

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 September 2018



Title	Review of Community Safety		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Jackie Taylor Group Head Neighbourhood Services		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Ian Harvey	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Clean and Safe Environment		
Recommendations	To note the information contained within the report		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 Community Safety involves various organisations working together with local communities to tackle persistent crime and disorder issues that are adversely affecting the quality of life of local people within the borough. From feeling secure in their home to feeling confident while out in the local neighbourhood, community safety is one of the most important issues for residents living in Spelthorne.
- 1.2 It remains a statutory requirement for local authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). We achieve this through the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP). Responsible partners namely the Local Authority, Fire & Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation services, Surrey County Council and the Police, work collaboratively in partnership. The SSSP meets on a quarterly basis.
- 1.3 By working together, these organisations have a greater impact on preventing crime & disorder, and develop more effective and sustainable solutions to better protect, support and empower local residents to feel safe and secure.
- 1.4 Over the last few years, Government has introduced a number of national changes that have significantly impacted on the community safety landscape. Some of these changes include the introduction of directly elected Police & Crime Commissioners and the publishing of a range of national strategies and policies linked with domestic abuse, ASB, counter terrorism and crime prevention. All of which have altered the focus of the work delivered by the community safety partners.
- 1.5 Policing & community safety continues to change and the crime and demands on services/resources are different. Online and cyber-crime are increasing and there is an emergence of complex and harmful crimes such as sexual exploitation and human trafficking. While incidents linked with vulnerability

(e.g. mental health problems) are increasing and more victims are confidently reporting issues linked with domestic and sexual abuse.

- 1.6 In setting the current year's priorities, the SSSP used police data and the local crime profile. There was also stakeholder engagement to decide on the following priorities for 2017/18 which were:-
 - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
 - Serious & Organised Crime (SOC)
 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
 - Community Engagement
 - Water safety
- 1.7 The community safety partnership has the responsibility to convene a strategic group of all responsible authorities, prepare an assessment of local crime and community safety priorities using information provided by partner agencies and the community, and produce an action plan to meet those priorities. The Community Safety Team at Spelthorne takes responsibility for co-ordinating activities and events and driving performance.
- 1.8 It is important to recognise that the SSSP has statutory obligations, and although not listed as current strategic priorities, there continues to be a great deal of work undertaken to ensure we comply with relevant legislation. For example, as a partnership we have a responsibility to deliver activity linked with preventing violent extremism, commission reviews into domestic-related homicides and deliver actions to help minimise serious and organised crime within the borough. Partnership activity takes place around these themes, as part of our core day-to-day business and will continue to be delivered during 2018/19.
- 1.9 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 defines ASB as:
 - Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person (i.e. objectively causes fear for one's own safety), or
 - Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that persons occupational residential premises, or
 - Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person
- 1.10 The Spelthorne Neighbourhood policing team consists of 4 police officers and 10 police community support officers. The team are also supported by a large team of omniscient response officers. These police teams work closely with the council's 5 Joint Enforcement Team officers (JET) and 2 Community Safety Officers. Regular meetings take place between all of the team in the form of a joint tasking and co-ordinating meeting, where geographical problems around all areas of ASB are highlighted and actions allocated to deal with emerging and/or historical problems.
- 1.11 In August 2017 Surrey Police carried out a public confidence survey across the County which showed a confidence level of 94%, a 1.6% increase on the last quarter of 2016/17. This increase was higher than the results from both Runnymede & Elmbridge.

2. Current position

ASB - police data

2.1 The following data which has been provided by Surrey Police shows the number of incidents of ASB and Crime reported to Surrey Police for the Borough of Spelthorne.

The data below shows an increase of 106 reported incidents of ASB over the previous 12 months.

Category description	2016-17	2017-18	% change
Abandoned vehicle not stolen or causing obstruction	193	209	8.2
Animal problems	29	24	-17
Fireworks-inappropriate sale/use/possession	36	32	-12
Malicious/nuisance communications	66	73	10.6
Noise	126	112	-12
Littering/Drugs paraphernalia	45	69	53
Nuisance neighbours	143	160	11.8
Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour	1337	1358	1.5
Street drinking	14	3	-79
Trespass	36	49	36
Vehicle nuisance/inappropriate use	543	585	7.7
Total	2568	2674	4.1

2.2 Whilst annual figures of ASB for 17/18 show a slight increase of 4.1%, there has been a general decline of recorded ASB incidents across the county in the last five years. The figures provided below show a 24% reduction in Surrey between 2013 & 2018.

