

<b>14 December 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Michelle Cunningham – Community Safety Partnership Manager		
<b>Accountable Strategic Lead:</b> Cheryl Wells, Strategic Lead – Community Safety, Emergency Planning & Resilience		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Public Realm		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## **Executive Summary**

This is the annual report of Thurrock’s Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which provides Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, both qualitative and quantitative, against the priorities in 2021.

Whilst data is provided within this report it continues to be incomparable, due to the changes in restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 over the last 12 months, which impacted on levels of crime committed and reported. This has resulted in crime types experiencing unprecedented significantly reduced or increased levels. As restrictions have changed, crime levels have continually readjusted.

The current priorities for the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership are reflective of the Strategic Assessment for Thurrock dated January 2020 which was published shortly before the pandemic restrictions were implemented on 23 March 2020. Due to the data set available for the 2021 assessment reflecting crime within a pandemic environment the data would not have accurately informed priorities for the following year and therefore Thurrock’s Community Safety Partnership Board agreed to retain the priorities identified in the previous assessment for the year 2021-22, with one amendment to include Organised Immigration Crime.

The current priorities for the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are:

- 1. Violence Against Women and Girls**
- 2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**
- 3. Local Community and Visibility**
- 4. Tackling Offending**
- 5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism**

The priority around Violence Against Women and Girls reflects the gender bias of the nature of this crime which was evidenced within the review of the Sexual Violence/Abuse crimes reported by Thurrock residents to Essex Police in 2018<sup>1</sup>:

- Where gender was recorded, the majority of victims were female (79.7% compared to the 13.6% who were male)
- 91% of suspected perpetrators were male (higher than the Crime Survey's national rate of 74-79%).

Essex Police report that in 75% of reported domestic abuse, the victim is female. This also follows the current National Strategy, it is important to note and assure committee members that services in Thurrock offer support to all genders. As updates and reviews are published by the Home Office we will continue to reflect any recommendations locally.

Through Thurrock Council investment, we continue to have additional resources to address crime and ASB through the ASB Officer within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and 4 additional Town Centre Police Team officers covering Tilbury and Purfleet.

Off road nuisance motorbikes continue to be a key priority for Thurrock Council and Essex Police due to the impact it is having on residents and communities across the borough.

We continue to receive funding from The Essex Violence and Vulnerability Board, of which Thurrock is a Partner, and for the year 21/22 currently have grants available of £176k for both proactive and reactive work in tackling Serious Violence whereby this is defined as "Community Violence – acts of interpersonal violence committed in public spaces".

We were awarded £432,000 Safer Streets government funding for Grays, secured by a joint bid we submitted with the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2021 and the ongoing areas of concern and actions in place to mitigate.**
- 1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny committee have the opportunity to discuss areas of concern for consideration by the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership when reviewing priorities for 2022/23, which will be based on the strategic assessment.**
- 1.3 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognise the ongoing risks that a changing environment pose to community safety and assure**

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<sup>1</sup> [Sexual Violence and Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

themselves that alongside the Police and Crime Plan and Violence and Vulnerability framework we continue to work collaboratively to mitigate the risks posed.

1.4 That members of the Committee approve Thurrock Council's statement on Modern Day Slavery and recommend to Cabinet for approval.

## 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Priorities for the CSP for 2020/21 were agreed as:

**1. Violence Against Women and Girls** – encompassing: sexual violence, abuse and exploitation; stalking; sexual harassment; modern day slavery and human trafficking; domestic abuse; female genital mutilation (FGM); forced marriage and so called "Honour" based abuse of all genders

### 2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability

- Tackle Violence with and without injury
- Tackle gang related activity and offensive weapons  
(Will indirectly support addressing the crimes of Personal Robbery and Trafficking of Drugs)
- Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime
- Raise awareness of Human Trafficking, Modern Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime

### 3. Local Community and Visibility

- Identify & tackle Anti-social Behaviour
- Community Engagement / Increased Visibility

### 4. Tackling Offending and reducing Residential Burglary

### 5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- Preventing Violent Extremism locally

2.2 These five core priorities will all support the Chief Constable's vision with regard to a focus on the four V's, namely:

- Violence
- Vulnerability
- Visibility
- Victims

2.3 Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Board are currently consulting on their strategy 2022/2026. The CSP will have a key role in delivering 2 of the proposed domains in relation to:

- Domain 5: Housing and Environment
- Domain 6: Community Safety

Our priorities and delivery plan for 22/23 will be reflective of this strategy.

