priorities for 22/23 consider the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities which are laid out in the 2021/24 plan⁴ :

1. Further investment in crime prevention
2. Reducing drug driven violence
3. Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
4. Reducing violence against women and girls
5. Improving support for victims of crime
6. Protecting rural and isolated areas
7. Preventing dog theft
8. Preventing business crime, fraud, and cyber crime
9. Improving safety on our roads
10. Encouraging volunteers and community support
11. Supporting our officers and staff
12. Increasing collaboration

2.15 Within the Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex 2021/25⁵ , Essex Police have identified 14 thematic strands which pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, as well as the greatest opportunity for prevention. These are:

1. Knife Crime
2. Rape
3. Night-Time Economy
4. Child Abuse / Child Sexual Exploitation
5. Domestic Abuse
6. Drugs & Alcohol
7. Mental Health
8. County Lines / Exploitation
9. Serious Organised Crime
10. Cybercrime & Fraud
11. Places - targeting persistent problem places and people within a geographical area
12. Burglary / Robbery
13. Prevent (radicalisation)
14. Hate Crime

2.16 **Governance to deliver the plan:**

The Statutory partners meet quarterly through the CSP Strategic Board which is chaired by the Director of Public Realm, Thurrock Council and the Vice Chair is the Chief Superintendent Essex Police.

Reporting directly to the CSP Board are:

⁴ <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/>

⁵ Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

- CSP Executive – chaired by the District Commander
- Prevent Strategic board – chaired by Asst Director for Adult Social Care
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Partnerships – chaired by the Asst Director for Housing
- Violence and Vulnerability Board – chaired by the Director of Public Health

Reporting into the CSP Executive are the:

- Multi-agency locality action groups dealing with cases in relation to ASB and hate crime
- Operational Gang Related Violence Group
- Integrated Offender Management
- Task and Finish groups in relation to off road motorbike nuisance and car cruisers

2.17 Summary of **crime performance** for 1/4/2021 to 31/03/2022 compared to 2020/21

This crime data comes with the caveat that it reflects against non-comparable data due to varying degrees of restrictions being in place 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Offence	12 months April 21 to March 22	
	Total	% Change
All Crime	16,846	12.5
Violence Against Person	6562	5.9
Sexual Offences	558	40.2
Robbery	171	4.3
Burglary	646	-9.3
Vehicle Offences (incl. interference)	1969	30.1
Shoplifting	1176	30.7
Criminal damage (incl arson)	1676	13.9
Hate Crime (HO def)	544	26.5
ASB	3233	-48.9

We continue to see a downward trajectory of ASB which is due to being compared against data which included COVID breaches.

All crime, except for burglary is showing an increase year on year.

33% of crimes in the year had a Domestic Abuse marker against them.

2.18 Essex Police monitor **public perception** of crime by regularly surveying residents across the County to gather and evaluate efforts to address crime.

Key Insights

- The proportion of Thurrock residents surveyed who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem increased significantly from 22% to 33% - second highest District.
- Around half (55%) agree EP understand issues affecting their community – down significantly from 71% in 2020/21.
- Over three-quarters (76%) think a regular uniformed police presence is very important – joint highest District.

Thurrock Q4 2021/22 Public Perception Survey Results ⁶

Question	Year ending Mar 2021	Year ending Mar 2022	% Change
Confidence in local Policing (% strongly/tend to agree)	72%	71%	- 1%
Importance of a regular uniformed police presence in the area (% very important)	71%	76%	5%
Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community (% strongly/tend to agree)	71%	55%	-16%
Feel informed about what the Police are doing in my local area (% very/fairly informed)	35%	40%	5%
Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job	74%	78%	4%
Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB (% strongly/tend to agree)	53%	50%	-3%
Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in your area in the last 12 months	22%	33%	11%
Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police (% very/fairly confident)	74%	72%	-2%

Key highlights of activity by priority in 2021/22 (full detail of activity is within the strategic assessment, section 4).

