

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director of Strategic Services, Dawn Hudd

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Safer Guildford Partnership Annual Report

Executive Summary

This report sets out the annual activities and achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership (SGP) 2020-21 and the draft SGP Plan 2021-24.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to examine the activities of the SGP 2020-21 in the context of the statutory role of the SGP, and to advise and comment on the appropriateness of the draft SGP Plan 2021-24.

The report provides the background for the existence of, and the role and responsibilities of the SGP in the context of the statutory duties set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The activities, achievements, and challenges of the SGP are summarised through the report with more detailed tracking of targets, commentary of operational groups activity and a case study of a funded project provided through **Appendix 1, 2 and 3** respectively.

The report ends by setting out the draft SGP Plan 2021-24 **Appendix 4**, which has been developed in line with the priorities of partner agencies. The draft priorities and associated action plan (**Appendix 5**) will be considered and approved by the SGP Executive in September.

Recommendation to Committee

- (I) That the Committee is invited to review the activities and achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership 2020-21 as set in section 4 of this annual report.
- (II) That the Committee is invited to comment on the appropriateness of the draft Safer Guildford Partnership Plan 2021-24 as set out in section 5 of this annual report.

Reason(s) for Recommendation:

To inform the Committee of the recent activities and draft future priorities of the SGP.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires responsible authorities to work together alongside the community and voluntary sector to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their area.

The Police and Justice Act 2006, Crime & Disorder Act 1998, and The Local Government Act 2000, requires responsible authorities to have a scrutiny committee for crime and disorder, which is fulfilled by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is required to examine the work of the Partnership and advise on crime and disorder matters of local concern.

Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication?

No

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the annual actions and achievements of the SGP for the period of September 2020 to August 2021.
- 1.2 The report presents the Committee with the opportunity to advise and comment on the appropriateness of the draft SGP Plan for 2021-24.

2. Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 The SGP develops and implements strategies for reducing crime and disorder, which contribute to the Council's strategic vision to be 'a town and rural borough that is the most desirable place to live, work and visit in South East England'.
- 2.2 The Partnership helps deliver the Council's 'Community' theme by designing interventions to address and reduce harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour, to the most vulnerable people in our community. The Partnership contributes to the protection of our environment through planned interventions to reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on specific locations within the borough.

3. Background

Statutory responsibilities and role of the SGP

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires responsible authorities to work together alongside the community and voluntary sector to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their area.

- 3.2 In a two-tier authority area such as Surrey, there is a requirement for a county level community safety strategy group (within the remit of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board), which is supported by local community safety partnerships.
- 3.3 The SGP is the local community safety partnership which, brings together both statutory and non-statutory strategic partners. Membership of the Partnership can be found on the [Council's web pages](#). The statutory role of the SGP is:
- to facilitate information sharing
 - identify local priorities
 - coordinate a planned response to the prevention of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and reoffending, at a borough level
 - undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)
- 3.4 The range of problems and behaviours under the context of community safety is incredibly varied and complex. This requires strong multi agency partnership working, effective communication and often complex problem-solving approaches. The impact of which can be a slow process.
- 3.5 The SGP 3-year Plan sets the framework for the SGP. The priorities of the Partnership are reviewed annually through an assessment of current and possible future crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues. Sources which inform the annual priorities include but are not limited to:
- partner agency leads views
 - Surrey Community Safety Agreement
 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Surrey
 - Surrey Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and Anti-Social Behaviour Unit
- 3.6 The role and responsibilities of the SGP do not override the priorities and day to day operation of each individual agency. It is intended that the SGP provides added value in joint working between partners to address shared local priorities.
- 3.7 The SGP priorities are delivered through the following mechanisms:
- commitment of partners to work together
 - multi agency problem solving through operational delivery groups and Community Trigger panels
 - selecting and effectively using Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) tools to address local issues
 - funding targeted intervention projects and events in response to local issues
 - SGP communications plan
 - coordinating the delivery of training
 - effective information sharing

- 3.8 The majority of activity and intervention across the Partnership is undertaken through the operational delivery groups:
- Joint Action Group (JAG)
 - Serious Organised Crime JAG (SOC JAG)
 - Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM)
 - Community Trigger Panels
- 3.9 SGP operational groups bring together frontline professionals to share information and problem solve solutions to community safety concerns. Each group has a specific focus on either vulnerable individuals or geographic cases, although there is some cross over between groups in managing victims and perpetrators.
- 3.10 Risk management and information sharing is facilitated by ECINS, a secure case management platform.
- 3.11 The successful outcomes achieved by these groups are a direct result of the commitment of all agencies to work together to reduce crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour.

