

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report  
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## Safer Guildford Partnership Annual Report 2019

### **Officer recommendation:**

That the Committee considers and comments on the Safer Guildford Partnership Annual Report for 2019 and notes the progress made against its priorities.

### Reason(s) for Recommendation:

To inform the Committee of the work of the Safer Guildford Partnership

### **1. Executive Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to review the work and operation of the Safer Guildford Partnership over the past 12 months, together with its future priorities. In addition, the report details the review of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and its implications for Guildford and the Safer Guildford Partnership.

1.2 This report sets out progress made during 2018/19 including:

- the Partnership's current ways of working and its continued effectiveness in service delivery that results in positive outcomes
- the new Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group
- the new Beggars / Rough Sleepers (Town Centre) Group [working title under review]
- the pilot initiative launched under the Safer Guildford Partnership on the needle exchange within Guildford Action
- Prevent training

### **2. Background**

2.1 The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act gave local agencies a shared responsibility for developing and introducing strategies to reduce crime and disorder in their area.

2.2 In a two-tier authority area such as Surrey, where a County Council works alongside District and Borough Councils, there is a requirement for a county level Community Safety Strategy group.

2.3 In Surrey this is known as the Community Safety Board (CSB). Chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, its membership includes a wide range of partners that work together to provide strategic leadership on issues that affect the whole of Surrey.

2.4 Surrey County Council's current priorities are:

- Domestic Abuse
- High Harm Crime (serious organised crime, modern slavery, human trafficking)
- Prevent (counter terrorism)

The CSB works collaboratively with other boards, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure they are working together effectively.

2.5 Within Guildford the agencies come together as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) known in Guildford as the Safer Guildford Partnership (SGP). Statutory members are:

- Surrey Police
- Guildford Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Fire & Rescue Service
- Surrey & Sussex Probation Trust
- Clinical Commissioning Group

2.6 The aims of the Safer Guildford Partnership are to reduce crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime, and reduce reoffending. It will do this by:

- fulfilling the obligations set out in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and subsequent legislation
- promoting the integration of community safety plans into mainstream policies and services agreeing specific targets for improving community safety
- reviewing achievements against targets and taking appropriate action
- considering the annual assessment of crime and disorder trends and its impact on community safety strategy
- promoting effective co-ordination of community safety activities
- promoting information sharing and best practice in community safety
- promoting the work of the SGP and its projects in the media and community as appropriate
- identifying and exploring opportunities to attract funding
- leading and / or supporting bids for funding.

2.7 The SGP is responsible for compliance with statutory duties and responsibilities. The legislative framework that underpins the work of the Partnership is the:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sections 5 and 6
- Police and Justice Act 2006
- Policing and Crime Act 2009
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victim Act 2004 section 9 (Domestic Homicide Review)
- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Prevent Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Modern Day Slavery Act 2015

2.8 The Statutory Obligations are:

- to set up a strategic multi-agency group (the Safer Guildford Partnership)
- regularly engage and consult with the community
- set up protocols for data sharing
- analysis of a wide range of crime data and set out priorities in a strategic assessment
- develop a partnership plan and monitor
- produce a strategy for Reducing Reoffending
- commission Domestic Homicide Reviews

### **3. Safer Guildford Partnership**

3.1 The current arrangements of the Partnership are:

- the partnership meets four times a year and holds meetings lasting no longer than two hours (it retains the flexibility to call extraordinary meetings for Domestic Homicide Reviews and Emergency matters)
- the partnership is chaired by the Managing Director of Guildford Borough Council and the vice chair is the Police Superintendent of Guildford
- all governance arrangements are reviewed annually and refreshed as necessary
- membership has been further expanded and now includes Surrey University, Experience Guildford, Surrey County Council Adult Services, and Domestic Abuse representation through the local outreach service provider South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Services
- an induction process is in place for all new members