Year	ASB
2013/14	3507
2014/15	3541
2015/16	3077
2016/17	2568
2017/18	2674

It is recognised that there is no room for complacency and the multi-agency partnership continues to work together to resolve local community issues.

2.3 The detail behind some of the figures in the table at **para 2.1** is given below:-

- Malicious nuisance/communications - a reflection of the use of social media
- Litter – this is mainly due to the proactive and active deployment of the Spelthorne Joint Enforcement Team (JET).
- Nuisance neighbours – which is a common issue, use of the Mediation Service has been used where possible.
- Trespass - the borough has suffered from a number of unauthorised encampments mainly in our parks. This is a county wide issue and we are working to help improve the process to resolve such incidents swiftly.

- Vehicle nuisance - during this period Bridge Street car park in Staines upon Thames became a focal point for car enthusiasts with associated ASB use of vehicles. This was successfully addressed by partner agencies through use of enforcement and physical measures.
- Total anti-social behaviour is up by 4.1% on the previous 12 months and continues to be monitored by the Police Neighbourhood Teams. However the focus of the ASB has been around “Threat, Harm and Risk”, this is to ensure that those that are vulnerable get a priority service in line with the force priorities. These are high-harm offences, hate crimes and domestic abuse and for North Surrey specifically includes domestic burglaries. Work was also carried out relating to “County Lines” drug dealers which has encouraged reporting of ASB in order to evidence closures.

3. Current position

Crime - police data.

- 3.1 The data in the table below shows an increase of 862 reported crimes over the previous 12 months

Crime type	2016-2017	2017-2018	% change
Criminal damage	884	1004	13.6
Domestic burglary	339	522	54
Drug offences	160	200	25
Fraud and forgery	6	13	116.7
Non-domestic burglary	222	123	-44.6
Other criminal offences	177	203	14.7
Other sexual offences	28	34	21.4
Robbery	29	31	6.9
Serious sexual	129*	145*	12.4
Theft (other than vehicle and handling stolen goods)	1305	1441	10.4
Vehicle crime (excluding interference)	512	553	8.0
Vehicle interference and tampering	43	54	25.6
Violence with injury	635	641	0.9
Violence without injury	1883*	2250*	19.5
Total notifiable offences	6352	7214	13.6

*Clarified post meeting

- Violence with injury is up by nearly 1% on the previous 12 months. This is the smallest increase across all crimes mainly because the detection of violent crimes is high.
- Violence without injury is up by 19.5% on the previous 12 months. The steep increase can be related to the fact that this category now includes harassment, public order issues and possession of weapons. Possession of weapons has shown a relatively significant increase for the police force in the last 12 months. This is mainly amongst youths carrying weapons to protect themselves. There is an on-going education programme through the Youth Officers with the schools to tackle this issue.

- Theft and handling stolen goods (not including vehicle theft) is up by 10.4% on the previous 12 months. Despite this increase Surrey Police have the lowest recorded theft per 1000 population. This is currently still seeing an upward trend and Surrey Police officers are working with the Staines-upon-Thames Business Improvement District (BID) team to put an intelligence sharing system in place between the shops and the BID Rangers.
- Criminal damage is up by 13.6% on the previous 12 months. The upward movement in this category is around threats or possession with intent to commit damage. A number of these are crimes from domestic incidents i.e. where a child threatens to smash a parent's property and they are over the age of criminal responsibility.
- Data from across the County shows a marked increase in crime figures that range from an 18.4% increase in Waverley to an 8.6% decrease in Tandridge.

