

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Annual Review 2017-18

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) – Wednesday 6th June 2018

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Partnership and Well-being – Councillor John Palmer

**Report by:** Chris Stopford, Head of Community

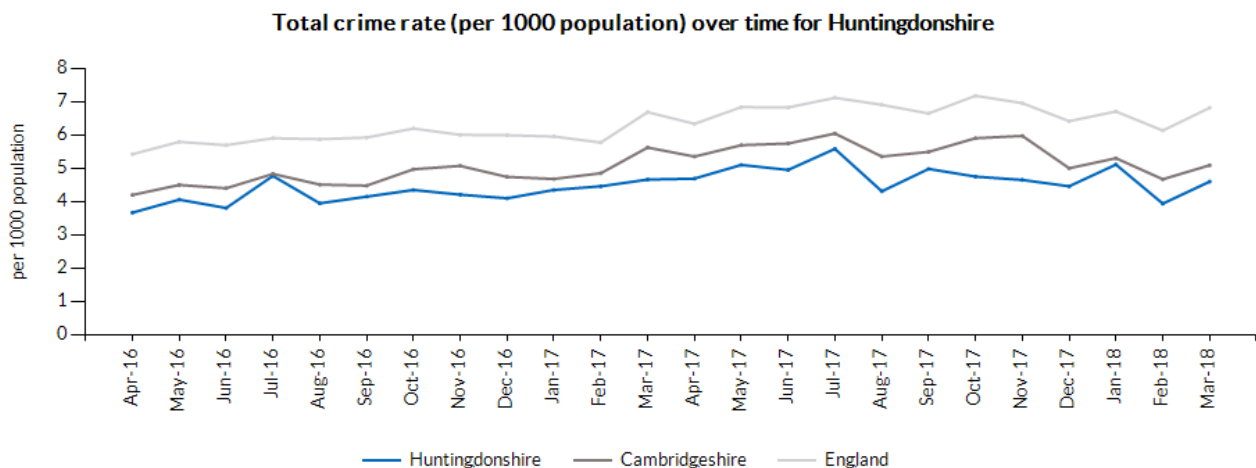
**Wards affected:** All

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### Executive Summary:

The report presents the outcomes of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership's work for the last year, April 2017 – March 2018.

Total police recorded crime has seen year on year increases between January 2015 and December 2017. In 2016 there were 8,257 crimes recorded in Huntingdonshire, in 2017 this rose to a total of 9,950 offences, an increase of 20%. If we take into account population growth it is still a marked difference with the rate of offences per 1000 population, rising from 46 to 56 per 1000 population. The reason for the increases in police recorded crime rates can be partly explained by changes to police recording procedures and the reclassification of certain crime types. For example, stalking and harassment are now classified as "violence without injury". Rises in the most serious forms of violence are however likely to be genuine as these have always tended to be well reported.



decreased. Incidents of domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime have continued to increase which can be seen as a positive because these crime types are typically under-reported.

The Partnership has recognised that the priorities that they agreed to tackle at the outset of their three year Community Safety Plan in 2017 are complex and challenging and may take a considerable amount of time to find long term, sustainable solutions. This has resulted in the Partnership committing to retain the same priorities for the next 12 months starting from April 2018, these being:

- 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

**Recommendation(s):**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the outcomes of the performance of the Community Safety Partnership over the last 12 months so that their comments can be used to inform the progressive work plan for 2018 - 19 and beyond.

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary for Members of the activities and outcomes of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership for the twelve month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, as well as provide details of the commitment by the District Council in supporting the activities of the Community Safety Partnership, the enforcement action taken and the outcomes achieved as a result.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) was set up in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aims to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the district through the close partnership-working of a wide range of organisations. The Partnership is administered and supported by the HDC Community Safety Team. Forming the Partnership are representatives from the six statutory organisations, these being Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG and BeNCH CRC as well as invited organisations such as Luminus Homes, Link to Change and Hunts Forum.

## **3. PRIORITY AREAS**

- 3.1 The priorities form part of a three year annually refreshed Community Safety Plan. For the three years 2017-20, the Partnership agreed to continue focusing on 'Victims and Vulnerabilities' with the aim of:

- 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

The four quarterly Strategic Assessments commissioned by the Community Safety Partnership in 2017 – 18 focused on:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Offenders
- End of Year Review looking at all Crime Types
- Violence

- 3.3 This report provides an update in relation to the work of the Partnership over the last twelve months and will predominantly focus on the initiatives and projects that the Partnership has commissioned.

## **4. WHAT DID THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS TELL US**

- 4.1 **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Presented July 2017** - Huntingdon West ward had the highest count of ASB incidents across the District between June 2016 and May 2017 which was also the same compared to the previous twelve

months. Between June 2016 and May 2017, there were 388 police recorded incidents in this ward which was a slight increase on 2015/16.

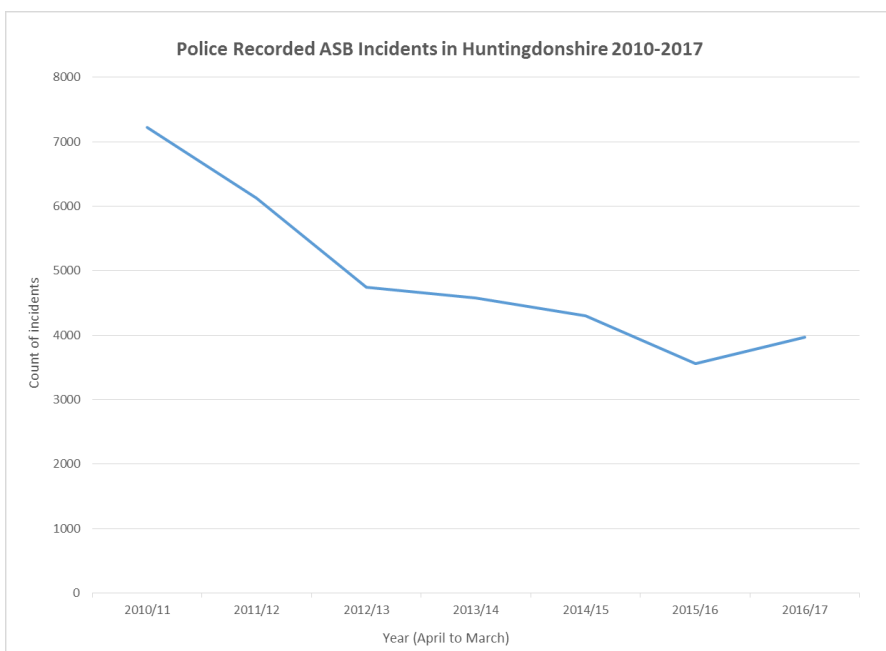
There were overall decreases in police recorded incidents of ASB in Huntingdon Town and Yaxley over the last twelve months. There has been targeted work in both of these areas, notably through the Yaxley Working Group and the prioritisation of Oxmoor as a vulnerable area. This work has helped to contribute towards a 12.8% reduction in Huntingdon North ward over the last 12 months.

There have been increases in police recorded ASB incidents in St Ives, Ramsey and St Neots over the last twelve months. In St Ives, increases were particularly driven by a 50.5% increase in St Ives South Ward from 184 incidents between June and May 2015/16 to 277 incidents during the same period of 2016/17. There was also a 45.2% increase (62 to 90) in the Hemingfords over the same period.

Increases in St Neots have been driven by a rise in the Eynesbury and Priory Park wards. The 11.9% increase in Priory Park took the ward from being the ward with the 4th highest volume of ASB incidents in the District to the second. This was in part due to decreases in Huntingdon North and Huntingdon East wards.

Mental health, learning disabilities and substance misuse continue to feature within the current caseload of high and medium risk ASB cases. These issues require a multi-agency approach if they are to be resolved or managed sensitively. Health providers have had a key role to play here.

Fig. 1 - Total Police recorded incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in Huntingdonshire by year:



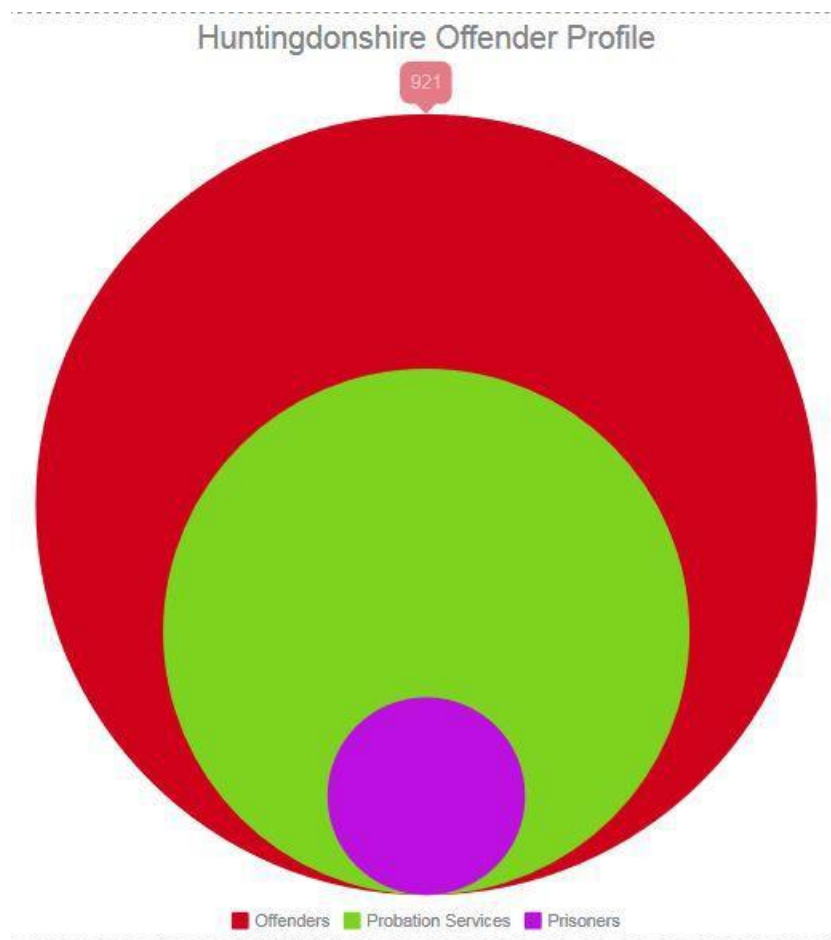
4.1.1 The Partnership responded to the information contained within the Strategic Assessment by delivering a targeted action plan which included the following projects:

- Yaxley Working Group – Continuing support to the working group who in the last 12 months have introduced a weekly youth club to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour and is fully staffed by volunteers;
- Problem Solving Group – Following a consultation with partner agencies, reviewed the problem solving group model and created a District Problem Solving Group by amalgamating the three area based groups. This has resulted in a more efficient and effective way of ‘problem solving’ individuals and families;
- Broadening the focus – As part of the problem solving group review, the group broadened its remit and now receives referrals for all types of problems that may have led to an individual’s behaviour, as opposed to just anti-social behaviour;
- Transforming Lives – The Partnership applied to the Police and Crime Commissioner for £23k and was successful, to deliver a targeted project with 8 identified boys and 8 girls who are at risk of offending behaviour or exploitation;
- Commissioning of a ‘mini’ assessment of St Ives to enable the Partnership to truly understand the reason for the increases of ASB in this area. In response, an action plan was developed; and
- Operation Cerberus – Targeting of young males through multi-agency enforcement activity in the Huntingdon North Ward area to divert them away from anti-social behaviour.

4.2 **Offending presented October 2017** - This report in particular looked to update and develop the information available on offenders that act and reside in Huntingdonshire. It focused on the cohort of offenders across different areas of the criminal justice system. It aimed to inform the Partnership of offenders’ needs and to review those areas of concern for the Partnership as well as emerging issues within the district.

- The rate of offenders per 1000 population has remained stable with just a small decrease from 5.8 per 1000 to 5.2 per 1000 population in Huntingdonshire.
- Huntingdonshire is one of only two districts, the other being Fenland, to see this recent decrease in the rate of offenders per 1000 population.
- Most offences occur in urban areas (St. Neots, St. Ives and Huntingdon) and most offenders reside in these areas.
- Needs of offenders in general can often be overlapping and complex, with offending behaviour entrenched and therefore this multi-faceted picture can require intensive support in order to achieve reductions.
- The level of need among Huntingdonshire offenders (as assessed by BeNCH Community Rehabilitation Company CRC) is less complex and the prevalence of need is generally lower or in line with other districts in the county.
- One area with a higher level relative to the rest of Cambridgeshire is the prevalence of drug need within the National Probation Service Cohort.

Fig. 2: For the snap shot of offenders known to criminal justice services in Huntingdonshire in 2017, the picture looked like this:



**Table 1: Volume of Offences among Unique Offenders**

Offence Type	Volume
Violence Against the Person	348
Theft and Handling	148
Drug Offences	142
Arson and Criminal Damage	99
Public Order Offences	52
Misc Crimes against Society	32
Sexual Offences	31
Possession of Weapons	25
Robbery	16
Burglary	14
Non-Crime	9
Vehicle Offences	5

4.2.1 In response, the Partnership has targeted efforts in the areas of Huntingdon North Ward and St Ives to tackle those involved in violent crime. A cohort of individuals have been targeted and enforcement tools such as Community Protection Warnings and Notices and the application of Criminal Behaviour

Orders following prosecution, to restrict these individuals from accessing certain areas of the District, restricting associations and utilising 7pm – 7am curfews.

4.3 **End of Year Review presented January 2018** – In January 2018, the Partnership received their third strategic assessment which looked at all crime types over the last 12 month period. The assessment identified that crime is still decreasing. The body of evidence is building to greater understand the impact of the variety of factors that make both victims and perpetrators vulnerable. This in turn is enabling a multi-agency approach to be adopted in prevention, intervention, recovery and rehabilitation.

- ASB has reduced from 4,986 incidents in 2012 to 3,292 in 2017, a reduction of 34%.
- The number of unique offenders (known to the police) has reduced over time in Huntingdonshire from 1,412 in 2012 to 921 in 2016.
- Domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime – areas known for under-reporting, all continue to show increases in police recorded crime.
- In 2012, the police recorded 534 incidents with a domestic violence marker. By the end of 2017 the number of domestic violence offences has risen 1,265. This equates to an increase of 57%.
- The number of incidents of domestic abuse has also increased over the past 5 years from 1,998 incidents in 2012 to 2,277 incidents in 2017, an increase of 12%.
- Property crime, such as vehicle crime and dwelling burglary, has also recorded increases.

4.3.1 Following receipt of this information, the Partnership agreed that due to the broad context of their current priorities, they still remained relevant and would be rolled forward to the next year. It was recognised that the Partnership needs to continue to focus their efforts in partnership with others on Violence Against Women and Girls and Child Sexual Exploitation.

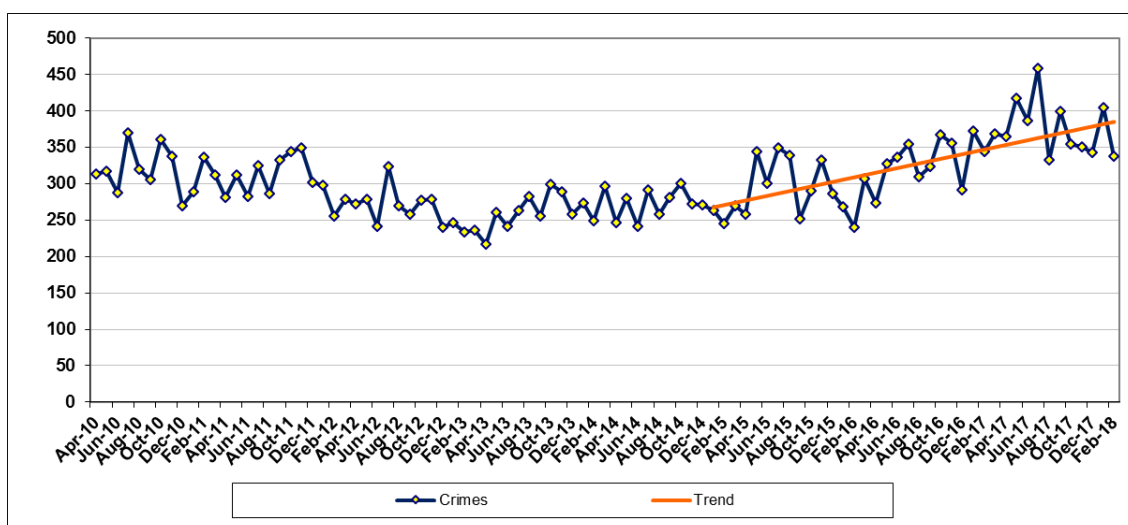
4.4 **Violence presented April 2018** – The final assessment commissioned by the Partnership for 2017-18 was delivered in April 2018 and focused on violence. The assessment revealed that there continues to be a rise in police recorded VAP (violence against the person) offences both locally and nationally. This can be viewed in part as a positive with the continued shift in recording behaviour by officers due to changes to the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS also known as the Home Office Counting Rules) and the reclassification of certain crime types. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) however reports a long term decline in violence with little or no change in the last 3 years. However there has been an increase in police recorded violence against the person offences. Police recorded violence in general is not considered as accurate a measure as the CSEW due to issues such as recording practice changes noted earlier, but police recorded violence with injury increases are considered an accurate measure due to the likelihood of reporting from victims.

Table 2: Huntingdonshire District Police recorded crime.

	2016	2017	Change in Volume	% Change
Violence with Injury	723	791	68	+9.4%
Violence without Injury	1,264	1,814	550	+43.5%
Total Violence Offences	1987	2605	618	+23.7%

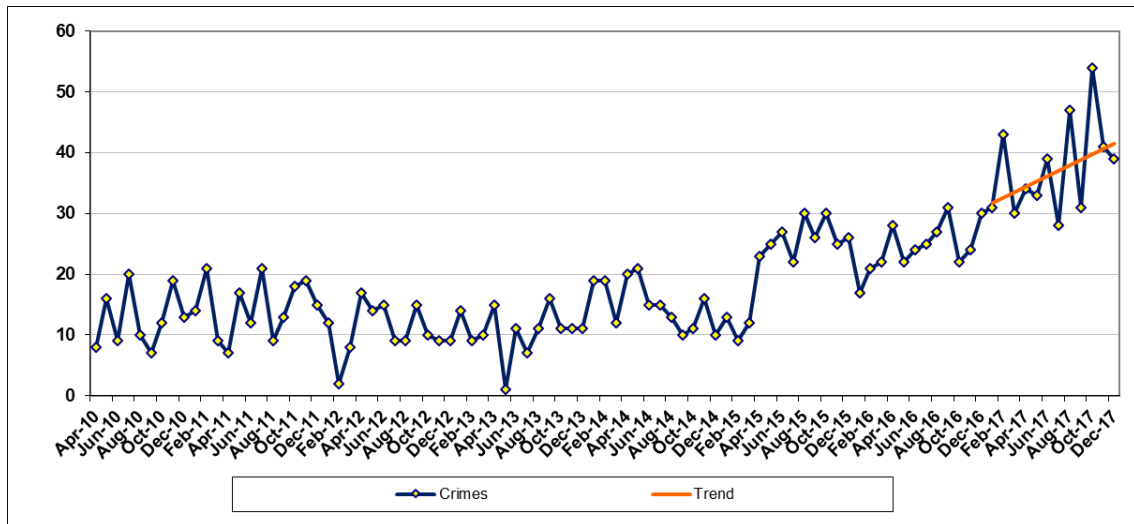
- Police recorded Violence against the person offences have increased significantly.
- The majority of the increase is attributed to violence without injury offences.
- The most frequent offence type is 'Common Assault'.
- Huntingdon sector recorded the highest volume of violence without injury offences.
- The level of violent offences associated with the night time economy is **not** increasing in Huntingdonshire.
- A large majority of violent offences occur outside of known pub cluster areas, potentially indicating that Domestic Violence and other offences are being more frequently recorded.
- No assertion can be made that alcohol is not a cause of violent crime but it can be said that it is not a significant cause for concern in and around areas of pubs and clubs. Violent offences occur consistently throughout the week and at all times of the day.
- Judging whether there is a genuine rise in violence without injury offences is difficult due to the changes to recording practices and the willingness of victims to report offences.
- At least 16% of violence without injury offences has a domestic violence marker attributed to the offence.

Fig. 3: Huntingdon - Violence without injury recorded crimes

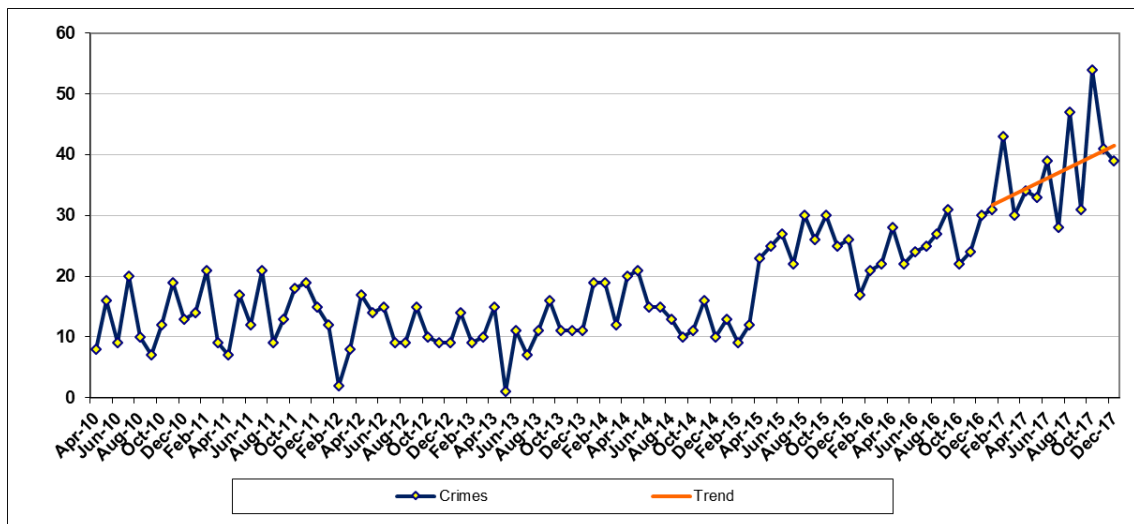




**Fig. 4: St. Ives - Violence without injury recorded crimes**



**Fig. 5: St. Neots - Violence without injury recorded crimes**



4.4.1 There are various measures, task groups and organisations that are tasked with tackling the various forms of violence that are evident in Huntingdonshire. This is in the form of task groups by geographical area such as Oxmoor, or thematic groups such as the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service) and Outreach services which look to support victims of violence against women and girls as well as educate others. This includes harassment and stalking.

4.4.2 In addition, the Partnership commissioned theatre productions for school children which focused last year on County Lines, the exploitation of young or vulnerable people linked to the supply of drugs. The production aimed to educate and dissuade people from venturing down a path that could lead to violence. The two productions that were commissioned were delivered in St Peters School, Huntingdon as a result of the increases in violence seen there.

4.4.3 Over the last couple of years, the Partnership has invested resources in regenerating the area Pub Watch Schemes. These schemes work with licensees to identify and mutually agree to ban individuals from multiple

premises where they have been linked to incidents of crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour within the night time economy. It is reassuring that the assessment confirms that increases of violence within the night economy are not being seen and suggests that the interventions by the Partnership are having a positive impact.

- 4.4.5 The Partnership has committed to understand and learn more about the primary causes of violence by conducting further, more specific research. This information will be used to develop further the Transforming Lives project to target the project at young males at an earlier stage to prevent them from becoming involved in violent crime, gang activity and associations with weapons.

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

- 5.1 In March 2017, the Community Safety Partnership was required to produce a new three year plan which would take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. In January 2018, following receipt of the End of Year Review, the Partnership agreed to continue their focus on the existing priorities, these being ‘Victims and Vulnerability’. This would enable the Partnership to continue and develop further what had already been achieved with an aim of finding sustainable and long term solutions to:

- 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. SUSTAINING THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP INTO THE FUTURE**

- 6.1 The Community division within Huntingdonshire District Council underwent a restructure early in 2017, resulting in the creation of a new team which includes a team of five Community Protection and Enforcement Officers. Over the last 12 months, the team have effectively and efficiently responded to calls for service in relation to anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling and stray dogs, all of which contribute to levels of crime and disorder as well as how residents and communities feel about where they live. The team is working closely with partner agencies to ‘problem solve’ isolated issues as well as longer term issues that may be having a considerable impact within a community. During 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, the team responded to 347 calls for service.

- 6.1.1 The Team, in partnership with the Police have made use of a range of sanctions in addressing anti-social behaviour, including issuing 19 Community Protection Warnings (12 by HDC, 7 by the Police), 8 of which have been followed up by Community Protection Notices and 4 have necessitated the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices of £100, figures which exclude a number linked to breaches of Public Space Protection Orders, noted later in section 8. Ten applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders have been supported in relation to

young people involved in crime and disorder and more specifically violent and gang type activities.

6.1.2 Four prosecution files have been compiled and court dates set in relation to large fly tipping offences. One case involved an application to the court for permission to use directed surveillance which was successful and in turn was used to monitor a hotspot location.

6.1.3 One of the male officers within the team has attended and supported delivery of the male Transforming Lives project and a female officer from the team as attended and supported the delivery of the female Transforming Lives project. This in turn has helped build relationships between the officers and the cohort longer term.

6.2 The Community Resilience Team also includes two Community Development Officers who over the last 12 months have worked with communities across Huntingdonshire to:

- To create a multi-generational allotment and gardening project in Yaxley that is now run by volunteers;
- The provision of a community fridge to provide fresh food to those most in need;
- Connecting a church with Little Miracles in Ramsey which has resulted in them being provided accommodation to run the service at a peppercorn rent;
- Provide a brand new community building to a charity in Little Paxton;
- Provide training to community groups to enable them to write funding applications that in turn have been successful;
- Run multi-cultural events to celebrate diversity;
- Establish a womens' group in Huntingdon North Ward where certain women from the community had been identified as feeling isolated;
- The development of a community asset map in Pathfinder House identifying all the groups and resources across Huntingdonshire enabling communities to self-help;
- Upskilling community members as homelessness prevention champions to enable them to have 'difficult conversations' and support and signpost those most at risk;

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

7.1 The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan 2017-20 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.

7.2 The Community Safety Partnership is required to produce a three year annually refreshed Community Safety Plan. The Partnership introduced their new Plan in

April 2017. The Partnership has recognised the importance of needing to consider existing plans and strategies as part of their new Plan to ensure effective use of resources as well as value for money for our communities.

## **8. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018**

8.1 The Partnership has embraced the tools and powers available to them under the ASB, Crime and Disorder Act 2014 and last year they supported the introduction of three Public Space Protection Orders, these being:

- Riverside Car Park, St Neots PSPO – To address the issues of anti-social use of vehicles – 12 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued last year for breach of the Order;
- Little End Road Industrial Estate, St Neots PSPO - To address the issues of anti-social use of vehicles;
- Control of Dogs, Huntingdonshire – Relates to areas where residents must keep their dogs on leads, the requirement for dog owners to remove dog faeces and carry an article to enable them to do this – 1 Fixed Penalty Notice has been issued for the breach of this Order.

## **9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 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. Whereas the Partnership has previously had to focus their efforts towards shop theft, vehicle crime and dwelling burglary, they now have to provide a response to Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Familial Domestic Abuse. Although all crimes have a victim, victims of these types of crimes require specialist support and intervention from a number of different organisations over often an extensive period of time. This therefore means that the Partnership has been required to broaden their skills and expertise to ensure that they are able to respond to these more difficult issues.

9.1.1 The statutory partners that make up the Partnership are ever changing and what is evident is that resources have reduced and therefore the Partnership must be smarter about the way they respond to issues.

9.2 In 2017, the Partnership was awarded £23k by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The funding was awarded following a presentation by representatives of the Partnership to the Commissioner with the proposal to target the Transforming Lives Project at a cohort of boys and girls. The purpose of the girls' project was to work with identified individuals from St Ives and Huntingdon who were at risk of exploitation and boys who were at risk of offending or gang activity from the St Neots area. Each scheme ran for 12 weeks and much of the funding was used to fund targeted activities with partner agencies offering their input in kind.

9.2.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner has indicated that longer term, he is looking to support sustainable, evidenced initiatives that can be duplicated across the County. It is important that the Partnership develops the

Transforming Lives project and recognises sustainability and the part that communities and volunteers can play.

- 9.3 There is a desire for Community Safety Partnerships in Cambridgeshire to merge with Living Well Partnerships. It is necessary to understand what this means for the Partnership and moving forward the role that statutory partners will play.
- 9.4 Reporting to the County Community Safety Board which the Police and Crime Commissioner Chairs, are a number of thematic groups focusing on issues that affect the whole County. It is important that there is a consistent flow of information between the working groups established under the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and the County thematic groups to best utilise resources, avoid duplication and make use of best practise.

## **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, so that their comments can be used to inform the work plan for 2018 - 19 and beyond.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan 2017 – 20 Refreshed
- The following quarterly Strategic Assessments are available at <http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>
  - Quarter 1 2017-18 Strategic Assessment: Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Quarter 2 2017-18 Strategic Assessment: Offending
  - Quarter 3 2017-18 Strategic Assessment: End of Year Review
  - Quarter 4 2017-18 Strategic Assessment: Violence

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