

Neighbourhood Services and Enforcement Committee



Thursday 5 October 2023

Title	<i>Review of Community Safety 2023</i>
Purpose of the report	To note
Report Author	<i>Will Jack-Community Safety Officer Neighbourhood Services</i>
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	<i>n/a</i>
Corporate Priority	Community Environment Service delivery
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the 2023 review of Community Safety
Reason for Recommendation	This report seeks to provide an update on the activities and plans of the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP)

1. Summary of the report

- 1.1 This report seeks to outline and present the 2023 review of Community Safety as required by statute and will highlight the current partnership status together with the priorities determined by the partnership. This report will present the current crime statistical data and trends.
- 1.2 This report seeks to review existing provision, priorities and procedure incorporating the recommendations within the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that we are employing the most appropriate response.
- 1.3 Updates following a review of the 2020-2023 Community Safety Strategy (**Appendix A**) include: -
 - Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse will be dealt with as individual priorities (Section 2.6)
 - Police & Crime Plan 2021-2025 (Section 2.7)
 - Police Resourcing (Section 2.12)
 - Police Public Confidence Survey (Section 2.15)
 - Crime Summary (Section 2.16)
 - Violence against Women and Girls (Section 3.3)

- Water Safety (Section 3.10)

2. Key issues

- 2.1 Community Safety involves various partner 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.
- 2.2 It remains a statutory requirement under S.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for local authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). This is achieved through the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP). Responsible partners namely the Local Authority, Fire & Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation, Surrey County Council, and the Police, work collaboratively in partnership. The SSSP meets on a quarterly basis.
- 2.3 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 residents to feel safe and secure.
- 2.4 The Government has introduced several national changes that have significantly impacted on the Community Safety landscape. Some of these changes include the introduction 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.
- 2.5 Policing & community safety continues to change, crime and demands on services/resources are different. Online and cyber-crimes are still increasing as are the more complex and harmful crimes such as cuckooing, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, county lines 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.
- 2.6 In setting the current priorities, the SSSP used police data and the local crime profile. There was also stakeholder engagement to decide on the following priorities for the 3-year period covering 2020/2023 which were to: -

Reduce

- Crime - with reference to Violent Crime; Residential Burglary; Harm Caused through Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol; Vehicle Crime & Acquisitive Crime.
- The threat of serious organised crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Violence against women and girls
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Re-Offending

- The Threat of Terrorism
- The threat of criminal exploitation and cyber related crime

Improve

- Engagement with our public to help make our communities stronger.
 - Water Safety
- 2.7 The current Police and Crime plan produced jointly with Surrey Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) covers the period 2021-2025. This sets priorities as follows:
- Priority 1: Reducing violence against women and girls.
 - Priority 2: Protecting people from harm in Surrey.
 - Priority 3: Working with Surrey communities so that they feel safe.
 - Priority 4: Strengthening relationships between Surrey Police and Surrey residents.
 - Priority 5: Ensuring safer Surrey roads.
- 2.8 The Community Safety partnership known locally as the Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership (SSSP) has the responsibility to convene a strategy group of all responsible authorities. The group 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.
- 2.9 It is important to recognise that the SSSP has several statutory obligations, and although not listed as current strategic priorities, there continues to be a lot of work undertaken to ensure we comply with relevant legislation. For example, as a partnership we have a responsibility to report 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 2023.
- 2.10 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 person's occupational residential premises, or
 - Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.
- 2.11 The Spelthorne Neighbourhood policing team consists of 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants, 12 Police Constables, 1 Youth Engagement Officer, and 1 Designing out crime Officer. There are also 2 Police Community Support Officers (with 4 more joining within the next 3 months) on the Spelthorne policing team. They are supported by a large team of Omni-competent

response officers. These police teams work closely with the Councils 5 Joint Enforcement Team officers (JET) and 2 Community Safety Officers.

- 2.12 Regular formal multi agency meetings take place to share information and problem solve. These are the Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM) and the Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (T&CG). The former looks at prominent offenders or vulnerable victims, the latter at geographical problems. These are embedded into the partnership activities.
- 2.13 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police carry out a resident survey each year as part of the Joint Neighbourhood Survey (JNS).
- 2.14 Public confidence in policing 2023 Q. How confident are you in your Neighbourhood police (% very/confident) – **Appendix C** (Joint Neighbourhood Survey)

	Q1 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Year end 22/23	Q1 23/24
Elmbridge	86.0%	79.4%	76.0%	82.8%	73.0%
Runnymede	89.3%	84.9%	80.6%	84.9%	74.5%
Spelthorne	75.9%	81.0%	70.9%	76.3%	72.7%

- 2.15 Current position (Summary)

Statistics for reported crime in Spelthorne in 2022 – 2023

Crime type	This year	Last year	Change	Percentage
Total notifiable offences	8319	7747	572	7.4%
Violence with injury	772	762	10	1.3%
Serious sexual offences	172	198	-39	13.1%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	1174	1081	93	8.6%
Robbery	54	57	-3	-5.3%

- 2.16 The figures show that there has been a slight increase in acquisitive crime, burglary offences however, continue to fall.
- 2.17 The figures also show slight increases in violence. Robbery offences have reduced. This reflects the issues related to the increasing problem of County drugs lines and cuckooing which are ongoing. (**Appendix B**)
- 2.18 **Appendix B** – Highlights the police recorded crime data from July 2022 to June 2023. This report covers all Total Notifiable Offences (TNO) within the dates shown. There is a breakdown by section for individual offences.
- 2.19 **Appendix C** – Joint Neighbourhood Survey.

3. Options analysis and proposal

- 3.1 Prioritisation of crime types is part of this strategy. Proposals for reduction of crime utilising intelligence-led analysis is conducted monthly. These proposals are discussed at ratified at T&CG level whereupon tactical plans are implemented.
- 3.2 **Domestic Abuse** – Managed via the CHaRMM process to assess individual cases. Proactive use of support services, education, and housing.
- 3.3 **Violence against women and girls** – Managed at T&CG level as a standing agenda item to identify vulnerable people and geographical areas. Audit and assess environmental opportunities. Robust management of offenders to prevent offending.
- 3.4 **Hate Crime** – Managed via the CHaRMM process to support victims, bring offenders to justice, and promote support services.
- 3.5 **ASB** – Managed via the T&CG process to improve environmental features, target offenders, hotspot mapping, youth diversion and school/family liaison. The Nitrous Oxide PSPO continues to be enforced and has had a positive impact on Nitrous Oxide abuse within the borough.
- 3.6 **Notifiable offences** – Managed via the Surrey Police Crime ‘Police & Crime Plan’ and reporting to the T&CG regarding progress, opportunities, and intelligence development to prevent crime, protect victims and bring offenders to justice.
- 3.7 **Serious & Organised Crime** – Managed by Surrey Police with the support of the T&CG where all partners are briefed on the impact of Serious and Organised Crime. This briefing encourages multi-agency working to develop intelligence on our more serious offenders.
- 3.8 **Re-Offending** – Managed via the T&CG and CHaRMM process. Working with Probation to ensure that offenders are monitored, rehabilitated, and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.9 **Terrorism** – Working with ‘Prevent’ via Applied Resilience to identify ‘Channel’ cases. Liaison with the police and local schools to identify opportunities for intervention in cases of radicalisation. Ensuring the borough CCTV is operational and appropriately situated.
- 3.10 **Water Safety** – To continue to work in partnership with Surrey Fire & Rescue, The Environment Agency, and the RNLI. To ensure that water safety advice is disseminated via social media and appropriate signage. The implementation of ‘Riverwatch’ to provide regular intelligence on all matters relating to the river. To maintain the borough throwlines and throw-rings.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The SSSP can apply for a grant from the PCC which can used to fund small community projects within the borough.
- 4.2 The annual Community Safety fund of £10,000 is drawn exclusively from Spelthorne Borough Council’s contribution.
- 4.3 There are no additional financial implications as the Community Safety team and JET officers are fully funded by Spelthorne Borough Council.

- 4.4 It should be noted that both teams are currently at full capacity. Should there be a desire for either or both teams to carry out more work and/or inspections, this would have to be done on a priority basis and/or seek additional funding to create a new post with associated costs within the team.

5. Risk considerations

- 5.1 Corporate risk assessments are in place to manage general risk. Tactical risk assessments are utilised to manage more specific tasks and activities.
- 5.2 The water safety strategy is currently under review along with the relevant corporate and tactical risk assessment. We would aim to have this in place before summer 2024.

6. Procurement considerations

Corporate Procurement has been consulted on this strategy and has no comment to make. Should any procurements result from this strategy, Corporate Procurement will be involved as appropriate and in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

7. Legal considerations

Legal services have been consulted and have no additional comments.

8. Other considerations

- 8.1 The main consideration for the Community Safety Strategy Partnership is to ensure that the strategy functions effectively as per the requirements of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

9. Equality and Diversity

- 9.1 The Council aims to challenge discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics in all its activities including service delivery.
- 9.2 The very nature of the role of the community safety officers is to work with partners to reduce and/or eliminate all forms of crime including hate crime & ASB.
- 9.3 The Council which includes the work of the SSSP, and its partners recognises the diversity of the people and the communities of the borough and is committed to:
- Working with our partners and the boroughs many communities to understand and meet the needs of individuals and communities, and improve their opportunities, wellbeing, and ability to live together productively.
 - Tackling areas of potential discrimination to ensure that services are offered equitably and appropriately.
 - Ensuring that all services provided by or on behalf of the Council are appropriate, inclusive, accessible, and fair.
 - Involving the wider community, service users and partner organisations in consultation to ensure that views are taken account of.
 - Building closer links with all communities across the district and using our influence within the local community to give a lead to partners and other local agencies to promote equalities.

10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 The work of the JET officers in investigating & reducing waste crime will work with and towards the positive effects in delivering the actions associated with the Council's Climate Change Emergency.
- 10.2 Climate Change affects us all and any work we at Spelthorne are engaged in that involves the reduction and correct treatment of wastes will have a small but positive effect on the environment.

11. Timetable for implementation

- 11.1 We are delivering the actions within the current 2020-2023 Community Safety Strategy. A new five-year strategy will be developed early in 2024 and will commence with a Community Safety Survey in January 2024.

12. Contact

- 12.1 Will Jack - Community Safety Officer

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Background papers:

Appendices:

Appendix A – Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023

Appendix B – Crime Statistics

Appendix C – Joint Neighbourhood Survey 2023