2.4 The CSP must pay due regard to the The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities. The review of our priorities for 22/23 take into account the new priorities as laid out in 2021/24 plan which are:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated areas
- Preventing dog theft
- Improving safety on our roads
- Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
- Encouraging volunteers and community support
- Supporting our officers and staff
- Increasing collaboration

2.5 Thurrock's CSP, Youth Offending Service, Children's Social Care and Public Health Director all continue to work closely with the Violence and Vulnerability Unit whose current model includes the following six work streams:

- i. Influence and help shape wider parts of the system (especially in terms of universal and early intervention)
- ii. Targeted locations, programmes of work in targeted locations, geographical 'hotspots' and / or targeted 'reachable' moments
- iii. Workforce Development
- iv. Better understanding:
  - of provision in Essex and whether it is effective
  - ongoing & improved data analysis
- v. High risk; known to be at risk; and involved in violence / crime, working with individuals who are causing the most harm through violence in Essex
- vi. Voice of communities, working with the voluntary and community sector to shape our approach to violence reduction

They are currently reviewing their 3 year plan – in line with the Serious Violence needs assessment.

2.6 We are closely aligned to the Thurrock Youth Crime Governance Board, in particular in relation to delivery of Priority one: *Violence and Vulnerability – to safeguard children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation by organised criminal gangs* within the Youth Justice Plan 21/24.

2.7 The subject for the Thurrock Annual Public Health Report for 2020 was 'Violence and Vulnerability' and based upon its research and recommendations, the partnership has introduced a public health approach to violence and vulnerability. The overarching ownership of this approach lies with the newly formed Violence and Vulnerabilities Board, chaired by the Director of Public Health for Thurrock. The recommendations from the report are summarised into four categories:

- **Surveillance:** Action to understand and monitor the problem at a population level, including the effectiveness of a whole system approach.
- **Primary Prevention:** Action to 'inoculate' the wider communication against the risk of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.
- **Secondary Prevention:** Intervention with those with existing risk factors, to mitigate risk.
- **Tertiary Prevention:** 'Treatment' of perpetrators and victims of violence to reduce further harm.

Progress to this has been reported on recently through the Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.8 Summary of **crime performance** for 01/10/2020 to 30/09/2021 compared to 2019/20<sup>2</sup>:

Offence	12 months Oct 20 to Sept 21	
	Total	% change
All Crime	15919	-2.9
Violence Against Person	6524	3.1
Sexual Offences	522	35.6
Robbery	160	-16.2
Burglary	692	-8.5
Vehicle Offences (incl. interference)	1758	-1.5
Shoplifting	1003	-24
Criminal damage (incl arson)	1549	-7.7
Hate Crime (HO definition)	492	20.9
Anti-Social Behaviour	5378	5.7

2.8.1 Crime levels continue to readjust against non-comparable data due to varying degrees of restrictions being in place over the past 12 months due to the pandemic.

2.8.2 Thurrock's reported crime decrease of 2.9% of all crime is again in line with 3.3% reduction seen across the force.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

2.8.3 Covid restrictions continue to have had a positive impact on all areas of reported crime with the exception of sexual offences and hate crime, although we are now starting to see a slight increase in violent crime. This was anticipated as restrictions eased, pubs reopened and the European Football Championship.