3.2 National figures from the Crime Survey for England & Wales (CSEW)

	Year ending December 2017	To note
Burglary	9% increase in police recorded offences (to 438,971)	Burglary offences are thought to be relatively well reported by the public and relatively well recorded by the police and so the increase in police recorded burglary is likely to reflect a genuine increase.
Computer misuse	28% decrease in offences estimated by the CSEW (to 1,374,000)	Falls in computer misuse crimes were the main driver of the overall decrease in crime estimated by the CSEW.
Fraud	No change in offences estimated by the CSEW (3,241,000)	The CSEW provides the best indication of the overall trend in fraud as it captures the lower-harm cases that are more frequent but less likely to have been reported to the authorities.
Homicide	9% increase in police recorded offences (to 653 – excluding terrorist attacks in London and Manchester and events at Hillsborough in 1989)	The recent trend is affected by exceptional events with multiple homicide victims.
Robbery	33% increase in police recorded offences (to 74,130)	Recording improvements are likely to have contributed to this rise, but the impact is thought to be less pronounced than for other crime types. Therefore, the increase may also reflect an element of a real change in these crimes. The CSEW does not provide a robust measure of short-term trends in robbery as it is a relatively low-volume crime.

Vehicle-related theft	17% increase in offences estimated by the CSEW (to 929,000)	A 16% increase was also seen in vehicle offences recorded by the police (to 452,683), continuing the rising trend seen over the last two years. Vehicle offences are thought to be relatively well reported by the public and well recorded by the police.
Violence	<p>No change in overall violent offences estimated by the CSEW (1,245,000)</p> <p>22% increase in police recorded knife or sharp instrument offences (to 39,598 offences)</p> <p>11% increase in police recorded firearms offences (to 6,604 offences)</p>	The CSEW provides the better measure of trends in overall violent crime, covering the more common but less harmful offences. Police recorded crime provides a better measure of the more harmful but less common violent offences that are not well measured by the survey because of their relatively low volume. These offences are thought to be relatively well recorded by the police.

4. Current Strategic Priorities

As well as reflecting on how the partnership responds to ASB generally and reviewing options and practices to ensure they remain fit for purpose, efforts have been focused elsewhere to target issues that are of concern to our communities. The following section provides a brief overview of the activities the Partnership has been involved in delivering in response to community concerns.

4.1 Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Key Challenges

The Council and its partners continue to receive a high volume of complaints relating to ASB, ranging from nuisance and environmental related issues through to calls concerning behaviour targeted towards specific persons/groups. ASB reports have reduced over the last 5 years but still equate to almost 14% of all incidents recorded by Surrey Police in Spelthorne.

- ASB can affect anyone and negatively influences public confidence
- Tackling youth related ASB continues to be the top concern for local residents followed by rubbish, fly tipping, litter, dog fouling, speeding and/or dangerous driving and unauthorised encampments.
- Despite fewer partnership resources, resident's expectations of how we respond to ASB remains the same, which may lead to an increase in calls for service where no action is taken.
- The number of ASB cases that involve complex needs and vulnerability, which are more difficult to address (e.g. mental health related issues ASB) are increasing.
- There are national and local increases in the number of hate crime incidents with specific community groups known to be targeted, which are significantly underreported.

4.2 **Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and how we respond**

- Work with partners to efficiently tackle the changing nature of ASB in order to effectively meet the demands of local communities
- Be intelligence led and information driven to ensure resources are deployed through tasking and coordination in the right areas at the right time to combat ASB effectively
- Ensure that timely and targeted enforcement action is taken against perpetrators of ASB
- Tackle specific elements of ASB e.g. youth disorder, graffiti-signal crimes etc.
- Work collectively in order to prevent and/or divert ASB and hate crime from occurring in the first place
- Review how we combat ASB within the borough in order to improve our response to ASB complaints
- Review the implementation of ASB legislation locally e.g. the use of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)
- Deliver awareness raising campaigns to demonstrate the impact of ASB and hate crime
- Provide support to vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB and hate crime

4.3 **Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) 2017/18 Actions**

- Responding to community concerns associated with the anti-social use of vehicles in Sunbury by supporting the implementation of a dispersal order
- Review of the PSPO at Sunbury Cross to address street drinking to ensure that it was fit for purpose
- Utilised Community Protection Warnings (CPW) and Community Protection Notices (CPN) to target individuals who persistently act in an anti-social manner including parents where the children are consistently involved in ASB
- Taken a multi-agency approach to problem solving people and places. Three arrests have been made in response to issues and concerns around the misuse and theft of pedal cycles and mopeds

Moorings

During 2017/18 a total of 37 periods of enforcement were carried out (each period consisting of 3 days). During the same period 51 warning letters were issued to boat masters who had overstayed the 24 hour in 48 hour bye-laws.