### **4. Safer Guildford Partnership Priorities and Mission Statement**

4.1 The SGP strategic priorities remain unchanged for 2019/20. These are:

- Serious Organised Crime (including), Child Exploitation and Modern Slavery
- Domestic Abuse
- Prevent – Threat of Radicalisation
- To identify and tackle Anti-Social Behaviour hotspot locations and perpetrators

- To promote reassurance to our public to help make our communities stronger
- 4.2 In addition the Safer Guildford Partnership will:
- Retain a strategic oversight on reducing re-offending
  - Facilitate and secure a robust partnership response to the emerging issue of Rough Sleepers and Beggars in Guildford Town Centre
  - Monitor emerging issues of Cyber related crime
- 4.3 The partnership has an agreed mission statement:
- “All partners contribute to the work of the Safer Guildford Partnership to ensure Guildford remains a safe borough for residents, businesses and visitors”*
- 4.4 This strategic overview of priorities does not mean the partnership ceases to deal with lower level crime types. Rather, it enables resources to be allocated appropriately, delivering what is essential and core business as opposed to what is nice to do. Operational delivery continues through the Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM), the new delivery group of Serious Organised Crime JAG (SOC JAG), and the Joint Action Group (JAG).
- 4.5 This year has also seen the development of partnership delivery plans. These plans will ensure all partners contribute to delivery against the priorities and that the partnership can monitor performance and its delivery mechanisms. The information captured enables the partnership to evaluate what has gone well, what has not gone so well, and what could be done differently moving forwards. It will also support the partnership in holding organisations to account and / or break down any barriers to progress. Appendix 1 provides examples of partnership delivery.
- 4.6 There is a continued appetite to develop partnership operations and it is imperative that any operation is completely evidence led.
- 4.7 Serious Organised Crime is made up of a variety of crime types thus the partnership has aligned its priorities with that of Surrey Police to ensure maximum use of resources across all agencies.
- 4.8 To support delivery against 4.7 a key piece of partnership work has been to establish the Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOC JAG). This is a multi-agency group that comes together every six weeks to be updated on the latest serious organised crime picture for the Borough, share information, and look at ways to prevent, protect, and prepare the Borough against the latest issue.
- 4.9 There are underlying concerns over serious organised crime and locations around the Borough where this could be occurring – these are locations identified either as part of a national intelligence picture or more local intelligence.
- 4.10 Partners coming together for joint action and visits are organised out of this group, as well as the continued sharing of information and awareness raising of the issue. Joint visits and action have taken place at locations such as nail

bars, multi occupancy premises and hotels around the Borough. This group is chaired by the Police Commander, Inspector Andy Hill.

- 4.11 With ever-reducing resources it is imperative that the Partnership remains focused and able to share and improve its use of resources. This means a greater emphasis on collaborations with an emphasis on innovative thinking.

#### *Rough Sleepers*

- 4.12 A further new group has been formed to facilitate a programme of support for town centre rough sleepers and / or beggars (currently referred to as the BRS). Its aims are:
- to agree, identify and implement robust support plans to help improve the quality of life for beggars and / or rough sleepers
  - to reduce the occurrence of begging and / or rough sleeping in Guildford Town centre
  - to oversee the effective co-ordination of developing individual action plans
  - to oversee the implementation of required/identified enforcement actions
  - to promote information sharing and best practice in dealing with begging and / or rough sleeping.

#### *Needle Exchange – Guildford Action*

- 4.13 There have recently been issues identified around an increase in shoplifting within a major chemist in the town centre. It was determined that the primary source of the issue lay with thefts by clientele of the needle exchange service.
- 4.14 A pilot scheme has been implemented to provide needle exchange services within Guildford Action. The Safer Guildford Partnership has provided initial set up funding to help support this and to provide further opportunities to engage with service users.
- 4.15 The initial target group has been service users excluded from other needle exchange provisions and substance misuse clients who are not actively engaged in treatment services.
- 4.16 In the first 4 months more than 500 units have been distributed with a return rate of around 70 per cent, which is double that of other dispensers locally.

Alongside the distribution of needles, wound care kits and foils Guildford Action are also supporting clients who are ready to access specialist treatment services. To date over 50 per cent of users are not scripted.

#### *Prevent*

- 4.17 The Safer Guildford Partnership commissions Applied Resilience to support delivery of all obligations arising from the Prevent agenda. To support this a commitment was made to continue delivery of Prevent training. Historically this has been delivered for Councillors and all GBC staff. This has now been extended and is offered to all partners of the SGP and beyond. There is a further dedicated session planned for all GBC service leaders.

- 5.0 Information on the review of Surrey Fire & Rescue Services and its implications for Guildford and the Safety Guildford Partnership**
- 5.1 The changes under the proposal contained in the statutory 'Making Surrey Safer' consultation are designed to bring Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) into line with national good practice as well as re-aligning its resources against the risks in Surrey. The proposals will also address the issues raised in [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) inspection report](#), which said that the response to incidents is inefficient and that the service does not undertake enough prevention and protection activity to save lives by preventing emergencies happening in the first place.
- 5.2 In addition to this, the proposals take account of five years of evidence about incidents in Surrey, and a comprehensive review of all nationally and locally available historical and predictive data which has been independently verified when coming to conclusions.
- 5.3 This has included reviewing the volume of calls to fires and road traffic collisions, which drop significantly at night-time when some changes are proposed, to ensure that SFRS uses its resources in the most effective and efficient way.
- 5.4 There are no plans to close any fire stations in Surrey, and there will be no reduction in the number of fire engines or any firefighter redundancies. Instead, it is proposed changing how some fire stations are crewed in order to re-align some resources to life-saving prevention work and to ensure the right resources are in the right places to deal with the risks in Surrey. SFRS will continue prioritising and responding quickly to emergencies.
- 5.5 Changes are proposed in the Banstead, Camberley, Egham, Fordbridge, Guildford, Haslemere, Painshill, Walton and Woking areas where some of the cover at night would come from neighbouring fire stations. Whilst these changes may lead to a minor increase (12 seconds) in the average time taken to respond to emergencies, other improvement work is being undertaken which it is believed will counter this, including bringing in new technology to speed up call out times. Furthermore, one of the misunderstood aspects of the response model is that when SFRS respond to emergencies they do so via the nearest available fire engine, which may not be from the local fire station as fire engines are moving around constantly. This has always been the case and may not be commonly understood.
- 5.6 In terms of the Guildford area specifically, changes are proposed to how Guildford fire station will be crewed at night and at weekends when some of the night cover may come from neighbouring fire stations.
- 5.7 The proposals mean there would be one wholtime fire engine and crew available 24/7 from Guildford fire station and a second one would be available during the day (7am – 7pm) when the risk is higher.
- 5.8 From 7pm until 7am and at weekends, if a second fire engine was needed in the area, this may come from a neighbouring fire station or Guildford's on-call crew, whichever arrives the fastest.

- 5.9 The impact of this proposal on response times has been modelled and it is believed the impact is small and that residents will certainly be made safer because the increased prevention work will prevent some emergencies from happening in the first place.
- 5.10 There will also be more fire engines available at night than are needed. The modelling indicates that 16 are needed at night to keep Surrey safe. The proposal provides for 23 to be available at night. This additional capacity allows extra resilience for larger and longer emergencies.
- 5.11 Prevention has been a real success in this sector with the number of household fires nationally down by 50 per cent in the last ten years. There are plans to significantly increase the service's prevention work, prioritising residents most at risk. Safe and Well visits will increase from 3,500 (far less than the national average) to 10,000 in year one and 20,000 by year three.
- 5.12 The service will also increase school visits from 10 to 520 per year, develop follow ups for Youth Engagement Schemes and Safe Drive, Stay Alive initiatives with all colleges, and increase its joint working with borough and district councils on preventative initiatives. As well as targeting unsafe behaviours that can increase the risk of fire, staff will help residents to develop an escape plan. Should a fire occur, they are more likely to escape safely before the fire takes hold.
- 5.13 There will be a continual need to regularly review the service's distribution of resources as population numbers and distribution changes over time, to ensure adequate resources are provided that continue to meet the risk and changing needs of communities.
- 5.14 Timescales:
- Public consultation completed 26 May
  - During June SFRS to analyse findings and review the draft plan
  - Reviewed proposals go to the Surrey County Council Environment Committee
  - 24 September final proposals go to Surrey County Council Cabinet for approval