2.9 Summary of **ASB performance** for 01/10/2020 to 30/09/2021<sup>3</sup>, which has seen a 5.7% increase, by ward level:

<b>Area by Essex Police beat code</b>	<b>TOTAL 20/21</b>
Purfleet, West Thurrock & South Stifford	<b>734</b>
Tilbury	<b>606</b>
Grays South	<b>574</b>
Belhus	<b>425</b>
Grays North	<b>355</b>
Chafford Hundred	<b>335</b>
Ockendon	<b>327</b>
Stanford le Hope	<b>319</b>
Corringham West	<b>313</b>
Aveley	<b>292</b>
Chadwell st Mary	<b>279</b>
Grays Central	<b>235</b>
East Tilbury	<b>217</b>
Grays East	<b>170</b>
Orsett, Horndon & Bulphan	<b>119</b>
Corringham East	<b>113</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5413</b>

2.9.1 ASB levels in Thurrock were significantly affected by the 4 new ASB categories recorded by Essex Police, namely: Covid breach, Covid quarantine, Social Distancing, and Rule of Six. The increase in ASB seen by Thurrock is starting to level out at 5.7% (previous Quarter 19%) and remains in line with the 5.1% increase seen across Essex.

2.10 The above data supports the added investment by Essex Police into **Town Centre Team Officers** dedicated to Tilbury and Purfleet areas. Below is a snapshot of their activity for Q2 21/22.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

	July		August		Sept		Q2
	Tilbury	Purfleet	Tilbury	Purfleet	Tilbury	Purfleet	Total
<b>STORM Incidents attended</b>	17	5	4	8	13	5	<b>52</b>
<b>Arrests</b>	2	1	0	0	1	1	<b>5</b>
<b>Hours spent on footpatrol</b>	40	39	30	28	28	18	<b>183</b>
<b>Investigations Recorded</b>	7	5	8	7	5	2	<b>34</b>
<b>Stop Search Conducted</b>	6	0	0	3	16	3	<b>28</b>
<b>Court Results &amp; Positive Results other (e.g. Community Res.)</b>	3	1	0	1	1	1	<b>7</b>

2.10.1 Whilst the statistics provide a helpful summary of the work of these 4 officers, they do not however reflect all the work that goes in to the investigating and solving of a problem.

2.10.2 For example a simple shoplifting requires a victim statement, CCTV review, arrest, interview charge and remand and can take two officers for their full shift.

2.10.3 Visible patrolling in a town may lead to identification of someone for a number of offenders however the arrest and therefore “statistic” may lie in the follow up by another team.

2.11 The total number of anti-social behaviour cases reported to **Thurrock Council’s ASB team** from 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021 was 204. The highest reports were received in the wards of Chadwell St Mary (35), Belhus (26) and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park (24).

2.12 Utilising surplus funding made available in 2019 by members to address ASB we continue to employ an **ASB officer within the CSP** to investigate cases where the complainants are privately renting or owner/occupiers.

2.13 We have continued to receive an increase in reports in relation to noise nuisance, neighbour disputes, drug taking and youth congregation. Between October 2020 and September 2021 these investigations have resulted in:

- 15 Noise Warning letters issued
- 19 referrals to multi-agency Locality Action Group
- 13 Safeguarding referrals
- 2 referrals to housing safeguarding
- 3 referrals to the Restorative Justice service
- 7 Letters to landlords regarding tenants behaviour

- warning letters issued in relation to dog fouling, bins on highway and cannabis use

In addition to working collaboratively with partners to achieve an injunction and to support issuing of Community Protection Warnings.

## 2.14 Hate crime data

For the 12 months from Nov 20 to Oct 21 there were 608 reports of hate crime in Thurrock, a 28% increase.

Strand	No	%
Racial	414	68%
Disability	85	14%
Homophobic	71	12%
Multiple strands	16	3%
Religious *	15	2%
Transphobic	6	1%
Age	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* of which 7 were Muslim

The top 3 wards for the period were West Thurrock and South Stifford, Aveley, and Grays Riverside.

