

Guildford Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Joint Strategic Director- Community Wellbeing Annie Righton

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Report Status: Open

Safer Guildford Partnership Annual Report 2022-23

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the annual activities and achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership (SGP) during 2022-23 and introduces the draft SGP Action Plan 2023-24.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to examine the activities of the SGP 2022-23 in the context of the statutory role of the SGP, and to advise and comment on the appropriateness of the draft SGP Action Plan 2023-24.
- 1.3 The report provides the background for the existence of, and the roles 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.

- 1.4 The activities, achievements, and challenges of the SGP are summarised through the report with more detailed tracking of targets, commentary, evidence, and action plans provided in Appendices 1-4.
- 1.5 The report ends by setting out the draft SGP Action Plan 2023-24 in Appendix 5, which has been developed in line with the priorities of the [SGP Plan 2021-24](#). The draft action plan will be considered and approved by the SGP Executive in September 2023.

2. Recommendation to Committee

- (1) That the Committee is invited to review the activities and achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership 2022-23 as set out in section 4 of this annual report.
- (2) That the Committee is invited to comment on the appropriateness of the draft Safer Guildford Partnership Action Plan 2023-24 as set out in section 5 of this annual report.

3. Reasons 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

4. Purpose of Report

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the actions and achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership (SGP) for the period September 2022 to August 2023.
- 4.2 The report presents the Committee with the opportunity to advise and comment on the appropriateness of the draft SGP Action Plan for 2023-24.

5. Strategic Priorities

- 5.1 The SGP develops and implements strategies for reducing crime and disorder, which contribute to the Council's strategic vision to be 'a green, thriving town and villages where people have the homes they need, access to quality employment, with strong and safe communities that come together to support those needing help'.
- 5.2 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.

6. Background

Statutory responsibilities and role of the SGP

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

- 6.3 The SGP is the local community safety partnership (CSP), 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)
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 The [SGP 3-year Plan \(2021-24\)](#) sets the framework for the SGP. The priorities of the Partnership were reviewed in 2021 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
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The following areas of community safety are part of the day-to-day partnership working activities and intelligence sharing between agencies, to prevent and reduce crime and disorder in Guildford:

- protecting and preventing people from being radicalised or drawn into terrorism activity
- reducing or preventing the impact of anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder in public places
- reducing or preventing the impact of anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder on vulnerable people
- interrupting serious and organised crime
- resolving anti-social behaviour experienced by our residents

6.8 This work is carried out through several borough level and county wide operational groups, using information sharing to apply enforcement powers. These groups also provide support to people experiencing issues. This includes but is not limited to:

- Joint Action Group (JAG)
- Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM)
- Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOC JAG)
- Channel Panels (Prevent)
- [The Community Trigger](#)
- Domestic Homicide Review Panels

6.9 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.

6.10 Risk management and information sharing is facilitated by ECINS, a secure case management platform hosted by Surrey Police.

6.11 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 2021-24

6.12 The [SGP Plan](#) and 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

6.13 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 2022-23 which can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Community Harm
3. Protecting people from serious harm
4. Community support
5. Response to vulnerable people

6.14 Actions are coordinated by relevant partners and delivered through multi agency resources, or the limited 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 2022-23 as ‘our business as usual’.

7. SGP Action Plan 2022-23 outcomes

7.1 Appendix 2 provides a summary of the end of year review of delivery targets in the 2022-23 SGP action plan.

7.2 The following paragraphs aim to draw the Committee to some key highlights from the review of the targets.

Domestic Abuse

7.3 The Partnership has continued to respond to the risks, and the long-term effects of those experiencing domestic abuse through implementation of the Guildford Domestic Abuse Pledge, launched in the summer of 2022. The pledge supports the [Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Strategy](#). 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 an 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.

7.4 Seven SGP partners have committed to delivering these pledges through 2022-23, with SW Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service and Surrey County Council Community Safety supporting with advice and training. This demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting people experiencing domestic abuse.

7.5 Key achievements through the Domestic Abuse Pledge this year include the University of Surrey providing specialist training to their staff who investigate Domestic violence and sexual offenses. Guildford Locality Team (Adult Social Care) have provided their staff with regular Domestic Abuse training and themed reflective sessions. They have also had visits from guest speakers from specialist DA services.