- In May 2017 a Community Protection Warning Notice was issued to two boats illegally moored at Staines Bridge. Both boat masters had cordoned off the mooring and had used it to fly-tip rubbish, draw water

from a Council building and use of a chemical toilet in plain view of the public.

- On 12 May 2017 at Staines Magistrates Court Leroy Bryant was convicted of 4 offences in relation to his boat St. George III. The boat had previously sunk at Kings Law. The offences related to abandoning the vessel and failing to deal with the derelict wreck. The Council were awarded £2125 in Compensation and £2001 in Costs.

Unauthorised encampments

During 2017/18 the Council had a total of 18 unauthorised encampments

- 11 were dealt with under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 – SBC issued Community Protection Notices followed by Court Orders to leave the land
- 6 were dealt with under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.77 – SBC issued a direction to leave land and then obtained a S.78 order from the Court to leave the land
- 1 was dealt with by the Police using powers under S.61 of the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994
- 3 of the unauthorised encampments required the services of Bailiffs to remove at a total cost of £12,615

4.4 Serious & Organised Crime

Organised crime covers a wide range of activities and individuals involved in areas such as Class A drug trafficking, organised immigration crime and fraud. Other threats include counterfeiting, cuckooing, high tech crime, armed robbery and other gun crime, art theft and money laundering.

“Cuckooing” is the term used to describe the practice where professional drug dealers take over the property of a vulnerable person and use it as a place from which to run their drugs business. The drug dealers will target those who are vulnerable, potentially as a result of substance abuse, mental health issues, or loneliness, and befriend them or promise them drugs in exchange for being able to use their property.

4.5 Serious & Organised Crime 2017/18 Actions

Working alongside our partners there have been:-

- 4 partial house closures under ASB legislation to deal with Cuckooing
- 1 Criminal Behaviour Order served on a youth
- 1 Injunction
- A joint site visit with police, planning officers and JET officers was undertaken to investigate reports of modern slavery.

- Investigated £63,000 of Scrap Metal offences. Ashley Brooks of Ashdale Close, Stanwell was convicted at Guildford Magistrates Court on 17 July 2017 on 5 charges and ordered to pay £10,373. Mr Brooks later appealed and appeared at Guildford Crown Court on 21 February 2018. His conviction was upheld and his appeal was dismissed. The Judge did vary his sentence and reduced the order to pay to £6400.

4.6 **CCTV**

Closed Circuit Television (**CCTV**) is a system where the circuit in which the video is transmitted is closed and all the elements (camera, display monitors, recording devices) are directly connected. Our current CCTV on street monitoring systems are outdated. Capital funding was made available by Spelthorne and we have now procured a new wireless system (currently being installed) which will continue to be monitored from the CCTV control room based in Runnymede.

4.7 **CCTV 2017/18 Actions**

- We have awarded a new contract for the delivery of wireless CCTV cameras and connectivity. The camera replacement programme and connection is underway with the project expected to be complete in September/October 2018. This new system will assist with the detection and investigation of crime and disorder. CCTV signage will be reviewed as and when new cameras are installed.
- In 2018 SBC purchased 2 deployable CCTV cameras to assist with obtaining evidence around ASB. Both cameras have to date provided evidence in cases of fly tipping and youth disorder.
- Working with SCC the community safety team have identified a number of key location lamp columns (hotspots) where the deployable CCTV cameras could be located. These lamp columns in key locations have been adapted to enable us to quickly place a deployable camera as and when needed.
- A review of all CCTV camera locations has been undertaken to ensure that we comply with the Information Commissioners Office guidelines and GDPR Regulations. A report of this review has been published on the Council's website.
<https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/media/18349/CCTV-Annual-Report-2017-18/pdf>

4.8 **Community Engagement**

We promote the concept of community based action to inhibit and remedy the causes and consequences of criminal, intimidatory and other related anti-social behaviour. Its purpose is to secure sustainable reductions in crime and the fear of crime in local communities.

4.9 **Community Engagement 2017/18 Actions**

- Worked with the voluntary and community sector to increase our knowledge and understanding of the issues that directly affect the most vulnerable in our community.
- Supported activities in the borough to improve community cohesion.

- Proactively assist with the “Prevent Programme” aimed at helping to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism through awareness raising around extremism. A Spelthorne resident was responsible for the attempted bombing at Parsons Green tube station, and was subject of a Channel Panel meeting under the Prevent Strategy. This process was run by Surrey County Council and is currently under review to ensure all learning points are identified and shared across all agencies.
- Continue to seek resources from the Police & Crime Commissioners Community Safety Fund to fund work within secondary schools in a priority area of the district highlighting the exploitation of young people by ‘County Lines’ gangs.
- Continue to review the Council’s web pages to ensure that residents are given clear guidance on who to contact for community safety issues, information and support.
- Delivered training to all 5 rotas at the Surrey Police contact centre to help improve customer service. The training resulted in agreed responses by the police to key issues such as noise nuisance, parking and ASB for callers using the 101 service.
- Proactively engaged with local communities to build relationships and provide advice, education and guidance.
- Delivery of the 2 week Junior Citizen event to over a thousand children from Spelthorne’s primary schools. At the event the children receive vital advice from teams at Spelthorne as well as St Johns Ambulance, Surrey Fire & Rescue, Surrey Police and the RNLI.
- Delivery of an ‘older persons’ afternoon briefing at the Salvation Army church and community centre. Those present were given advice on matters related to community safety, including topics such as frauds and scams. Over 60 older residents attended and we received much positive feedback. Further events are planned for later in 2018 and also 2019.
- Two Partnership Action Days (PAD) were delivered, the first focused on road safety, speeding, use of mobile phones and waste enforcement. The second integrated with ASB week and involved visits to vulnerable victims, patrols of local hotspots and public information stalls within the Two Rivers shopping complex.
- A multi-agency response to vehicle related ASB at Bridge Street car park, resulting in physical improvements being introduced, joint letters being sent to registered owners of offending vehicles and police visits to residential properties.
- Assisted the police in delivering the Police Panel meetings giving residents the opportunity to ask questions on local issues affecting them.

4.10 **Water safety**

A tri-borough agreement with Elmbridge & Runnymede boroughs has been developed along the River Thames on a water safety project named “Respect the Water”. Fourteen enhanced water safety signs are being installed along

the banks of the river along with throw-lines. The lines are stored in locked cabinets with access being achieved via the Surrey Fire & Rescue control room in case of need. Surrey County Council have provided financial support for this project.

4.11 **Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP)**

The partnership works towards a rolling three year plan (2017-2020) with the following priorities:-

To reduce

- Crime – residential burglary, harm caused through misuse of drugs & alcohol, serious organised crime and violent & acquisitive crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Re-offending
- The threat of Terrorism
- The threat of Child Sexual Exploitation and Cyber related crime

To improve

- Engagement with the public to help our communities become stronger
- Water safety in areas of the borough bounded by the River Thames

The SSSP meets quarterly and monitors delivery against the priorities of the two tactical partnership forums of Joint Enforcement Team (JET) the Tasking & Co-ordinating Group (JET/TCG) and the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG).

4.12 **Joint Enforcement Team (JET) tasking & coordinating group**

Since April 2018 this group has worked on interventions at 38 locations on the borough across a wide range of community issues.

These mainly involve low level ASB (noise/youth disorder/parking issues/anti-social use of vehicles/planning breaches). To date 12 (32%) of these issues have been closed due to noted improvements in the area which is characterised by a cessation of reported issues.

4.13 **Community Incident Action Group (CIAG)**

Since April 2018 this group has monitored 13 adults, two families and three juveniles. These individuals have been of concern due to their disruptive impact within their local community and/or their vulnerability as victims of anti-social behaviour/criminal behaviour.

Interventions include:-

- 8 Criminal Behaviour Orders (Includes 3 converted ASB Orders)
- 1 Civil Injunction
- 4 Partial Closure Orders of premises (to prevent criminal “cuckooing”)

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The SSSP receives a grant from the Police & Crime Commission which is used to fund small community projects within the borough.

5.2 There are no additional financial implications as the Community Safety team and JET officers are funded by Spelthorne Borough Council.

Background papers: There are none

Appendices: SSSP plan 2018-2021 (this is in process of being updated and the final version will follow when it has been signed off by the SSSP Board at its meeting on 6 September)