2.19 Priority 1: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

⁶ Source: Thurrock Community Safety Engagement Officer

- The terms of reference for the strategic VAWG board were updated to reflect the duties of the new Domestic Abuse Act. The VAWG Strategic Board is the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board for Thurrock Council. The VAWG Strategy and action plan were updated to reflect changes in duties.
- Amended training offer: new product covers Domestic Abuse and Stalking.
- Community J9 sessions promoted and linking with Alpha Vesta to raise awareness with businesses. All training continues via online delivery.
- Reaching out to Traveller sites resumed as restrictions were lifted.
- Thurrock commenced the first joint Domestic Homicide Review / Safeguarding Adult Review (DHR/SAR).
- Funding contribution towards perpetrator intervention work saw the Change Project return to Thurrock in October 2021.
- Community liaison officers within the Housing Safeguarding Team were involved in increased outreach work in partnership with many services
- 16 day's events /communications included offer of training to businesses.
- Annual promotion of initiatives such as '16 days of activism', including a 'Safer Streets' community engagement event where 800 personal alarms were handed out while asking communities to complete a Safer Streets questionnaire on police website. The SET wide stalking awareness campaign, International Women's Day, and Ask for Angela.

2.20 **Priority 2: Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**

- 29 individuals across Thurrock have been trained to deliver individual, or group work to parents/carers to reduce violence within the home and multi-agency operational gang related violence group continues to meet with to identify, monitor and share information regarding identified gang nominals residing in Thurrock.
- Operational plan implemented by Essex Police – alongside Op Grip targeting 11 micro areas of concern in relation to violence across borough.
- Meetings held with schools, actions in place to support those at risk, including CREW mentoring project & youth at risk.
- Operational Gang Group continues to identify nominals, and actions to put in place to either safeguard or take appropriate enforcement action.
- Areas identified in relation to contextualised safeguarding actions in place.
- 256 trained hate crime ambassadors have made 1,168 contacts from January to September to raise awareness of hate crime and an overview of hate crime is included within our Prevent training offer.
- National Hate Crime awareness week was celebrated with events, training and sharing of case studies and supported Thurrock's Safeguarding Adults Board pop-up event on hate crime in Grays as part of Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week.
- Disability hate and mate crime training has been well received across 4 sessions; This is now being offered out to Thurrock colleges and special needs schools.

2.21 **Priority 3: Local Community and Visibility**

- The top 5 areas for off road motorbike nuisance were identified and plans developed to target harden.
- An interim injunction has been obtained to prevent unauthorised encampments.
- The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in West Thurrock was renewed in respect of car cruising activity.
- Training sessions were delivered to all partners on Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO).
- 179 HMO licenses granted under Mandatory and Additional HMO Licensing, encouraging residents to report complaints about poor housing conditions, noise, rubbish, overgrown gardens, rodents, and pests.
- Street meets held in Op Caesar (response to motorbike nuisance) hot spots, Tilbury, and Ockendon due to high reports of ASB and 12 events held in Grays High Street as part of Safer Streets.
- Coffee with cops held in all areas across the borough.
- Young People engaged through Youth Council and hosting coffee with cops at both colleges.
- Weekend walkabouts held to address concerns over ASB in relation to motorbikes and cruisers.

2.22 Priority 4: Tackling Offending and reducing Residential Burglary

- The new Probation Service has been in place since 26 June 2021, they are responsible for managing all those on a community order or licence following their release from prison in England and Wales.
- There has been a continued focus on the promotion of Restorative Justice with 29 referrals in the year ending Sept 21. 35% of referrals were in relation to neighbour nuisance. There was a 92% victim satisfaction survey rate. We are working on a Community Justice Panel to consider if we can impact HGV issues.
- The Public Health funded 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. This project has successfully housed 5 ex-offenders in the Thurrock area.
- Opportunity to engage with users when drug supplies disrupted through Op Cloud - a police-led initiative to text details of treatment services to those identified as being customers of a county line phone number that Essex Police has intercepted.

2.23 Priority 5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- We have continued to attend quarterly briefings and respond to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, revise our action plan to reflect any emerging risks and threats, and update and share as appropriate the situational risk assessment for Thurrock.
- We drafted our Event Policy which is being trialled across community premises.
- Guidance on event bookings and speaker booking form has been shared with educational settings and licensed premises.

- Ongoing promotion of ACT Early to increase awareness within communities.
- Prepared and presented a report to the Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee to support Members to reach out to communities on this agenda.
- Continued to offer training sessions in conjunction with my learning for professionals.
- Briefed the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police to maintain their knowledge.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Key areas of work planned to deliver on priorities in 2022/23

3.1 **Priority 1. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims

- Refresh the multi-agency VAWG strategy to drive effective partnership working.
- Refresh frontline training to improve identification understanding and responses to Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Ensure that victims/survivors are signposted to specialist safe spaces to be able to speak out.
- Explore methods to engage survivor's voice across the VAWG agenda.
- Continue roll out of DA & stalking training for professionals and community and sexual violence and abuse awareness training. Pilot training in relation to sexual violence/abuse against men and boys and promote the sexual violence and abuse e-learning product.
- Continue to recognise and respond to the public interest in VAWG and men's violence against women, promote reporting to Safer Streets and respond to Op Minerva – identifying areas of risk.

3.2 **Priority 2. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment.

- Continue to deliver on the priority areas identified within the needs assessment for victims who are resident within safe accommodation.
 - Support around financial inclusion for victims supporting access to education, training, and employment in preparation for moving on from the refuge.
 - Support to increase staff knowledge and working practices around victims with physical and learning disabilities and mental health issues.
 - Specialist drug and alcohol support for resident adults & children.

- Support to speed up moving on from refuge to independent accommodation when safe to do so and to ensure support is continued once victims are settled.
- Implementation of trauma informed psychological support for resident adults and children.
- Specialist sexual violence counselling support
- Increase in capacity of the existing children's worker to support parenting work.
- Tutoring for resident children who due to moving into refuge have additional identified learning needs.

In addition:

- Training for businesses will be delivered following promotion of Alpha Vesta at Thurrock Enterprise Week.
- Progress the DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Association) accreditation.
- Ensure method of hearing DA survivor voices is implemented as part of DA Act.
- Respond to recommendations from any Domestic Homicide Reviews as appropriate.
- In order to direct services, obtain a full year of data by ward to ensure services are aligned to need and the top 5 wards should be targeted for community engagement including wider services e.g., drug and alcohol.

3.3 **Priority 3. Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence

- Continued preventative work focused in the Grays area including:
 - Op Grip – hot spot policing, which has been evaluated as having on average a 14% reduction on violent crime and 17% on overall crime.
 - Termly meetings with our secondary schools who have had funding for the SOS Project delivered by St Giles Trust.
 - Violence and Vulnerability funding has also supported Red Balloon to provide outreach work in Seabrooke Rise, Grays as well as Koala Park in Tilbury.
 - Operation Overwatch which has led to 6 arrests on the GTM Gang members, offences varying from Drug Supply, Knife crime and Robbery. Since the arrests, one individual has been issued a Youth Referral Order, one is awaiting sentence with an application for an additional Criminal Behaviour Order that will last 5 years. The others arrested have been charged and await court hearings.
- Embed and develop the role of the Child Exploitation (CE) and gangs lead and exploitation worker, currently delivering drop-in sessions at secondary schools, delivering awareness training for professionals, termly meetings with schools in identified locality areas and managing 45 nominals through the Operational Gang Related Violence Group. Data for 21/22 identified the average age is 17 – 22, predominantly from the Grays area and 67% have attended gang intervention/knife prevention programme.

- Our Young Person's Exploitation Support Worker provides direct support to young people who are at risk of, or who have experienced sexual and/or criminal exploitation. Intensive intervention is provided to deliver effective support and reduce the risk of harm. Currently working with 8 young people.
- Focused campaign to raise awareness in relation to offensive weapons alongside knife bin launch campaign.
- A deep dive of all non-domestic violent crime is produced for action by the Drivers of Violence Task and Finish group.
- Support implementation of the Youth Justice Plan 21/24 to deliver an effective youth justice service in Thurrock, including implementation of Reroute to support offenders released under investigation.
- Outreach project delivered by Olive Academy to continue to work with young people at risk of exclusion.

3.4 **Priority 4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism: Preventing Violent Extremism locally:**

- Continue to promote actearly.uk to parents, friends, and family.
- Respond through action plan to current risks in relation to vulnerabilities due to mental health and those aged under 18.
- Identify prevent champions across directorates in Local Authority partners and increase their knowledge in relation to prevent and identification of potential tensions.
- Focus on young people and developing them as champions.
- Strengthen communication locally through implementing a communication plan in line with the handbook, including work with NHS colleagues.
- Continue to offer programme of training across partners.
- Brief the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police to maintain their knowledge.
- Review and refresh Thurrock's Prevent strategy for 2023/26.

3.5 **Priority 5. Priority 5. Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime – including Sex/Gender based hate crime:**

- Promote and monitor the reporting of gender-based hate crime, where Essex Police now record Hate Crime where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim by delivering refresh training for our ambassadors.
- Continue to encourage reporting, in particular of disability, homophobic, religious, and transgender.
- Host pop up events/ coffee with cops at our Hate Incident Reporting centres and faith-based locations.
- Utilise calendar of events to target all strands across the year.
- Review the advice and information on our web site and include gender.
- Offer a drop in coffee with cops in our care homes and sheltered housing schemes.

- Continue with our Hate Crime Ambassador training (we currently have 220) and share our training and information with foster carers and taxi drivers.
- Share the Safer Streets e-learning with businesses which includes hate crime.
- Improve the recording of self-defined ethnicity of victims.
- Continue to monitor for any community tensions in relation to race.

3.6 **Priority 6. Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including off road motorbike nuisance

- To continue to target off road motor vehicle nuisance through Op Caesar and expanding through drones, Police off road response, implementation of target hardening programme and consideration of a PSPO.
- To continue through multi-agency work and funding to target enforcement of the West Thurrock PSPO in relation to cruisers through Op Irish lions. To end of July 22 55 PSPO tickets have been issued in respect of the PSPO. The Grays PSPO continues to be enforced and 18 tickets have been issued.
- To consult on a PSPO in relation to dogs in cemeteries.
- That the map of secondary fires is reviewed quarterly, and any areas of concern flagged to the CSP Executive for awareness and action.
- To continue to use our Locality Action Groups (LAG) to work in partnership to safeguard victims. In July we had 11 referrals open to the LAGs of which 1 is racially motivated, 1 learning disability and 8 vulnerable due to mental health and or alcohol issues.
- To promote ASB case reviews and respond according to findings. For the year ending March 22 we received 11 requests of which 6 met the threshold and were accepted. All were responded to within the given timescales.
- To implement the Action plan for Corringham including review of street lighting in the area and consultation on shop safe radio.

3.7 **Priority 7. Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery (MDS) and Immigration Crime**

- Offer training to partners on MDS – 64 have attendees so far and 4 more sessions planned.
- Develop Thurrock MDS pathway.
- Complete an awareness raising toolkit for MDS.
- Develop communications and a consistent message across all sectors and for the public.
- Updated information on MDS on the partners websites.
- Ensure strategic oversight and joint leadership through the CSP/Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board and Thurrock Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership.
- Finalise our statement in relation to MDS and encourage local businesses to adopt.

- Undertake and promote appropriate, targeted MDS campaigns (Make reporting channels easy to use and well known by promoting local and national helplines and services).