Partnership priorities 2020-21

- 3.12 The SGP priorities set the framework for directing partnership resources effectively, to where they are most needed:
- where the SGP have established what the 'problem' is and what the impact is on our communities
 - where joint working is the best solution to the address the problem
- 3.13 The SGP priorities are set out below. Further explanation of each priority and delivery targets against each priority are set out in the SGP action plan summary 2020-21 which can be found in **Appendix 1** of this report.
- Priority 1: Coronavirus (Covid 19) recovery
Priority 2: Domestic Abuse
Priority 3: Public Spaces Protection Order's
Priority 4: Junior Citizens
Priority 5: 3 Year Plan
Priority 6: Communications
Priority 7: Business as Usual
- 3.14 Actions are coordinated by relevant partners and delivered through multi agency resources or funds allocated through the SGP. The core functions of the SGP are embedded in the work of the operational groups. These functions are set out in the action plan 2020-21 as 'business as usual' (BAU) (priority 7).

4. SGP Action Plan 2020-21 outcomes

4.1 **Appendix 1** provides a highlight tracking summary of the delivery targets in the 2020-21 SGP action plan.

4.2 The following paragraphs provide a summary commentary on the action plan targets 2020-21.

4.3 The Partnership recognises that we can make a significant contribution to reducing the impact of crime and ASB and effectively target our resources, by planning our communications to:

- reassure the public and engage, advise, support and impact positively on communities
- support victims by producing advice and signposting to support services
- increase public resilience and enable them to access the right help and support at the right time

4.4 To emphasise the importance of joint communications across the Partnership, we have developed a communications Pledge. The Partnership pledge sets out four commitments from partners:

- i. raising awareness of the SGP, its aims, and key areas of work through their website, intranet, and social media channels
- ii. incorporating the community safety campaign schedule into their communications schedule where possible
- iii. monitoring and sharing posts of other SGP members and all SGP joint communications
- iv. using the #saferguildfordpartnership on all joint communications.

4.5 The Partnership Communications Plan and campaign schedule is supported by the Council to coordinate delivery. In 2021, we started to measure our outputs through the Council's media channels. Between September 2020 and August 2021:

- 285 Domestic Abuse social media posts with a total reach of 219,603 residents
- Community Safety social media posts- total reach of 134,105 residents
- 9 press releases
- Community Safety webpage views 136
- PSPO webpage views 158

4.6 We have had higher attendance and engagement of partners across all our operational groups in the last year and during the pandemic, despite the demands from frontline resources. Partners have committed increased resources

- to support multi agency problem solving. The Partnership will need to consider how to maintain this engagement and the benefits of online meetings against any risks.
- 4.7 In response to the anticipated impact of the pandemic, the Partnership has scoped, planned, and resourced a range of training for delivery in autumn 2021. Multi agency partnership training will raise the awareness and ability of staff to recognise and respond to domestic abuse and suicide. Prevent (counter terrorism) training will be added to the programme in 2021-22.
- 4.8 The Partnership has responded to the risks, and the long-term effects of those experiencing domestic abuse through the launch of a Guildford Domestic Abuse Pledge. The four commitments to the pledge are:
- i. Commit to raising awareness of domestic abuse with residents, workforce, and students (aged 16 or over) to help them understand what domestic abuse is and how to respond if someone they know discloses domestic abuse.
 - ii. Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on your website and in other appropriate places so that they are easily accessible for residents, workforce, and students (aged 16 or over).
 - iii. Put in place a HR policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse.
 - iv. Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 4.9 Seven partners have pledged to deliver these through 2021-22, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting people experiencing domestic abuse. The Pledge will be delivered throughout 2021-22.
- 4.10 Guildford and Waverley Community Safety Partnerships are working together with South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service to plan a series of public webinars for residents, business owners and community leaders in South West Surrey. The Ask Me About Domestic Abuse webinars, supported by a social media campaign, will help break the silence on domestic abuse and raise awareness of how to recognise domestic abuse, support victims and access local support services. This work will continue in 2021-22.
- 4.11 Referrals received by the outreach service between August 2020 and July 2021 totalled 585, which is an increase of 59 per cent from the previous year.
- 4.12 A key target for the Partnership this year, was to undertake a comprehensive review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) within the town centre. The Council are responsible for PSPOs and are therefore coordinating the review under the legislation and statutory guidance set out for PSPOs. The review requires commitment from across the SGP to provide a robust data and evidence base. PSPOs also require a partnership approach to deliver the enforcement plan.

- 4.13 The primary aim of the PSPO review is to understand and address behaviours that, 'cause harm, alarm, or distress to residents and visitors, impacting on feelings of safety and the visitor and business economy'. And to reduce the impact on resources of the Police and Partners to respond without effective enforcement powers.
- 4.14 In October 2020, we completed the extension of the expiring PSPO for the town centre restricting alcohol consumption. This provided continuous enforcement capability within the existing remit of the PSPO.
- 4.15 In January 2021, we began a comprehensive review of the PSPO to consider extending both the behaviours and locations of the existing order.
- 4.16 The statutory process for reviewing or introducing PSPOs must be evidence-based, involve consultation, requires consideration of alternative tools for tackling ASB and a robust and realistic enforcement strategy.
- 4.17 The process and subsequent orders must be robust to challenge. New PSPOs must meet the legal tests and any associated risk to the Council must be managed.
- 4.18 Full details of the PSPO review were presented in a [report](#) to the Council's Strategy and Resources Executive Advisory Board in August 2021.
- 4.19 The PSPO review is anticipated to conclude later in 2021 following a full assessment of all data and evidence provided, to determine the behaviours and the suitability of a revised or additional PSPO.
- 4.20 A final order would be adopted through the Council's Executive.

Operational delivery groups (BAU)

- 4.21 As a result of partnership intervention, the following anti-social behaviour tools have been used successfully between August 2020 to July 2021:
- 4 Criminal Behaviour Orders (2019-20 was 3)
 - 4 full closure orders (2019-20 was 2)
 - 9 partial closures (2019-20 was 5)
 - 0 Community Protection Notices (2019-20 was 1)
 - 11 Dispersal Orders (2019-20 was 8)
- 4.22 **Appendix 2** provides a summary of activity in the operational delivery groups over the last year:
- CHaRMM (Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting)

- JAG (Joint Action Group)
- SOC JAG (Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group)
- Community Triggers

4.23 A safe and functional case management system is critical to effective working across the Partnership. The SGP has embraced the countywide introduction of the online, secure case management system ECINS and continue to work with ECINS Support to increase access, usability, and confidence of partners to use the system. ECINS support delivered a training programme for all partners through January and February 2021.

Funded projects

4.24 The SGP provided a second year of funding for the Needle Exchange Project delivered by Guildford Action and Surrey County Council Public Health. **Appendix 3** provides further information.

Key Challenges

4.25 SGP partners have continued to be at the forefront of the changing restrictions, increases in vulnerabilities and response to the Coronavirus pandemic and have demonstrated a commitment to frontline services. As a result of this, resources have been heavily focussed on a reactive response.

4.26 Partners have made a significant contribution and commitment to 'business as usual' activity in the action plan, delivering the core business of the Partnership.

4.27 The Partnership training plan has been developed but delivery in autumn 2021 is later than anticipated due to other priorities for both staff delivering and potential staff attending training. Much of the training available has been adapted to online to enable delivery to restart.

4.28 The Partnership acknowledges the challenges of displacement of behaviours associated with ASB and continues to consider this through problem solving.

4.29 The pandemic had an impact on the court system during 2021. Most notably, the delay for Housing Associations and private landlords seeking possession of their properties following a Closure Order or Notice of Seeking Possession (NOSP).

4.30 The Junior Citizens scheme review led by Surrey County Council Community Safety Team has been delayed to reflect and be able to respond to the changes in school curriculum delivery because of Covid 19. The review will continue in 2021-22 with a revised delivery plan expected in 2022.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

4.31 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

- 4.32 When a domestic homicide occurs, the relevant police force informs the local Community Safety Partnership. SGP has a statutory duty to establish whether the criteria for a DHR is met and that a review should be conducted.
- 4.33 DHRs are conducted under the Home Office 'Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews' (December 2016).
- 4.34 The SGP established one DHR in 2020-21.

5. Draft SGP Plan priorities 2021-24 (Subject to SGP Executive approval in September 2021)

- 5.1 The Partnership has a statutory duty to produce a 3-year Community Safety Partnership Plan, which sets out the Partnership's response to address and reduce crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.2 The SGP have identified five key strategic priorities for 2021-2024 having considered the needs assessments highlighted in paragraph 3.5 above:
1. Continued response to the impact of Covid 19 on people's safety
 2. Responding to Domestic abuse
 3. Protecting our communities from ASB
 4. Protecting our communities from serious harm
 5. Encouraging our communities to help themselves
- 5.3 The SGP Plan 2021-24 and Year 1 Action Plan have been drafted in response to these priorities and are included in Appendices 4 and 5 of this report. The SGP Executive will approve the final Plan and action plan in September 2021.
- 5.4 The SGP will continue to support the countywide vision set out in the [Surrey Community Safety Agreement 2021-25](#):
- Protecting our most vulnerable
 - Protect our communities from harm
 - Empowering our communities to feel safe

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The SGP Executive is responsible for developing and agreeing the annual priorities for the Partnership's plan.
- 6.2 Ward councillors are invited to attend operational delivery groups in relation to referrals received for their ward.
- 6.3 Project specific consultation is undertaken under statutory guidance. An example of this is the PSPO consultation detailed in the [recent report](#) to the Strategy and Resources Executive Advisory Board.

7. Key Risks

- 7.1 The resources to deliver interventions aligned to the priorities of the SGP are additional to the day-to-day functions of each partner agency. The capacity to deliver these interventions is determined by multi agency partnership working which may be impacted by individual agency contributions.
- 7.2 The ongoing impact of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic continues to be uncertain, and the priorities set out by the SGP will require agility to respond appropriately to the changing needs of the community.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The actions and interventions delivered by the SGP are contained within the existing revenue budget for the Partnership.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires responsible authorities to work together alongside the community and voluntary sector to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their area.
- 9.2 The content of this report sets out the work undertaken to meet this statutory duty.
- 9.3 In accordance with Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 the Committee has the power to review and scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's crime and disorder functions and may make reports and recommendations with respect to the discharge of those functions.

10. Human Resource Implications

- 10.1 The SGP is made of representatives from 'responsible authorities' as set out in the legislation:
 - Police
 - local authorities
 - fire and rescue authorities
 - probation service
 - health
- 10.2 The SGP Executive is chaired by the Council's Managing Director.
- 10.3 The Council's lead officers supporting the strategic work of the Partnership are the Senior Policy Officer and Policy Officer for Strategy (Strategy and Communications).

10.4 The Head of Environment and Regulatory Services chairs the JAG with officers from Operational and Technical Services, Legal Services, Culture, Heritage and Leisure Services, Community Services, and Customer, Case and Parking Services supporting the wider remit of the SGP, working alongside statutory, voluntary and community partners in the operational groups.

11. Equality and Diversity Implications

11.1 This duty has been considered in the context of this report and it has been concluded that there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

12. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

12.1 In the context of this report there are no climate change/sustainability implications arising directly.

13. Suggested issues for overview and scrutiny

13.1 The Committee is required to consider and comment on the appropriateness of the draft priorities set out in this report.

14. Conclusion

14.1 This report provides information for the committee to review the actions and achievements of the SGP in 2020-21.

14.2 This report sets out the draft SGP Plan 2021-24 for the Committee to consider and comment on its appropriateness.

15. Background Papers

15.1 None

16. Appendices

Appendix 1: SGP Action Plan 2020-21

Appendix 2: SGP Annual Report Operational Groups Summary

Appendix 3: SGP Annual Report Funded Project Case Study

Appendix 4: SGP Plan 2021-24

Appendix 5: SGP annual action plan 2021-22