

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership – Six Monthly Update
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Environment) Tuesday 13th June 2017
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Executive Councillor for Community Resilience, Cllr Angie Dickinson
<b>Report by:</b>	Head of Community, Chris Stopford
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

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**Executive Summary:**

The report summarises the activity of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership for the last six months, from October 2016 – March 2017.

Overall, rates of crime in Huntingdonshire have been falling over the last ten years, mirroring the national trend. This report shows that although there have been increases in overall recorded crime over the last 12 months, with increases in the categories of anti-social behaviour and violent crime, the longer term trend shows reductions in all crime types. It is evident that some of the increases are likely to be a result of the new crime recording standards that were introduced by the Home Office in 2016. These standards follow the principles outlined by the 2014 HMIC report, “Crime Recording: Making the Victim Count” and set out the Home Office’s vision for improved recording of crime data by the Police.

The Partnership has made great strides in understanding local issues by commissioning strategic assessments and in developing and delivering local projects on issues that have a significant impact on the victims and the communities where they occur. The Partnership recognises that the priorities that they are working to tackle are not easily solved and that their initiatives and interventions will, in some instances, take some time to come to fruition.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to note progress to date and comment on the outcomes of the performance of the Community Safety Partnership over the last six months so that their comments can be used to inform the Partnership’s work plan for 2017-18 and beyond.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to agree to receive future updates on an annual basis, receiving the Community Safety Partnership’s annual review for information and comment.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members a summary of recent activity and outcomes of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership for the six month period from 1st October 2016 – 31st March 2017.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) was set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aims to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the district through the close partnership work of a wide range of organisations. The partnership is administered and supported by the HDC Community Safety Team. The Partnership is made up of representatives from six statutory partners: Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC); Cambridgeshire Constabulary; Cambridgeshire County Council; Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG; and the Probation Service; plus two invited partner organisations: Luminus Group and Link to Change.
- 2.2 The Partnership's board includes the following HDC representatives: Executive Councillor for Community Resilience, Cllr Angie Dickinson and Overview and Scrutiny Panel Member, Cllr Jill Tavener. HDC provides specialist officer support from the Community Division: Head of Community, Chris Stopford; and Community Resilience Manager, Claudia Deeth.
- 2.3 In the past six months, the Partnership has been involved in a number of key activities, as noted in the following paragraphs. The most significant activity areas have been:
- Reviewing the delivery of the 2014-17 Community Safety Plan,
  - Identifying the priority areas for the 2017-20 Community Safety Plan and producing a draft plan for Partnership approval in July 2017,
  - Considering commissioned strategic assessment reports in previously identified priority subject areas, and
  - Reviewing the effectiveness of locally commissioned projects

## **3. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN- PRIORITY AREAS**

- 3.1 The Partnership sets out local priorities in a three year, annually refreshed Community Safety Plan. The period outlined in this report, October 2016 – March 2017, was the last half of the final year of the 2014-17 plan. For the outgoing Plan, the Partnership prioritised the strategic theme 'Victims and Vulnerabilities' with the aim of:
- Identifying and supporting vulnerable people;
  - Identifying and responding to issues in vulnerable places;
  - Targeting those who cause most harm; and
  - Targeting matters that are of most concern to our communities
- 3.2 The Partnership's emerging priorities have been informed by ongoing data monitoring and a number of specific Strategic Assessments, commissioned in 2016–17, which focused on:

- Domestic Abuse
- Oxmoor
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Violence

3.3 This report outlines the work of the Partnership over the last six months, so will outline the learning from the strategic assessments on Child Sexual Exploitation and Violence which were undertaken in this period and will also provide updates on the initiatives and projects that the Partnership has commissioned in the past year.

#### 4. INFORMATION FROM THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS

##### 4.1 Strategic Assessment 1: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

*Involving exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities'.*

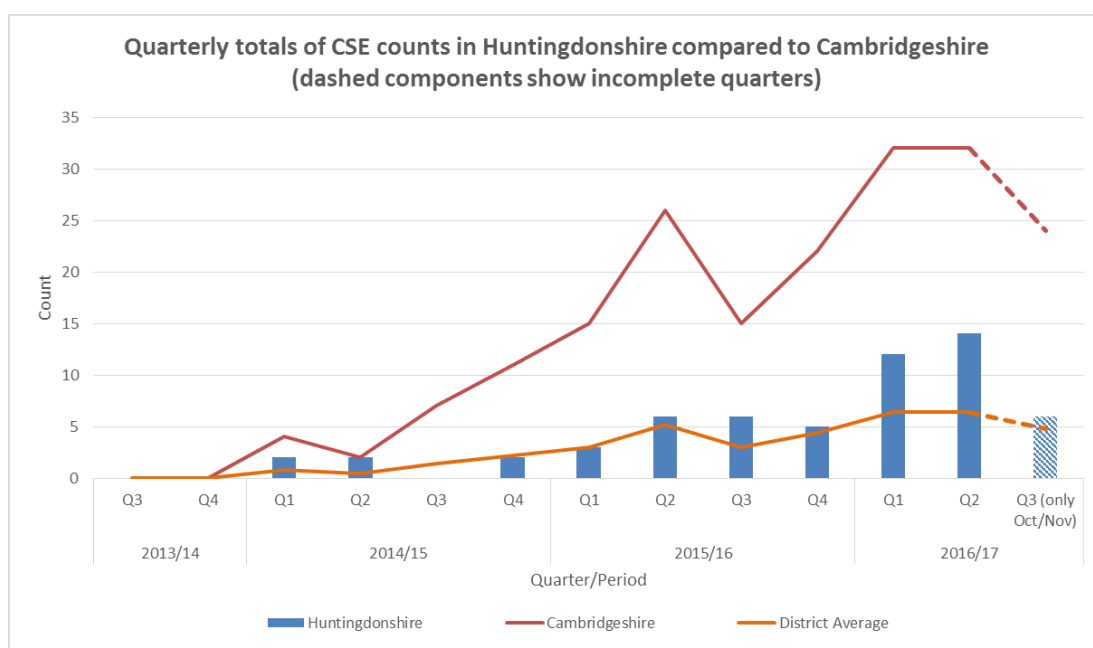
Factors associated with **the risk** of sexual exploitation are known to include:

- family difficulties;
- experience of different types of abuse and neglect;
- experience of the care system;
- a history of educational difficulty, including truancy and exclusion from school;
- a history of running away or going missing;
- drug and alcohol misuse;
- delinquency and gang involvement.

4.1.1 A previous priority analysis of CSE in Huntingdonshire took place in 2014/15. This set out the risk factors and described the circumstances under which CSE may become an issue. The report identified Huntingdon North and St Neots Eaton Socon as priority wards in the context of these risk factors and noted that preventative work and awareness-raising activities should target these areas. It also noted that the Huntingdon East, St Neots Eynesbury, and St Neots Priory Park wards each have higher background risk factors that may be cause for concern regarding CSE. In terms of specific risk elements, Huntingdon East was identified as having a high volume of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs), St Neots Eynesbury was identified as a location where drug use is relatively high whilst St Neots Priory Park had the highest rate of teenage pregnancies.

4.1.2 The strategic assessment on CSE produced in 2016 revealed that evidence does not indicate that the nature and scale of CSE is as severe as the Partnership feared it might be within the district. Within the possible modalities of offending, the evidence currently suggests a less organised type of abuse, taking place between peers or single abusers, often utilising online communication routes to target potential victims. Gaining this greater understanding of CSE has provided an opportunity for prevention work with

potential victims to target the message. The current data shows that a small number of victims and potential victims within Huntingdonshire are being identified and referred appropriately through the established pathways led by the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB).



4.1.3 The recent national revelations of historic abuse of boys and young men through sports clubs shows that previously unknown elements can continue to emerge many years after the event. However, it is considered that local agencies are better placed now than they were in the past and there are already processes and procedures in place that will be able to identify and tackle emerging issues more quickly than was previously possible. This is an area that will require ongoing monitoring to ensure that potential victims are not missed.

4.1.4 It is difficult to assess the specific impact the local Partnership has had on this issue given the number of other agencies and partnerships working on this agenda in an intensive way in the last 2 years. However, the Partnership has contributed directly to this area through direct commissioned activity in targeted fields, as summarised below:

- Raising public confidence and awareness:
  - “Chelsea’s Choice” – a school based intervention based on awareness raising and prevention
  - “Tough Love” – A performance delivered to secondary schools across Huntingdonshire to help young people identify coercive behaviour.
- Strengthening existing partnerships and leadership
  - Close working with locality workers.
  - Use of referral pathways for at-risk individuals (Operation MakeSafe)
  - Multi-agency case work systems have been implemented
- Intelligence and performance monitoring
  - Use of referral pathways for at-risk individuals (Operation MakeSafe)

- Use of strategic assessments to monitor progress.
- Learning & development
  - Staff awareness and training has been delivered.

4.1.5 Following receipt of the CSE strategic assessment, the Partnership remains committed to contributing to the following LSCB work streams:

- Raising public confidence and awareness;
- Strengthening existing partnerships and leadership;
- Intelligence and performance monitoring;
- Learning & development.

#### 4.2 Strategic Assessment 2: Violence

Violent incidents in police recorded crimes are referred to as “violence against the person” and include homicide, violence with injury and “violence without injury”.

**Violence with injury** - *includes all incidents of wounding and assault with injury. Homicide is only included for police recorded crime. Police recorded crime also includes attempts at inflicting injury, although the CSEW would not include these if no actual injury occurred.*

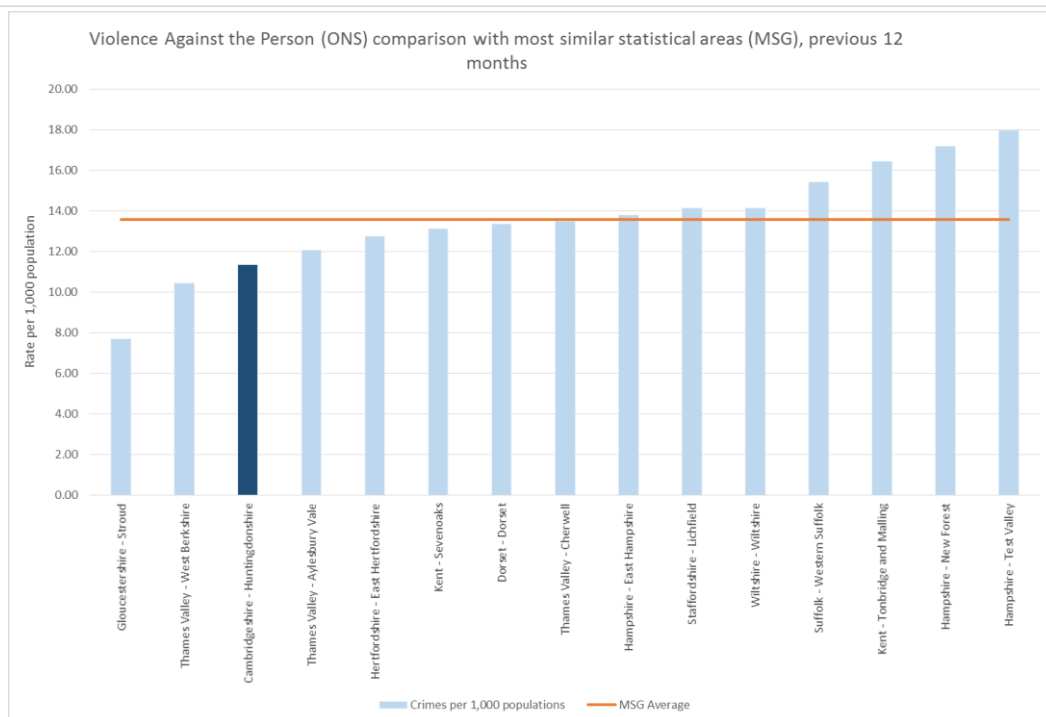
**Violence without injury** - *includes all incidents of assault without injury and, from the CSEW only, attempted assaults. From July 2013, police recorded crime no longer includes under this sub-category, possession of weapons offences and public order offence.*

4.2.1 The HMIC inspection report “Crime Recording: Making the Victim Count” was published in 2014 and made significant changes to the way police record crimes, notably insisting that crimes are recorded irrespective of whether or not the victim engages with the recording process. This has had an impact on overall police recorded crime figures, including police recorded violence, as offences which would previously not have been recorded are now included in the statistics. Since 2014, police recorded violent crime has been rising both nationally and locally (at the district and county level). Specifically there has been a steep rise in violence without injury, which is believed is significantly impacted by the noted change in recording practices.

4.2.2 The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has worked to reduce violence in the district over the past decade. Violent crime significantly impacts individual victims and wider communities and the Partnership recognises that it can impact on these issues.

4.2.3 The Partnership has specifically worked to reduce alcohol related violence in the town centres and to reduce repeat instances of domestic abuse. Previous strategic assessment analysis presented to the Partnership noted that there has been a slight reduction in the volume of violence against the person occurring within the pub clusters. Some of this success can be attributed to the effectiveness of the Pub Watch Schemes that have been heavily invested in by partner organisations.

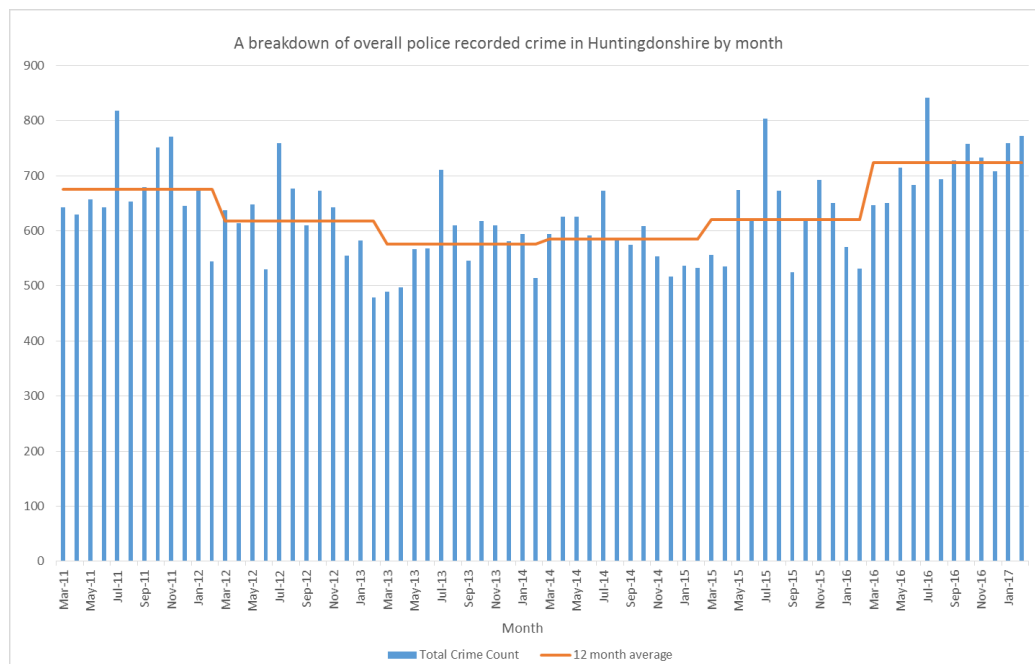
4.2.4 Since 2014, police recorded violent crime has been rising both nationally and locally (at the district and county level). Specifically there has been a steep rise in violence without injury. The Crime Survey of England and Wales does not reflect these rises, implying that the increases in police recorded crime result from changes to recording practises and are not reflecting rises in the actual number of crimes occurring. This is borne out by the relatively static number of ambulance call outs across the district between 2014 and 2016. The trends in violent offences are shown in the graphs below.



4.2.5 Following receipt of the strategic assessment on violent crime, the Partnership agreed to:

- Maintain a focus on vulnerability to aid in discouraging children and young people from becoming involved in gang activity;
- Continue the focus on Oxmoor as a vulnerable area and review the impact of existing work;
- Review the key findings of the upcoming county-wide offender needs assessment (due June 2017) to create a greater understanding of the profile of known existing offenders that cause most harm across the district; and
- Build on existing knowledge of the scale and nature of hate crime across the district and look to tackle this, where relevant.

4.3 Overall crime Assessment. At the end of March 2017, the Partnership also received an end of year review that considered the level of all crime types across the District for the previous 12 months. The review indicated that there had been year on year increases in overall police recorded crime between 2014 and 2016 and the course of the three year plan in Huntingdonshire. As noted above, increases are in part due to police recording practices and in recording volumes and are thought to be in particular areas such as violence and domestic abuse.



4.3.1 Despite these recent increases in recorded crime, overall rates of crime in Huntingdonshire have reduced over the last ten years. This mirrors trends across the Country. A total of 8,257 police recorded crimes occurred in Huntingdonshire during 2016 which, although an 11.3% increase on 2015, was 14% less than in 2007 which highlights the longer term decreases. In 2016, 8,257 police recorded incidents equated to around 46.5 crimes per 1,000 population, which is down significantly on the 2007 baseline (58.3 crimes per 1,000 population).

- 4.3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour is established as a long term priority for the Partnership and has seen long term decreases across the district, despite increases over the last twelve months. In 2016, there were 4,041 recorded ASB incidents in Huntingdonshire which is an increase from 3,496 in 2015.
- 4.3.3 The end of year review also identified the following existing and emerging issues with a recommendation that the Partnership may wish to prioritise these areas in their next three year Plan (2017 – 20):
- Cyber-enabled Crimes
  - Revenge Porn
  - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Offender Needs Assessment
  - Violence Against Women and Girls

## **5. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN PRIORITIES 2017 - 20**

- 5.1 The Community Safety Partnership is currently finalising a new three year plan for the years 2017-2020. In developing this plan, the Partnership has recognised that, over the last 5 years, there has been a considerable change in the complexity of the types of crimes that the Partnership has had to respond to.
- 5.2 In the past, it was common for Partnerships to focus their efforts entirely on tackling high volume crimes, such as dwelling burglary, shop theft, vehicle crime, they are now expected to contribute to local responses to complex issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Familial Domestic Abuse, which were previously “hidden” crimes.
- 5.3 Partnership responses are now expected to take full account of local issues, working to prevent, enforce and protect the community. Although all crimes have a victim, victims of the types of crimes noted in 5.2 require specialist support and intervention from a number of different organisations over often an extensive period of time. This means that the Partners have been required to broaden their skills and expertise to ensure that they are able to respond to these more difficult issues- and to reflect these complexities in their plans.
- 5.4 Following consideration of the end of year review and data from the other strategic assessments and consultation with our communities, the Partnership agreed, at their meeting held in April 2017, that their focus would remain on “Victims and Vulnerability” and that they would build on what had been achieved over the previous plan period and continue to focus their efforts on the following areas:
- Identifying and supporting vulnerable people;
  - Identifying and responding to issues in vulnerable places;
  - Target those who cause most harm; and
  - Target matters that are of most concern to our communities

## **6. SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

- 6.1 Within its new Plan, the Partnership is clear on the importance of working together with the belief that we are ‘stronger together’. The Council is



committed to this principle and to the ongoing work of and support for the Partnership.

- 6.2 In addition to being a participant in the Community Safety Partnership, as previously noted, Huntingdonshire District Council provides specialist technical and administrative support to Partnership meetings. The Council also contributes to the work of the Partnership through its routine enforcement and regulatory activities. The work programmes for relevant officers reflect the agreed priorities of the Partnership where these can be aligned to Council priorities.
- 6.3 Operational support is also provided from within the Community division. This service has recently undergone a restructure resulting in the creation of a new team, the Community Resilience Team. This team has two community based functions: a team of community development officers, working to assist local communities by building capacity and encouraging partnership working principles; and a team of multi-skilled community enforcement officers able to respond to issues of anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling and stray dogs, all of which contribute to levels of crime and disorder. As part of their agreed team plans, these officers will work closely with partner agencies to 'problem solve' specific issues as well as engaging in longer term work on issues that may be having an impact within a community. Under a Partnership agreement, officers will also be able to operate from partners' sites as well as Police Officers being able to work from Pathfinder House and Eastfield House.
- 6.4 The ECINs Case Management system, an on-line case management and information sharing tool introduced in 2013, continues to be used by the District Council Community Team as well as partner agencies to report, record and manage cases relating to individuals who are involved with or are victims of anti-social behaviour. Considerable effort has been made by the District Council to ensure partner agencies are actively using the system and this has resulted in more effective use of this cloud-based information system.

## **7. PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

- 7.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gave new powers to Councils to prevent and take enforcement action against Anti-Social Behaviour and the Partnership has been supportive of the use of the available tools and powers.
- 7.2 These powers have led to the implementation of two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in St Neots. The Orders are the first that have been introduced in Cambridgeshire to prevent the alarm, harassment and distress caused by those who choose to use their vehicle in an anti-social manner and have been implemented as a result of persistent complaints from those living in the affected areas.

## **8. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

8.1 The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan has clear links to the Corporate Plan across a number of areas, but especially under the theme of 'Enabling Communities'. Much of the work already being carried by the Partnership will be contributing to the objectives that have been set out under this theme by the Council. This link is also evident in the Community Safety Partnership's new plan, covering the three years to 2020.

## **9. OTHER ISSUES**

9.1 The statutory partners that make up the Partnership have and some are still, undergoing changes, restructures and reviews. It is important that this does not impact on the effectiveness of the Partnership. What is evident is that resources have reduced and therefore the Partnership must be smarter about the way they respond to issues.

9.2 Grant funding for local crime reduction work is provided, on a year to year basis, by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). As overall resources have decreased, the PCC has increased scrutiny over the manner in which local projects are funded, aiming to ensure local actions explicitly contribute to the objective within the wider Police and Crime Plan.

9.3 The PCC has indicated that the Partnership can apply to receive up to £23k for allocation in 2017–18. Prior to receiving the monies, the Partnership must clearly demonstrate how the funding will be spent and how the spend will help address the priorities contained within his Plan.

9.4 Taking these issues into account, the Partnership's new plan for 2017-20 takes cognisance of local crime patterns and makes a commitment to, wherever appropriate, linking local work to county-wide, regional and national priorities.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

10.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the outcomes of the performance of the Community Safety Partnership over the last six months in order that their comments can be used to inform the work plan for 2017-18 and beyond.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan 2014–17, Refreshed July 2016
- Draft Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2017 – 20.
- The following quarterly Strategic Assessments are available at <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>
  - Quarter 1 2016/17 Strategic Assessment – Domestic Abuse
  - Quarter 2 2016/17 Strategic Assessment – Oxmoor
  - Quarter 3 2016/17 Strategic Assessment – Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Quarter 4 2016/17 Strategic Assessment – Violence and End of Year Review

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