The delivery of the Pledge will continue through the final year of the Safer Guildford Partnership Plan in 2023-24.

7.6 For the second year, Guildford and Waverley Community Safety Partnerships worked together with South-West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service to plan a series of public webinars for residents, business owners and community leaders in Southwest

Surrey. The Ask Me About Domestic Abuse webinars, supported by a social media campaign, helped break the silence on domestic abuse and raise awareness of how to recognise domestic abuse, support victims and access local support services. Attendance at the webinars in 2022 was once again positive with 71 individuals registering for the event and 3 Domestic Abuse champions committing to being public advocates for domestic abuse. This work will continue in 2023-24 due to the high engagement at events.

- 7.7 Referrals received by the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service between September 2022 and August 2023 totalled 686. This is a 10% increase from the previous year. Referrals continue to rise but have stabilised following an unprecedented 61% increase during 2019/20, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.8 It is important to note that an increase in referrals does not automatically reflect an increase in domestic abuse incidents. This could also be attributed to increased awareness of support services through national and local marketing campaigns.

Public Spaces Protection Order

- 7.9 A key target for the Partnership this year, was to deliver the action plan associated with the 2022 review of the town centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). The Council are responsible for PSPO's and therefore coordinate the action plan under the legislation and statutory guidance set out for PSPO's. The action plan requires a partnership approach to deliver the enforcement plan.
- 7.10 Details of the actions progressed during 2022/23 can be found in the PSPO Action Plan, Appendix 3.
- 7.11 An effective enforcement plan to support the PSPO is critical to the successful implementation and to desired changes in behaviour. The PSPO action plan (Appendix 3) and enforcement recording is monitored by the Safer Guildford Partnership Executive. This ensures

all partners are contributing to the effective implementation of the Order and provides evidence for any future changes to the Order.

7.12 To support enforcement of the PSPO, during 2022/23:

- 284 patrols were undertaken in Guildford Town Centre by GBC Compliance Officers
- Surrey Police and GBC Compliance Officers provided daily patrols to known hotspots in the Town Centre and regularly carried out joint patrols to deter street drinking, during the seasonal summer peak
- GBC Compliance Officers and Police regularly use the PSPO to confiscate alcohol from those drinking in town centre public places
- 17 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) have been served in relation to street drinking
- no CPWs have escalated to Community Protection Notice to date
- Compliance Officers have new Body Worn Cameras, which should help to capture breaches of the PSPO directly going forward.

7.13 Guildford Borough Council Compliance Officers and Surrey Police joined forces in 'days of action', targeting crime and anti-social behaviour, including breaches of the PSPO in Guildford Town Centre. This joint working helped to tackle the escalation of serious street drinking related anti-social behaviour and crime, which was having a significant impact on a large number of residents in the Foxenden Quarry area. Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour related to street drinking is still evident in certain areas of the town centre and this joint work continues to help manage the situation.

7.14 Full details the PSPO can be viewed on the [Council's website](#).

Partnership intervention

7.15 As a result of partnership intervention, the following anti-social behaviour tools have been used successfully between September 2022 to August 2023:

- 0 Criminal Behaviour Orders (2021-22: 1)
- 1 full closure order (2021-22: 1)
- 4 partial closures (2021-22: 10)
- 7 Community Protection Notices (2021-22: 5)

7.16 Partnership Intervention activities aimed at reducing the anti-social behaviour in Guildford town centre on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons have included:

- Forming a JAG subgroup focusing on tackling town centre anti-social behaviour from young people
- Safer Streets funding bid submitted for a number of projects to tackle town centre anti-social behaviour linked to the nighttime economy.
- two intensive 'days of action' held in August, with a number of partners carrying out proactive patrols in the town centre which resulting in; 5 arrests, 1 Summons, 6 Dispersals, 3 PSPO enforcements, 8 stop searches and a large amount of community engagement.

