

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Plan

2014 – 17



Refreshed July 2015

Introduction

The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has been in place since 1998 and from 1st April 2015, commences year two of their fifth Community Safety Plan. The purpose of the refresh is to identify some of the achievements from the last 12 months as well as ensure that the Partnership continues to focus their efforts on the issues that are of most importance.

The Partnership will continue to work with community groups to build even better, stronger and more effective partnerships to deliver community safety throughout Huntingdonshire.

The Partnership recognises that Anti-Social Behaviour of varying levels continues to be a concern within our communities so this will remain a priority for the Partnership. They will build on successes by identifying what has worked well but also continue to target the most vulnerable as well as repeat victims of anti-social behaviour. On commencement of the three year plan in April 2014, the Partnership committed to responding to crime types that they believed had the potential to blight our District, these being Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Modern Day Slavery (previously Human Trafficking). Therefore to try and provide an effective response to these issues, the Partnership commissioned Strategic Assessments to establish the extent of these problems in Huntingdonshire. These documents have proven to be very beneficial resulting in focusing the work of the Partnership.

The Partnership has received confirmation from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, Sir Graham Bright that they will once again receive a funding grant in the form of the Community Safety Fund for 2015 – 16. This is recognition of the positive outcomes achieved by the projects commissioned by the Partnership during 2014 – 15 and once again the funding will be awarded to projects that will focus on the identified priorities.

As a Partnership, we feel very optimistic about the remaining two years of the current Community Safety Plan and we also remain positive about the challenges that we continue to face in the form of complex crimes. By continuing to work together effectively we will endeavour to maintain Huntingdonshire as a safe place to live, work and visit.

If you would like more information about the Strategic Assessment or the Community Safety Partnership, please visit our website at www.huntsdc.gov.uk or contact the Community Safety Team at Huntingdonshire District Council on 01480 388388.

Chief Inspector Laura Hunt
Chairperson, Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

What did the Partnership aim to address in their Community Safety Plan 2014 - 17

In 2014 – 17, the HCSP will focus on Victims and Vulnerability by:

- **Identifying and supporting Vulnerable People**
- **Identifying and responding to issues in Vulnerable Places**
- **Target those who cause us most harm**
- **Target matters that are of most concern to our communities**

We will do this by:

- Better support to high risk victims of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Responding to increases in violent crime including domestic abuse
- Targeting resources into identified priority areas of the District
- Commissioning research into the identified priority areas and put a response in place

What did the Partnership achieve in Year 1 of their three year Community Safety Plan

- The commissioning and receipt of four strategic assessment documents that focused on Vulnerable Victims, Child Sexual Exploitation, Oxmoor and Violence;
- The creation of a task and finish group focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation. This group has a focused action plan that reports to the Partnership as well as the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB);
- The creation of a task and finish group focusing on the Oxmoor area of Huntingdon. This group has created an action plan that focuses on all factors that makes this area vulnerable to increases in crime, disorder and anti-social and has a dedicated action plan that reports to the Partnership as well as other relevant strategic groups;
- The funding of a project that works with children and young people who are involved in anti-social behaviour as a result of suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- Contribution towards the Bobby Scheme to support vulnerable victims in the Huntingdonshire area;
- The funding of the Dodgems Project to work with male victims and perpetrators;
- The organisation and hosting of a conference for Huntingdonshire professionals that focused on victims and vulnerabilities;
- The organisation of a conference for Huntingdonshire professionals focusing on mental health;

Performance

Working in partnership, the six statutory partners of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership along with co-opted partner organisations have collectively helped towards achieving the following in the last 12 months:

- A 1% reduction in total crime despite their being a 4% increase across Cambridgeshire as a whole;
- A 10% increase in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour compared to last year and a 28% reduction since 2009/ 10;
- Dwelling burglary has reduced by 17.2% and vehicle crime, which has always been a difficult crime for the Partnership to achieve sustained decreases has reduced by 18.9%;
- A 7% reduction over the last 2 years of admissions to Hinchingsbrooke A & E department for assaults;
- A downward trend of numbers of incidents associated with the pub clusters suggesting the continued effectiveness of the Pub Watch and Traffic Light Schemes that exist within each of the market towns of Huntingdonshire;
- Increase in reporting of Domestic Abuse suggesting that victims have gained confidence in the services available to help address this type of crime