225 were classed as violence without injury and 214 in relation to public order  
53% of victims were male and 25% aged 31 – 40

- 2.15 Essex Police monitor **public perception** of crime by regularly surveying residents across the County to gather and evaluate efforts to address crime. Responses to Quarter 1, 2021/2022 survey which include the initial pandemic lockdown provide the following insights across the County<sup>4</sup>:

### Thurrock Q1 2021/22 Public Perception Survey Results <sup>5</sup>

Question	Year ending June 2021	Year ending June 2020	% Change
Confidence in local Policing (% strongly/tend to agree)	68%	58%	10%
Importance of a regular uniformed police presence in the area	71%	74%	- 3%

<sup>4</sup> Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

<sup>5</sup> Source: Thurrock Community Safety Engagement Officer



(% very important)			
Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community (% strongly/tend to agree)	68%	62%	6%
Feel informed about what the Police are doing in my local area (% very/fairly informed)	31%	44%	- 13%
Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job	73%	61%	12%
Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB (% strongly/tend to agree)	50%	48%	2%
Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in your area in the last 12 months	27%	37%	-10%
Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police (% very/fairly confident)	72%	65%	7%

### Key Insights

- The proportion of Thurrock residents surveyed who think local police are doing a good or excellent job increased significantly from 61% to 73% - although Thurrock remains the lowest performing District for this metric
- Less than a third (31%) feel well-informed about what police are doing in their area, down from 44% in the previous year
- Two-thirds (68%) agree they have confidence in the police in this area, up from 58% in the previous year

## 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

### 3.1 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

3.1.1 In 2017 the Government committed to reviewing the provision available to victims of domestic abuse. Following the completion of stakeholder engagement and responses to consultations the Domestic Abuse Bill set out 123 commitments both legislative and non-legislative. The Bill was passed into law as the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

3.1.2 The Act places a statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation and provides clarity over governance and accountability.

3.1.3 A requirement of the act is for all tier one authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or

their children, including those who come from outside the area. This will be supported by funding from central government titled the New Burdens Fund.

- 3.1.4 Our needs assessment has been completed and will be presented along with the 11 identified recommendations and a full report on all other aspects of delivery against the VAWG strategy to the February meeting.
- 3.1.5 The murder of Sarah Everard and the testimonies provided through the Everyone's Invited movement sparked a national conversation and an outpouring of grief, distress and anger about the violence and abuse that women and girls experience daily.
- 3.1.6 In response to this Synergy Essex (partnership of the three Rape Crisis Centres in Essex) produced a briefing into Male Sexual Violence and Abuse against Women and Girls and is at *Appendix 1*
- 3.1.7 Synergy work across Essex, Southend and Thurrock offering free, confidential specialist sexual violence and abuse counselling, Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy and support to adults, young people, children and their families.
- 3.1.8 Over the year to April 21, Synergy Essex provided services to just under 5,000 victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse, 88% are women and girls and in 98% of cases, the sexual violence and abuse they have suffered has been perpetrated by men.
- 3.1.9 Partners across Essex have provided a response to the 6 recommendations within this report and will be discussed at our December Board meeting.

## 3.2 **Tackle Gang related activity and offensive weapons**

### Summary of Action to Date: Surveillance

- Through Essex Police areas of priority have been identified for intervention (localities work) due to their societal factors.
- The wards determined for Thurrock based localities work using analysis determined where offenders known to criminal justice services reside (this therefore includes those offenders open to our services but offending out of borough) and where victims / perpetrators known to Essex Police reside (not where offences happen) are:
  - West Thurrock and South Stifford
  - Tilbury St Chads
  - Grays
- 11 micro areas have been identified for high visibility hot spot policing (Op Grip) due to the recorded crimes in the area.
- A bimonthly report on contextualised safeguarding is produced highlighting areas of concern requiring an environmental response.
- Mapping has been undertaken on a predominantly street level gang operating in the Grays area.

- Through the Youth Crime Governance Board a triangulation has been identified between Child In Need (CIN), Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and early onset of offending.

**Next Steps: Surveillance**

- Through the Adult Safeguarding Board work streams we are working on a vulnerable adult contextualised safeguarding report.
- Continued development of products available within Xantura (providing data analytics) to support early intervention.

**Summary of Action to Date: Primary Prevention**

- Making informed choices – interactive sessions delivered by Essex Police available to all education establishments June 21.
- Awareness raising being delivered by our gang and exploitation worker in secondary schools.
- Leaflet for parents created and distributed through schools *Appendix 2*.
- Early Years and Family/Parenting Support through Brighter Futures.

**Next Steps: Primary Prevention**

- A series of workshops on gang activity in Thurrock have been scheduled for professionals.
- To plan and deliver focused workshops with communities to raise awareness.
- To offer primary schools in key locality areas opportunity for programmes to raise awareness of exploitation in all forms.
- To deliver Walk Online roadshows to years 5, 6 and 7.
- Expand the reach of the generic youth service offer, prioritising areas where there is currently no or inadequate levels of provision and higher prevalence of youth violence.
- Expanding the reach and breadth of INSPIRE generic skills based offer allowing a greater number of young people to benefit.

**Summary of Action to Date: Secondary Prevention**

- Additional funding provided by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) for St Stephens to deliver youth outreach work in West Thurrock and South Stifford.
- Red Balloon commissioned by the VVU to deliver detached youth work in Grays, Tilbury and W Thurrock and South Stifford. This includes the holiday hunger programme, sports activities and links to existing organisations in the community.
- Mentoring project in place through the Youth offer with a focus on SEND and Children in Need.
- Protocol in place with schools to reduce exclusions, provide targeted intervention and manage risk & vulnerability.

**Next Steps: Secondary Prevention**

- Develop outreach work delivered by the Olive Academy to reduce exclusions and support transition back to mainstream.

- Clearly defined processes for referrals from the multi-agency panels for Tier 2 interventions will be in place, to ensure that young people with multiple risk factors receive the right support at the right time.
- Increase the numbers of crack cocaine users in treatment and convert them into successful recovery. We acknowledge that this is not going to be a quick outcome.

Summary of Action to Date: Tertiary Prevention

- The multi-agency operational gang related violence group meets monthly to discuss all nominals. The purpose of the forum is to identify, monitor and share information regarding identified gang nominals residing in Thurrock.
- SOS project (run by St Giles Trust) being delivered in the Olive Academy.
- Reachable Teachable moments project delivered by gang and exploitation lead.
- Through Well Homes approach to vulnerable families moving into the borough.
- 29 individuals across Thurrock have been trained to deliver individual, or group work to parents/carers to reduce violence within the home.

Next Steps:

- Fearless Futures to be delivered in Thurrock for offenders of serious violence within the probation service.
- To recruit Youth Exploitation Worker to work within the YOS to support those young people in Thurrock at risk of involvement of gangs and county lines.
- Improve our trauma focused offer within YOS and wider

### 3.3 Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from hate crime

Key highlights:

- 256 trained ambassadors have made 756 contacts since January to raise awareness.
- Hate Incident Reporting Centres have taken 7 reports.
- With the support of our ambassadors we celebrated National Hate Crime Awareness Week with 2 pop ups in Tilbury and Grays where we focused on businesses.
- 4 sessions on disability hate and mate crime training has gone live and been well received; to offer out in Thurrock colleges special needs schools.
- Hate and mate crime webinar to promote awareness of this, went out to over 30 different organisations including some in Thurrock.
- Hate Crime overview is included within our Prevent training offer

- 3.3.1 Essex Police have implemented a change in the recording of Hate Crime where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim. Gender based hate crime will now be recorded by Essex Police and an investigation will commence.
- 3.3.2 This is especially relevant at this current time given the national interest and activity that is taking place around violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls. Essex Police and wider partners are committed to truly understanding the issues faced by women and girls in the county and to do this, Essex Police will be one of the first forces in the UK to start to adopt the recording of sex/gender hate.

Next steps:

- Continuing to deliver Ambassador and Awareness training.
- Focus on special needs schools to offer training for staff or children.
- Engagement with Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS) to increase input on online/social media/comms hate crime messaging to schools as youths are most at risk of this type of hate.
- Working with the Essex Strategic Hate Crime Partnership to revise the Essex Hate Crime Strategy.
- Raise awareness of reporting of sex/gender as a hate crime and reflect in hate crime information

### 3.4 **Raise Awareness of Human Trafficking, Modern Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**

Key activity:

Through the police led Operation Bluebird, the response to the tragic case of Operation Melrose which resulted in the death of 39 Vietnamese men, women and children in Purfleet, Essex police have sought to disrupt Organised Immigration Crime through establishing links with Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) enabling us to work upstream to prevent further harm. This has resulted in significant improvements including:

- Improved partnership working between (but not limited to); Thurrock Council (Community Safety, Adults and Children's Social Care); Port of Tilbury Police; British Transport Police; Essex Fire & Rescue; Border Force; Immigration Enforcement; National Crime Agency; commercial partners, and; non-governmental organisations & faith groups.
- Improved strategy around unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) who go missing through joint working with Children's Social Care overcoming difficulties in getting professionals together to develop strategies around finding and safeguarding a missing UASC child. A memorandum of understanding is now in place.
- All agencies involved now follow an agreed response plan to reach a safe and effective outcome to OP Bluebird events.
- Delivery of awareness training and upskilling across all partners to ensure consistency of response.

- Children's Social Care have incorporated contextual safeguarding prompts within the child exploitation (CE) risk and vulnerability assessment and a contextual safeguarding approach is considered when making safety plans for children at risk of exploitation. Risk Management Meetings review cases of those reported as missing, assessed as high risk, or currently being exploited.
- Ongoing training provision through 2 sessions hosted of the 'free your mind' training, by Raa theatre and e-learning promoted by Adult safeguarding Modern Slavery.
- Training to communities delivered by Essex Police through the Independent Advisory Group

### Next Steps

- Complete staff knowledge survey and host more training to address identified needs.
- Embed the refreshed SET wide Modern Day Slavery guidance.
- Trial of newsletter for partners to keep topic at forefront of professionals minds

Councils are uniquely placed to be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery, and whilst we are currently under no legal obligation to publish a statement, this will be included in the new provisions of the Modern Day Slavery Act when it is updated and amended. By voluntarily completing Modern Slavery Transparency Statements, we are demonstrating awareness and ethical leadership and in line with good practice.

Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership has drafted a statement which is detailed in this report *Appendix 3* for consideration and recommendation to Cabinet to adopt.

### 3.5 **Anti-social behaviour**

- In the 6 months from April 2021 to September 2021, Thurrock CSP received 3 requests for anti-social behaviour case reviews. Two of these have been followed up with successful outcomes, both in relation to noise nuisance from neighbours. The third remains an open ongoing case and yet to be heard by the review panel. We now include how to request an ASB case review within our closure letters.
- In respect of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Grays High Street 9 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served to members of the public linked to breaches of the order
- In spite of the PSPO in place to address car cruising in West Thurrock we saw a high volume of calls, 39 in the 3 months from July to Sept. Following the issuing of 35 Fixed Penalty Notices during joint operations between the Community Policing Team and the Environmental Enforcement Team we only received one report in October. The PSPO will be extended for a further 3 years from 18/12/21.

- Our residents raise off road motorbike nuisance as a matter of concern at all our public engagement events, with members across the Borough and through reporting to both Police and Council and for this reason it is a key priority for Cllr Gledhill as both the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and ASB, and Leader of the Council, as well as for Essex Police and the District Commander for Thurrock. Due to the high profile of this issue a report on this topic was brought to Committee on 7/10/21. Since then the 5 areas which OP Caesar (police response to motorbike nuisance) is focused on, are:
  - Chadwell St Mary – Orsett Heath
  - Billet Lane, Stanford Le Hope
  - Butts Lane, Stanford le Hope
  - Blackshots Lane, Grays
  - Country Park, South Ockendon.

Chadwell, Blackshots and South Ockendon have all been visited and action plans are in the process of been drafted and costed. A site visit to Stanford Le Hope is planned. The existing Tactical Focus Group continues to monitor and drive this work forward.