Serious Organised Crime

7.17 The revised Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOC JAG) framework has been embedded across the Partnership in 2022-23. Membership and representation are consistently strong. Effective intelligence sharing has resulted in a reduction of County Lines in the borough, with no confirmed active lines currently in operation.

7.18 Guest speakers attend each SOC JAG meeting to deliver awareness raising presentations. Subject areas covered so far include cuckooing, motorcycle clubs, and County Lines.

7.19 ACT (Action Counters Terrorism training) and Prevent refresher online training offered to partners as part of the SGP training programme.

Safer Communities Programme

- 7.20 The new Safer Communities Programme, developed and delivered by Surrey County Council Community Safety Team, was officially launched in March 2023.
- 7.21 The Safer Communities Programme is an innovative education resource that, with effective teaching, will lead to increased safety and enhanced outcomes for young people. The programme enables children to learn, in a positive classroom environment, how to keep themselves and others safe in a variety of situations as demanded by the evolving challenges young people are facing in modern society.
- 7.22 The project has seen a successful start, with several schools requesting materials prior to the launch, showing a strong appetite for the programme. The SGP supported the launch by using its networks to raise awareness of the programme, website and resources available.
- 7.23 Surrey County Council will be conducting an evaluation in September 2023 to measure the success of the project so far. The results of this will be presented to the Safer Guildford Partnership Executive.

Safer Guildford Partnership communications

- 7.24 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.

- 7.25 To emphasise the importance of joint communications across the Partnership, we have 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.

7.26 The Partnership Communications Plan and campaign schedule is supported by the Council to coordinate delivery using #saferguildfordpartnership. Between September 2022 and August 2023 our communications delivered:

- 47 community safety (#saferguildfordpartnership / #saferguildford) social media posts
- 28410 total campaign impressions for #SaferGuildford and #SaferGuildfordPartnership
- 122 likes of community safety (#saferguildfordpartnership / #saferguildford) social media posts
- 54 shares of community safety (#saferguildfordpartnership / #saferguildford) social media posts

Safer Guildford Partnership training

7.27 In response to the additional vulnerabilities of our residents and impact of the cost of living crisis, the Partnership coordinated and resourced a range of training for delivery in 2022/23. The purpose of this multi-agency partnership training was to raise the awareness and ability of staff to recognise and respond to domestic abuse, suicide,

fraud and scams and counter terrorism threats. This is the second year we have run this programme.

- 7.28 The training was well attended and received, with an increase in participating partners and a total number of attendees to organised sessions reaching 81. 100% of attendees who responded to feedback felt the training would benefit them in their current job role. 100% were also interested in attending future SGP training sessions.
- 7.29 As a result, there are plans on continuing with this annual training programme to meet staff turnover needs and continue to raise awareness across a range of subjects. In 2023-24 we are adding training linked to the Surrey Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, County Lines and modern slavery.

Safer Guildford Partnership funds

- 7.30 The SGP provided £2,000 funding to South-West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service in 2022-23. This enabled them to work with Surrey PubWatch and Experience Guildford to raise awareness of domestic abuse through the 'Ask for Angela' scheme. Bespoke 'Ask for Angela' posters were produced and displayed in town centre pubs and venues to raise awareness of the 'Ask for Angela' campaign, that it can be used to seek help for Domestic Abuse and to upskill staff to know what action to take.
- 7.31 The SGP also provided £1700 funding to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, which was used towards their 2022/23 Safe Drive Stay Alive programme. Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) is a series of live educational performances which aim to make young people aware of their responsibilities as drivers, with the overarching aim of improving road safety and reducing the number of deaths and injuries on Surrey's roads.
- 7.32 A total of 9,953 people from 74 schools and colleges attended the 18 performances during the 2022/23 programme.

Key Challenges

- 7.33 The effectiveness of the Partnership is determined by the engagement and contribution of all agencies particularly, through the operational groups. The key challenges are:
- maintaining consistent and effective contributions
 - managing expectations
 - prioritising resources
- 7.34 There has been a recent increase in awareness around reporting anti-social behaviour and the tools available, such as the Community Trigger. This brings some challenges such as managing expectations of residents, particularly around the legal framework and enforcement powers available.
- 7.35 All partners are currently facing financial challenges, which impacts on resources. Funds and resources therefore must be carefully allocated and community safety issues prioritised based on the level of threat, harm and risk to the community.
- 7.36 Attendance at the CSP's operational groups has improved since the meetings moved online in 2020. Maintaining consistent representation from certain key partners such as Mental Health however, continues to present some challenges. This can have a negative impact on the meeting and create barriers to resolving certain cases.
- 7.37 The Partnership continues to encourage partners to use the ECINS case management systems to effectively and securely share information on community safety issues. While usage has increased in the last year, there is still a lot of work to do to ensure all partners are signed up, trained and actively using the system on a regular basis. This is an ongoing, Surrey-wide issue, which the Surrey Police ECINS Support Team continue to try and address through awareness, support and training.

7.38 The Government's ASB Plan was launched in April 2023. Through 2023/24 the Partnership will be preparing to respond to the requirements set out in the Plan.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

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

7.40 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.

7.41 DHRs are conducted under the Home Office 'Multi- Agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews' (December 2016).

7.42 The SGP has led progress in one DHR in 2022-23 which is due to be concluded in 2023-24.

8. Draft SGP Action Plan 2023-24

(Subject to SGP Executive approval in September 2023)

8.1 The 2023-24 Action Plan (Appendix 5) has been drafted in response to the [SGP Plan](#) priorities. The SGP Executive will approve the final action plan in September 2023.

8.2 The SGP will continue to support the countywide vision set out in the [Surrey Community Safety Agreement 2021-25](#):

- Protecting our most vulnerable
- Protecting our communities from harm
- Empowering our communities to feel safe.

8.3 Later in 2023 and into 2024, we are expecting significant changes in community safety with further details of the following government plans and the introduction of new statutory duties:

- [ASB Action Plan](#)
- The new [Protect Duty](#) and [Martyn's Law](#)
- The new [Serious Violence Duty](#) and county strategy

8.4 The SGP has a statutory duty to review its 3 year Partnership Plan in 2024 and reset priorities in response to the above (5.3), county wide strategies led by SCC Community Safety Team and the Surrey Community Safety Agreement, which is also due to be reviewed in 2024.

9. Consultation

9.1 The SGP Executive is responsible for developing and agreeing the annual priorities for the Partnership's plan and associated action plans.

9.2 Ward Councillors are invited to attend operational delivery groups where appropriate, in relation to referrals received for their ward.

9.3 Project specific consultation is undertaken under statutory guidance.

10. Key Risks

10.1 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.

10.2 The ongoing financial challenge for all partners means the priorities set out by the SGP will require agility, to respond appropriately to the changing needs of the community.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 The actions and interventions delivered by the SGP are contained within the existing revenue budget for the Partnership within the Council's budget.

12. Legal Implications

12.1 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.

12.2 The content of this report sets out the work undertaken to meet this statutory duty.

12.3 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.

13. Human Resource Implications

13.1 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

13.2 The SGP Executive is chaired by the Joint Strategic Director: Community Wellbeing.

- 13.3 The Council's lead officers supporting the strategic work of the Partnership is the Policy Officer for Strategy, overseen by the Joint Executive Head for Community.
- 13.4 The Joint Executive Head of Regulatory Services chairs the JAG with officers from Compliance. Operational and Technical Services, Legal Services, Culture, Heritage and Leisure Services, Community Services and Customer, Case and Parking Services support the wider remit of the SGP where appropriate, working alongside statutory, voluntary and community partners in the operational groups.

14. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 14.1 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.

15. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

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

16. Suggested issues for overview and scrutiny

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

17. Conclusion

- 17.1 This report provides information for the committee to review the actions and achievements of the SGP in 2022-23.
- 17.2 This report sets out the draft SGP Action Plan 2023-24 for the Committee to consider and comment on its appropriateness.

18. Background Papers

None

19. Appendices

Appendix 1: SGP Action Plan 2022-23

Appendix 2: SGP Action Plan 2022-23-year end review

Appendix 3: PSPO action plan

Appendix 4: Guildford Against Domestic Abuse pledge

Appendix 5: Draft Safer Guildford Partnership action plan 2023-24