Year Two of the Three Year Plan

Continuing the focus on Victims and Vulnerabilities, over the next 12 months the Partnership will focus on the following priorities:

- The building of strong, resilient, cohesive communities including a focus on the new duty to have 'due regards to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism';
- High and medium risk victims of Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Tackling Violence against the Person; and
- Modern Day Slavery

Our Priorities in More Detail

Overarching Priority – Focus on Victims and Vulnerabilities by building more Strong, Resilient and Cohesive Communities
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Although Huntingdonshire is a very safe place to live, work and visit, how our communities feel is based on their day to day experiences of where they live. Research shows that because of a number of factors those living in some areas of the District are more likely to be a victim of crime than someone living in another area, it is therefore important that resources are focused into priority areas. Within our communities we already have effective groups made up of local residents who are keen to engage and therefore there is an opportunity for the Community Safety Partnership to utilise this resource.
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Aims

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage with residents and groups, particularly in identified priority neighbours where numbers of repeat victims are higher, to understand local concerns and seek feasible solutions.• Engage our communities in the fight against crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.• Ensure prompt and appropriate responses to community concerns that positively impact on confidence.• Ensure our communities are aware of the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the services that are available to support them.• Raise awareness of the Prevent agenda and how communities can be proactive in the fight against terrorism. |
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Performance Measures

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-establish Neighbourhood Forums.• The number of 'Operations' or campaigns run on an annual basis that require the input of our communities to provide information to disrupt crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.• Positive associations and a 'place' within community groups.• Creation of a co-located team in a vulnerable location that can help address community concerns.• Greater understanding in terms of service provision for those suffering from mental ill health.• The progress made by the Oxmoor Task and Finish Group and the outcomes achieved on their action plan. |
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Priority 1 – High and Medium Risk Victims of Anti-Social Behaviour

Although reported incidents of anti-social behaviour have continued to decrease in Huntingdonshire over a number of years, anti-social behaviour continues to be the number one concern for our communities. Anti-social behaviour can take many forms and affects everyone differently. Unfortunately, many people are victims of anti-social behaviour on more than one occasion and often do not know who to report it to and what support they can expect as a victim. Also, many people feel that because of where they live they should have a higher tolerance to certain behaviours and just learn to live with the anti-social behaviour that is going on within their community.

The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has a zero tolerance to anti-social behaviour and already has working groups in place with established and effective policies and procedures in relation to responding to anti-social behaviour. But the Partnership must prioritise those victims who may be more vulnerable and therefore may present as high or medium risk.

Aims

- Increase public confidence that effective action is being taken against anti-social behaviour.
- Support diversionary activities, empower local communities and carry out targeted enforcement against perpetrators by working with partners to continually improve the response to anti-social behaviour in Huntingdonshire through joint working, sharing of information and training.
- Ensure the shared use across all partner agencies of the Risk Assessment scoring process and agreed follow up actions.
- Continue to strengthen the use of the ECINs case management system across all partner organisations.
- Target resources into areas where people are more likely to be victims or repeat victims of anti-social behaviour.
- Raise awareness within our communities of the support available across partner agencies to help address anti-social behaviour.

Performance Measures

- Continued % reductions in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- Increased use of powers available within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- Reductions in victims score in response to ASB being addressed effectively.
- Number of targeted interventions in areas of the District where people most likely to be victims of ASB.
- ASB reducing at same rate in priority wards compared to the rest of the District.
- Number of high and medium risk cases archived on ECINs.

