

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Joint Strategic Director - Place, 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) 2021-22 and the draft SGP Action Plan 2022-23.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to examine the activities of the SGP 2021-22 in the context of the statutory role of the SGP, and to advise and comment on the appropriateness of the draft SGP Action Plan 2022-23.

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.

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**.

The report ends by setting out the draft SGP Plan 2022-23 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 2022.

Recommendation to Committee

- (I) That the Committee is invited to review the activities and achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership 2021-22 as set out in section 4 of this annual report.
- (II) That the Committee is invited to comment on the appropriateness of the draft Safer Guildford Partnership Action Plan 2022-23 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 2021 to August 2022.
- 1.2 The report presents the Committee with the opportunity to advise and comment on the appropriateness of the draft SGP Action Plan for 2022-23.

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 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'.
- 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.

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 (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)
- 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 \(2021-24\)](#) 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
- 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 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

3.8 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 Group (CHaRMM)
- Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOC JAG)
- Channel Panels (Prevent)
- [The Community Trigger](#)
- Domestic Homicide Review 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 hosted by Surrey Police.

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 2021-24

3.12 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

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 2021-22 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

3.14 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 2021-22 as 'our business as usual'.

4. SGP Action Plan 2021-22 outcomes

- 4.1 **Appendix 2** provides a summary of the end of year review of delivery targets in the 2021-22 SGP action plan.
- 4.2 The following paragraphs aim to draw the Committee to some key highlights from the review of the targets.
- 4.3 The Partnership has responded 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 2021. 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.
- 4.4 Eight partners have pledged to deliver these through 2021-22, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting people experiencing domestic abuse. The delivery of the Pledge will continue through 2022-23.
- 4.5 Guildford and Waverley Community Safety Partnerships worked together with Southwest 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. This work will continue in 2022-23 due to the high engagement at events.
- 4.6 Referrals received by the outreach service between September 2021 and August 2022 totalled 624. This is an 8% increase from the previous year and a 61% increase from 2019/20. The service saw an unprecedented number of referrals for 2020/21 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 4.7 A key target for the Partnership this year, was to complete the comprehensive review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) within the town centre. The Council are responsible for PSPO's and therefore coordinated the review under the legislation and statutory guidance set out for PSPO's. The review required commitment from across the SGP to provide a robust data and evidence base. PSPO's also require a partnership approach to deliver the enforcement plan.
- 4.8 The result of this work was the production of a revised PSPO being approved through the Council's Executive in March 2022.
- 4.9 Full details of the approval of the revised PSPO can be viewed on the [Council's website](#).
- 4.10 The revised PSPO was launched in July 2022 to align with the national ASB week campaign. A [press release](#) and series of social media posts supported the launch. Officers from the Council's Compliance team and Surrey Police joined forces during ASB week to undertake several 'days of action', promoting and patrolling key locations and behaviours under the PSPO.
- 4.11 An effective enforcement plan to support the PSPO is critical to the successful implementation and to desired changes in behaviour. As part of the review, partners developed new protocol and procedures for enforcement officers (from the Council and Surrey Police) and a PSPO action plan. The PSPO action plan (**Appendix 3**) and enforcement recording will be monitored by the Partnership Executive. This will ensure all partners are contributing to the effective implementation of the Order and will provide evidence for any future changes to the Order.
- 4.12 As a result of partnership intervention, the following anti-social behaviour tools have been used successfully between September 2021 to August 2022:
- 1 Criminal Behaviour Order (2020-21: 4)
 - 1 full closure order (2020-21: 4)
 - 10 partial closures (2020-21: 9)
 - 5 Community Protection Notices (2020-21: 0)
 - 16 Dispersal Orders (2020-21: 11)
- 4.13 The new Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOC JAG) framework has been embedded across the Partnership in 2021-22. Membership and representation are consistently strong. Effective intel sharing has resulted in a reduction of active County Lines in the borough, with 1 current intel suggesting active lines.

- 4.14 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
- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 The Partnership Communications Plan and campaign schedule is supported by the Council to coordinate delivery using #saferguildfordpartnership. Between September 2021 and August 2022 our communications delivered:
- 72 community safety (#saferguildfordpartnership / #saferguildford) social media posts
 - 49,570 total campaign impressions for #SaferGuildford and #SaferGuildfordPartnership
 - 184 likes of community safety (#saferguildfordpartnership / #saferguildford) social media posts
 - 61 shares of community safety (#saferguildfordpartnership / #saferguildford) social media posts
 - 8 press releases issued relating to community safety
 - 735 Community Safety webpage views
 - 109 PSPO webpage views
- 4.17 In response to the anticipated additional vulnerabilities and impact of the pandemic, the Partnership coordinated and resourced a range of training for delivery in autumn 2021. 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, and counter terrorism threats. The training was well attended and received. As a result, we are planning on continuing an annual training programme to meet staff turnover needs and continue to raise awareness.

- 4.18 We have continued to have high attendance and engagement of partners across all our operational groups in the last year, despite the demands from frontline resources. Partners have committed increased resources to support multi agency problem solving. The Partnership meetings have continued to meet online which provides greater reach and increased accessibility for partners.

Safer Guildford Partnership funds

- 4.19 The SGP provided £2,000 funding for Southwest Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service in 2021-22. The Partnership also funded ten first aid kits to support the Guildford Street Angels work in keeping our town centre safe.

Key Challenges

- 4.20 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

- 4.21 The Terms of Reference and frameworks for all operational groups have been revised in 2021-22, ensuring the groups can be as effective as possible in addressing these challenges.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

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

- 4.23 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.

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

- 4.25 The SGP has led progress in one DHR in 2021-22.

5. Draft SGP Action Plan 2022-23 (Subject to SGP Executive approval in September 2022)

- 5.1 The 2022-23 Action Plan has been drafted in response to the [SGP Plan](#) priorities. The SGP Executive will approve the final action plan in September 2022.

5.2 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 and associated action plans.
- 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 in 2021-22.

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 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.

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 by responsible authorities of their 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 currently chaired by the Joint Strategic Director - Place.

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 Compliance, 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 2021-22.

14.2 This report sets out the draft SGP Action Plan 2022-23 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 summary](#)

Appendix 2: SGP Action Plan 2020-21-year end review

Appendix 3: PSPO action plan

Appendix 4: Guildford Against Domestic Abuse pledge

Appendix 5: Draft Safer Guildford Partnership action plan 2022-23