- We are pleased to confirm that the business case regarding a pilot in Thurrock of using quad bikes to tackle this has been agreed. Thurrock Council have agreed to commit £20k of capital and the CSP £10.5k of revenue to support this pilot. Police will resource and provide ongoing revenue costs, showing a true partnership approach to addressing this issue.
- The CSP team also work closely with Essex Police's business crime unit to tackle offences committed in business premises across the borough. There have seen successes on the Garrison Parade and Grays High Street and the focus has now moved to Corringham.
- We are working with Hathaway and William Edwards Schools. The Locality Early Offer of Help lead chairs the meeting providing a collaborative approach to working with Schools for the purpose of safeguarding of students, making referrals to other agencies as appropriate, working with and supporting students families and to agree enforcement measures as appropriate

### **3.6 Community engagement and increased visibility**

The introduction of the Community Safety and Engagement Officers has improved partnership working and the opportunities to engage with communities both directly and through virtual meetings and social media. They provide a bimonthly report to our CSP executive and IAG. Some of the benefits we have seen are:

- joined up approach re communications – shared messaging
- more joint engagement events, e.g. national hate crime awareness week

- attendance at community forums
- Providing monthly data in relation to ASB. Highlighting problem wards and repeat offenders and bringing them to our Locality Action Groups
- Supporting project work – e.g. motorbike and cruiser nuisance with focused street meets, and newsletters
- Safer Streets – have been instrumental in driving this work with engagement, events and liaising with officers over Op order
- Increased social media presence - the team continue to ensure a varied and regular input, both original and shared posts from partners, for example general prevention messages and information like the A13 road closures etc., as well as supporting HQ with their drive around crime prevention messages. Facebook Insights show steady increase of followers to Essex Police Thurrock page, which now stands at 11,175 on the 01/11/21.

3.6.1 Next steps are to continue to make better links to faith and ethnic groups. Through the challenge panel that has been set up there is good headway being made.

### 3.7 Safer Streets

3.7.1 Safer Streets officially launched in Grays on 19<sup>th</sup> August. This was part of a successful bid for £432,000 supported by an additional £193,000 in match funding to implement new safety initiatives set to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

3.7.2 Through this funding we will provide better lighting in the streets, update and improve our CCTV equipment, create a 'shop safe' communication system for shops, improve the park through solar lighting and have two funded dedicated Grays Town Community Engagement Officers (TCEO's) to prevent anti-social behaviour and enforce the Public Space Protection Order that prevents street drinking, littering and spitting in the town centre. Since being in post on 16/8/21 to 11/11/21 they have achieved the following against their performance measures:

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Members Enquiries	2
Service Requests	15
Stage 1 / Stage 2 Complaints	0
Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's)	24
Notices	3
Site visits	841
KPI (1) Business engagement visits	571
KPI (2) High Vis patrol in hours	236.25
KPI (3) Intel reports submitted	126
KPI (4) Referrals for support	213
KPI (5) CCTV interactions	77
KPI (6) Community Surgeries	2
KPI (7) Community Operations	1



3.7.3 The activity planned through Safer Streets will reduce crime by preventing robberies and thefts taking place on the streets, deterring criminal behaviour and improving the feeling of safety for everyone in the community, particularly women, who may be feeling vulnerable.

### 3.8 Tackling Offending

- Reducing reoffending is a statutory duty of both Local Authorities and CSP's
- The new Probation Service has been in place since 26 June 2021. The new Probation Service is responsible for managing all those on a community order or licence following their release from prison in England and Wales.
- A new criteria has been agreed for our Integrated Offender Management Cohort which is now managing 27 offenders of which 17 are currently in custody.
- There has been a continued focus on the promotion of Restorative Justice with 29 referrals in the year ending Sept 21. 35% of referrals were in relation to neighbour nuisance. There was a 92% victim satisfaction survey rate.
- The Private Housing Well Homes project provides temporary housing accommodation to prolific ex-offenders and works closely with IOM and Thurrock Inclusions to provide employment and training interventions to increase their employment opportunities
- Opportunity to engage with users when drug supplies disrupted through Op Cloud - a police-led initiative to text details of treatment services to those identified as being customers of a county line phone number that Essex Police has intercepted

We are in the processes of refreshing our strategy for 2022 and action plan to reflect the changes in management of services and criteria for offenders who come under the IOM management.

### 3.9 Counter Terrorism and Extremism

3.9.1 The Local Government Association have put in place a self-assessment toolkit for Councils to benchmark themselves against over 10 key areas.

3.9.2 Thurrock's Prevent Board have reviewed this with current situation as of Sept 21. Of the 10 key areas measured within the assessment we have 7 rated as green and 3 as amber with actions identified. The areas we recognise we need to improve on are:

1. **Training** - Our Training offer is strong and continues to be delivered virtually by the My Learning Team with local input and knowledge based on the current local profile from the CSP. Home Office are currently reviewing the offer and we will update in line with this, however it is rated amber as conscious it would be beneficial to

complete a needs assessment across all teams to establish any areas to focus on.

2. The current school safeguarding audit will enable us to ensure we are meeting needs across our education establishments.
3. **Venue Hire** - Now community assets have re-opened we will support education settings/ licensed premises and community venues with guidance on venue hire and speakers.
4. **Community Engagement** We are mindful that there is always more we can do to reach out to a wide range of our communities and that this is something we would appreciate the ongoing support of members to assist with.

3.9.3 The Home Office required the first Assurance Statement in relation to Channel Panels to be returned in April 2021. This forms part of a strengthened quality assurance framework for all Channel Panels across England and Wales, which includes an enhanced role for the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) in strengthening oversight of panels, enabling those requiring assistance and support to be identified. This recognises the importance of Channel Panels as part of Prevent delivery, and the related roles within them. All 5 areas of control are now rated as green.

3.9.4 Members are appraised of the current risks in relation to Community Safety at *Appendix 4*

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress against our priorities for 2021/22, emerging concerns and actions taken to mitigate.

4.2 This report provides opportunity for members to be involved in future direction of the CSP priorities.

4.3 The response to “Community Violence” requires a multi-agency coordinated both proactive and reactive approach across Essex.

4.4 Members of the CGS O & S are requested to approve Thurrock’s statement on Modern Day Slavery and recommend to Cabinet for approval.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 The Statement on Modern Day Slavery has been to the Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee and their recommendations requested are within the revised version presented to this committee for approval.

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

**People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

6.2 We have worked closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop the proposed new domain in relation to Community Safety within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026. When agreed we look forward to the focus this will provide on the wider determinants of health including domestic violence, exploitation, ASB, safe places, feeling safe, gangs and county lines.

6.3 The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted that there is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm and that older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders. Young people are at greater risk of exploitation including sexual, trafficking, cyber bullying, radicalisation and gang related violence. Hate crime within the disabled, transgender and sexual orientation communities continue to have low rates of reporting. Learning disabled are at risk of being “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

## 7. Implications

### 7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Senior Management Accountant**

The CSP has a grant from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, the same as last year and an £18,347 contribution from Thurrock Council. These funds have been allocated to support delivery of the priorities.

Through the VVU we have been granted an additional £176k to support targeted work to tackle violence and vulnerability.

£432,000 Safer Streets government funding secured by a joint bid with the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

£31,500 has been committed in 2021/22 by the Council and Community Safety Partnership to support a pilot project in Thurrock to address the issue of off road motorbike nuisance.

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**  
**Deputy Head of Law**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**  
**Team Manager, Community Development**

The gaps identified in 6.3 with regards to equality are addressed within the action plans.

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children

This report outlines the Council and its Partners commitment to ensuring they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act legislation.

## 8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Partnership Strategic assessment 2020  
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-assessment-2021-v01.pdf>
- Partnership Delivery Plan 2021/22  
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2021-v02.pdf>
- Annual Public Health Report for Thurrock 2020  
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/annual-health-report-2019-v01.pdf>
- Youth Justice Plan 2021/24
- Police and Crime Plan  
[www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/)
- [Sexual Violence and Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

## 9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – Synergy Report into male violence against women and girls  
[Male sexual violence and abuse against women and girls](#)
- Appendix 2 – Parent leaflet
- Appendix 3 – Statement in relation to modern day slavery

- Appendix 4 – Horizon Scanning

**Report Author:**

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