Priority 2 – Child Sexual Exploitation

The true scale of child sexual exploitation (CSE) is unclear and this has been recognised at a national level and therefore on a District level, it is even less clear. But what we do know is that CSE does happen in Huntingdonshire and that there are both victims and perpetrators residing in the District. Many victims don't recognise that they are being exploited as well as the issue that parents/ carers/ teachers don't recognise the signs of exploitation and therefore it goes on for long periods of time. There are many factors that may lead to a person perpetrating or becoming a victim of CSE and it is important that the Partnership raises awareness of this crime within our communities everyday lives so that Huntingdonshire can be proactive rather than reactive in response to CSE.

Aims

- Utilising the recently produced Huntingdonshire CSE Strategic Assessment and with advise and support from the Cambridgeshire LSCB, create an awareness raising

<p>plan in relation to CSE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness about the signs of possible CSE. • Ensure partners know how to signpost victims utilising Cambridgeshire LSCB approved pathways. • Identify appropriate training for professionals working with children and young people to attend. • Identify trades where CSE may be more likely to occur and provide appropriate and regular training for professionals. • Utilise the local media to raise awareness about CSE.
<p>Performance Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the reporting of CSE as this would demonstrate a confidence in the support available. • Number of identified trades undergone LSCB approved training. • Number of campaigns run in relation to CSE. • Number of victims identified and signposted. • Number of training events held and number of professionals attended.

<p>Priority 3 – Tackling Violence Against the Person</p> <p>Although there appears to be a downward trend in incidents of violent crime across the District the Partnership must not be complacent. Violent crime significantly impacts both the victim/s and the communities in which the incidents occur and the Partnership recognises that there are a number of things that can be done in response to violent crime.</p> <p>There has been a slight reduction in the volume of violence against the person occurring within the pub clusters and some of this success can be attributed to the effectiveness of the Pub Watch Schemes that have been heavily invested in by partner organisations.</p> <p>There continues to be concerns in relation to sexual offences as there has been a significant increase in the number of incidents reported in the last 12 months but it is still believed to be a heavily underreported crime.</p> <p>Current trends in Domestic Abuse (DA) show an increase across the County in the volume of police-reported incidents. Cambridgeshire recorded an increase of 6.0% compared with last year. Work in the County continues to focus on increasing reporting and the Constabulary have also taken steps since the HMIC inspection to ensure appropriate recording and handling of DA takes place. Increases in reporting also suggests that people are gaining confidence in services and are coming forward to report crimes and incidents of domestic abuse. Huntingdonshire however, has not seen as large an increase in reporting in the last year as other districts.</p>
<p>Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Pub Watch Schemes to maintain a zero tolerance to alcohol related disorder. • Utilise the powers available under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to respond to perpetrators of alcohol related disorder and locations affected by misuse of alcohol. • Reduce alcohol related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. • Increase confidence to increase reporting of crimes against the person in particular sexual violence and hate crimes. • Support the work of the County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership to increase reporting and reduce the number of repeat incidents.
<p>Performance Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce incidents of violence against the person. • Powers utilised under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 legislation.

- Increase reports of incidents of sexual violence.
- Increase reports of hate crime.
- Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse.

Priority 4 – Modern Day Slavery

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received royal assent on 26th March 2015 and is designed to tackle slavery in the UK and consolidates previous offences relating to human trafficking and slavery. Research shows that a large proportion of cases are never recognised or reported and do not appear in any statistics or measures of the size of the problem. In June 2014, Operation Lynx was successful in Huntingdonshire resulting in eight people being arrested for crimes in relation to labour exploitation and human trafficking, so it is clear that these crimes happen in our District.

Aims

- Raise awareness about Modern Day Slavery, what it is and the part that communities play in identifying potential victims.
- Ensure professionals are aware of how to report victims.
- Target resources into priority areas.
- Create a sustainable multi-agency method of identifying and targeting addresses where victims may be held.
- Provide training for professionals.
- Work with vulnerable communities.
- Work with recruitment agencies and employers to raise awareness.
- Creation of a volunteer service to support new arrivals from the EU to the UK.

Performance Measures

- Increased reporting of potential victims and/ or suspicious addresses.
- Increased number of perpetrators brought to justice.
- Number of training sessions delivered.
- Support service created.