3.8 **Priority 8. Safer Streets through increased visibility and community engagement**

- Enable people to report confidently where they do not feel safe through promotion of **Safer Streets** www.essex.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe
- To implement measures to improve people's safety in areas recognised within the Street Safe project (Op Minerva).
- Host regularly Coffee with cops across the borough.
- Host monthly partnership street pop ups in areas of concern.
- Sustain the surgeries being held monthly in Grays as part of Safer Streets legacy.
- That Grays remains a focus area for prevention activity with regards fire. A show and tell event is planned in Seabrooke Rise on 2/9/22.

3.9 **Priority 9. Tackling offending**

- The Thurrock re-offending action plan in line with the SET strategy 22/24 is implemented.
- Public Health are commissioning a detailed needs assessment in relation to drugs and alcohol. Once completed the re-offending plan for Thurrock should be reviewed to address any identified gaps.
- Wider partner involvement in monthly IOM meetings as per refreshed terms of reference.
- Data required against each of the 9 pathways to shape services locally and to know what success looks like.
- That concerns around disproportionality in relation to BAME cohort are shared and actions identified within re-offending plan.
- Continue to promote the use of Essex Restorative Justice Mediation Services in relation to ASB, neighbour disputes and hate crime.

3.10 In addition, anecdotally we have identified as emerging areas of concern:

E-scooters: continuing to raise awareness in high footfall areas and through schools that this is illegal and advise of the potential consequences.

Drink Spiking: Promote the Essex wide Safe Night Out Campaign with a focus on our colleges and sexual health services.

Key risks to the Partnership

3.11 The following risks outlined in the Home Office Delivery Plan

2021/22 ⁷ are applicable to Thurrock:

- Unemployment, poverty, and income inequality could lead to upward pressure on crime and increased support for extremist groups or political parties; both factors are heavily influenced by the duration and scale of impacts from Covid-19
- An increasingly online and connected world is more vulnerable to cyber-attacks and changing patterns of criminal behaviour; law enforcement agencies are in a technological arms race with organised crime groups and hostile states
- Police and support services need to be ready to respond to additional demand that could arise from increased reporting of crimes that have been traditionally under-reported, like modern slavery, violence against women and girls, and domestic abuse.

Other key risks identified by the partnership are detailed in section 8.1 of the Strategic Assessment (horizon scanning – PESTELO) with members of the overview and scrutiny committees' attention drawn to the following areas of local change / risk.

- Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National Road network and has been identified as a hot spot for Organised Immigration Crime
- Off road motorbikes continue to damage open spaces and are a concern for resident safety
- The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and there is local gang activity in Grays
- The National concerns raised in relation to the murder of Sarah Everard and the testimonies provided through the Everyone's Invited regards male violence against women

3.12 New Legislation:

Section 1.2 Legislative changes in the Partnership Delivery plan outlines all forthcoming impacts on community safety. Of note for Thurrock Council are:

3.12.1 Within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ("PCSC Act 2022" which received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 is the **Serious Violence Duty**. This Duty is being introduced as Serious Violence has a devastating impact on victims and their families, instils fear in communities and is costly to society. To combat this the Serious Violence Duty has been introduced and aims to take a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence through a Public Health approach focused on prevention and early intervention.

The Local Authority is one of the specified authorities required to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-outcome-delivery-plan/home-office-outcome-delivery-plan-2021-to-2022>

and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

In addition to the Local Authority the other specified authorities are Police, Fire Service, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, and the Integrated Care Body. They are required to consult with education and prison and youth custodies. We aim to have the first draft of our strategic assessment by September and will develop and consult on the strategy to respond to identified need from April 23. This will replace the current action plan developed in response to the Annual Public Health Report and will be aligned to the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (*Appendix 3*)

3.12.2 **The PROTECT Duty** legislation and the changes it brings, will enhance the protection of the UK's publicly accessible places from terrorist attacks and ensure that businesses and organisations are prepared to deal with incidents. All publicly accessible buildings should now be completing a risk assessment. (*Appendix 4*)

3.12.3 In addition, with Public Health, we are in the process of setting up a **Combating Drugs Partnership** to develop a local plan of action to reduce drug-related harm.

3.13 **Equality Impact Assessment**

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) reflects the need to:

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

3.13.1 In addition, the issue of women's safety has become a focus following a number of high-profile deaths and we seek to understand this issue better through Safer Streets, Op Minerva profiling areas of risk and response, and recording of gender-based hate crime.

3.13.2 In summary the Community Safety EqIA continues to highlight:

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 exploitation – including sexual and trafficking, cyber bullying, radicalisation & 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 mate crime and being “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence
6. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence/abuse and that a gendered approach is required to tackle safety on our streets.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on why the priorities of 2022/23 are important for our communities and enable members to be assured that the CSP are responding to the community safety issues raised by their communities.
- 4.2 The response to “Community Safety” requires a multi-agency coordinated both proactive and reactive approach across Essex.
- 4.3 Members of the CGS O & S need to be aware of the implications of the Serious Violence Duty on the Local Authority – a responsible authority.

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

- 5.1 Thurrock CSP Strategic Assessment 2021 was developed with input from partners and informs the CSP about the scale and scope of crime and community safety issues in Thurrock and has determined our priorities for the forthcoming year.
- 5.2 The CSP must pay due regard to the The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities. Our priorities for 22/23 take into account the new priorities as laid out in The Police and Crime Plan 2021/24.
- 5.3 Following a presentation to the Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee, at their suggestion, we now have a standalone Modern-Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy and Delivery Plan.

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. (“Vision and priorities for Thurrock | Our vision and priorities ...”)

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 Community Safety Partnership has responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26 in relation to **'Community Safety'**.

The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- **Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.**
- **We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.**

- 6.3 The Community Safety Partnership priorities take account of the Duties placed on the Local Authority in relation to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Prevent Duty 2015, and the Duty to reduce re-offending.

- 6.4 The Community Safety Partnership Plan also links to and impacts on:

- Youth Justice Plan 21/24
- [Safer Essex Violence and Vulnerability Framework - Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner \(pfcc.police.uk\)](#)
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2020/23 outlines Thurrock's commitment to this agenda
- Thurrock's draft Housing Strategy 22-27 including providing safe accommodation for those fleeing domestic and sexual abuse
- Essex Hate Crime Prevention Strategy 2018/21 (currently being refreshed)
- Thurrock's Annual Public Health Report on Serious Youth Violence 2020
- The Sexual Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019

7. Implications

7.1 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 £18,343 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.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**

Corporate Governance Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer

The new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence - the Serious Violence Duty is referred to in the main body of the report, including the requirement for specified agencies, to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of serious violence in a local area and then formulate and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those issues.

Consultation on draft statutory guidance on the Serious Violence Duty which will be issued by the Secretary of State under section 19 of the PCSC Act 2022, has taken place. Once the final version of the guidance has been published, the Serious Violence Duty and associated secondary legislation will be commenced in early 2023. Local partnerships will be required to work towards publication and dissemination of their strategies. The Government propose that local partnerships should publish their first strategy within 12 months of the duty's commencement.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

Section 3.13 details the Equalities Impact Assessment and the gaps identified in 3.13.2 with regards to equality are addressed within the action plans.

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

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

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):

- **Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024**
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-serious-violence-duty-factsheet
- [Drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-strategy-guidance-for-local-delivery-partners)

9. Appendices to the report

- 9.1 Partnership Delivery Plan 2022/23
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2022-v01.pdf>
- 9.2 Partnership Strategic assessment 2021
www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership
- 9.3 www.essexvvu.co.uk
- 9.4 Protect Duty: [Risk management recorded template and examples | Protect UK](#)

These appendices can be found online at the above web addresses, but have not been included in the agenda.

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