## **6. Progress**

- 6.1 Operational work continues to thrive in a strong and engaging environment through the work of the CHaRMM and JAG and now SOC JAG and BRS.
- 6.2 The Borough Police Inspector chairs the CHaRMM and this group's focus is People. This group works to support some of our most vulnerable by both enforcement (if necessary) and the engagement of partners and colleagues in the provision of wrap-around services and support.
- 6.3 The Council's Director of Environment chairs the JAG and this group's focus is on *Place* and therefore works on geographical hotspot locations.
- 6.4 The Community Safety Manager co-chairs the BRS with the local Town Centre Police Officer.

- 6.5 The Operational Management Group (OMG) monitors the partnership plan for 2019/20. This group's membership consists of the Police Borough Inspector and Guildford Borough Council's Community Safety Manager and Community Safety Project Officer, and is responsible for providing the Executive of the Partnership with regular reports on progress against the priorities.

## **7. Staffing**

- 7.1 The current Council resource to the dedicated community safety function is one part time post of Community Safety Manager, 22 hours. This post is responsible for ensuring the strategic components of community safety are developed, delivered and managed. It is also responsible for the operation of the SGP and delivery against all the priorities. There is also one Community Safety Officer (25 hours) and this role covers the operational elements including CHaRMM, SOC JAG, JAG and Community Triggers. The post is currently vacant.
- 7.2 There is a temporary post (until December 2019) of Community Safety Project Officer working 20 hours per week covering the strategic assessment and delivery plans.

## **8. The future**

- 8.1 The ambition of the Partnership is to continue with the evidence / intelligence led approach and to continue to work collaboratively with the ability to use resources smartly as set out within the community safety plan 2019/21. This will ensure the partnership is in a strong and healthy position of evidential practice that drives up performance and provides tangible outcomes.
- 8.2 The Partnership will continue to evolve and improve. It remains ambitious in setting its priorities and will continue to explore new opportunities and ways of working.
- 8.3 The SGP Executive is responsible for the overall delivery of the Partnership Plan. The groups and mechanisms used to deliver against the Partnership's priorities are set out in Appendix 2.
- 8.4 The profile of the Partnership is continuing to improve, and options shall be explored on how all partnership organisations could work towards raising the profile and wider understanding of its role and work.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **10. Legal Implications**

- 10.1 The Borough Council has a statutory obligation under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with its partners to consider crime reduction and community safety when undertaking all of its duties and do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.



## **11. Human Resource Implications**

- 11.1 Community safety continues to respond as best it can amidst an environment of reducing resources both human and financial and an ever-increasing complexity of crimes.
- 11.2 There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report

## **12 Key Risks**

- 12.1 The partnership continues to perform its statutory role, but this is in the context of reduced resources from partners and the removal of previous central government funding.

## **13 Consultation**

- 13.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with partners from the Safer Guildford Partnership.

## **14. Suggested issues for overview and scrutiny**

- 14.1 The committee is invited to comment on the progress of the Safer Guildford Partnership and its approach to delivery.

## **15. Conclusion**

- 15.1 This item presents the annual report on crime and disorder scheduled for this Committee. It details the Partnership's focus; the priorities and the actions being taken to deliver against them.

## **16. Background Papers**

Community Safety Plan 2019/2021

## **17. Appendices**

Appendix 1 Examples of Partnership delivery within the SGP

Appendix 2 Safer Guildford Partnership Groups and Delivery Mechanisms