Implementation

To ensure that the Partnership remains focused on their priorities develops appropriate and necessary plans and work streams and allocates funding and resources accordingly, action plans will be produced and monitored on a quarterly basis for each priority area. The following practises are also in place:

ASB Problem Solving Groups

Three ASB Problem Solving Groups will be held each month, based on the Police sectors. The groups will operate with the ECINs case management system running live so that information can be uploaded immediately. Partners involved in this process will be expected to update case files and complete tasks in between meetings so that progress can be continuous. Each case will have an identified lead, the progression and development on the case will ultimately be their responsibility.

Task and Finish Groups

These groups will be developed in line with need and once the work stream has been implemented then the group will be disbanded. This is to ensure best use of resources and enable officers to focus their efforts into other priorities areas. There will be the flexibility that groups can be re-formed should the need arise.

Data and Research

The Community Safety Partnership has commissioned the Research Group at Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver four strategic assessments on a quarterly basis over the next 12 months. The assessments will specifically focus on the priorities identified by the Partnership and will help clarify the reality of the issue, gaps, good practise as well as evaluating any work carried out to date. These will be working documents that can be referred back to as well as shared appropriately to ensure that as many people and partners benefit from them as possible.

Through the use of an information sharing agreement, partner agencies will be expected to provide data that will help form any research carried out on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership. This process will also identify gaps in access to data and where possible efforts will be made to create working agreements to enable access to this data.

Finance and Performance

The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has been awarded a grant of £22, 990 for the financial period 2015 – 16. This grant is known as the Community Safety Fund and has been awarded by the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Sir Graham Bright. The Partnership is very conscious that the amount that they have been awarded has reduced on an annual basis but that there is a need to continue addressing issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour effectively. The Partnership will adhere to both a proactive and reactive approach to responding to their priorities, this in turn should prevent numbers of crimes escalating as well as allowing for flexibility in response to need.

There is a requirement as a result of receiving the grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide a six monthly progress and achievement report as well as a six monthly financial monitoring form. There will also be a 'Star Chamber' process where representatives from the Partnership will meet with Sir Graham Bright to update on the initiatives funded via his grant allocation.

The Partnership also has their own performance management process; this involves the use of detailed action plans which include estimated timescales. Each plan has a lead officer and

updates are provided at each Partnership meeting. There is an expectation that all members of the Partnership will allow their organisations to actively participate and deliver the action plans to ensure the best outcome possible.

Legislation

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced on 21st October 2014 and has resulted in greater flexibility to the Local Authority and Constabulary to respond to persistent perpetrators and hotspot areas for anti-social behaviour. The Community Safety Partnership is committed to supporting the use of this legislation where there is evidence that the powers should be utilised.

Modern Slavery Act 2015

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received royal assent on 26th March 2015 and makes provision in relation to slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. With powers now available under this new legislation, there is an opportunity for the Community Safety Partnership to focus their efforts into priority areas and establish a proactive response to these types of crime. The legislation also places a duty to co-operate on the Local Authority Police and Health Service (public authorities) in relation to requests made by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

The Government considered that there was a need to legislate in order to reduce the terrorism threat to the UK. On 29 August 2014, the independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) raised the UK national terrorist threat level from SUBSTANTIAL to SEVERE. This means that a terrorist attack is “highly likely”. Nearly 600 people from the UK who are of interest to the security services are thought to have travelled to Syria and the region since the start of the conflict, and the security services estimate that around half of those have returned. In the context of this heightened threat to our national security, the provisions in this Act will strengthen the legal powers and capabilities of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to disrupt terrorism and prevent individuals from being radicalised in the first instance.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 received royal assent on 12th February 2015 and places a duty on certain bodies to have “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*”. In complying with the duty all specified authorities, as a starting point, should demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area, institution or body. This risk will vary greatly and can change rapidly; no area, institution or body is risk free. Whilst the type and scale of activity that will address the risk will vary, all specified authorities will need to give due consideration to it.

Prevent work depends on effective partnership. To demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, specified authorities must demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local *Prevent* co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships.