

# **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **[OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - SERVICES]**

**[22 NOVEMBER 2022]**

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**Title:**

**Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2022-2025**

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**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Penny Marriott, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

**Head of Service:** Sam Hutchison, Executive Head Community Services

**Key decision:** No

**Access:** Public

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### **1. Purpose and summary**

- 1.1 The report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Safer Waverley Partnership (SWP) and provides the Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the Partnership and its new three year rolling Partnership Plan 2022-2025.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee provide any comments on the Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2022-2025 to be considered by the SWP Executive.

### **3. Reason for the recommendation**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the function to scrutinise the work of their local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on an annual basis. In Waverley this partnership is called the Safer Waverley Partnership (SWP).

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires 'responsible authorities' to work together to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in their area. To meet its statutory requirement, the SWP was formed with an Executive group responsible for ensuring it meets its statutory requirements. The SWP Executive consists of members from:

- Waverley Borough Council
- Surrey County Council

- Surrey Police
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership
- Frimley Integrated Care Board

- 4.2 The Police and Justice Act 2006 gave local councils the duty to scrutinise the functioning of their local CSP. Each local council had to put in place a Committee to review, scrutinise and make observations or recommendations about the functioning of the CSP's responsible authorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Services takes on this function in Waverley.
- 4.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 replaced police authorities (who were a statutory member of the Community Safety Partnership) with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales. Unlike police authorities, PCCs are not 'responsible authorities' under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, so are not members of CSPs. However there is a mutual duty on PCCs and CSPs to co-operate to reduce crime and disorder and re-offending. A representative from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) attends SWP Executive meetings.
- 4.4 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 established the statutory requirement to carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). This requirement came into force in April 2011 and is the responsibility of the Safer Waverley Partnership to implement. When a domestic homicide occurs, the relevant police force informs the local Community Safety Partnership. The SWP has a statutory duty to establish whether the criteria for a DHR is met and that a review should be conducted.
- 4.5 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced more effective powers to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and placed a greater focus on the impact of ASB on victims and their needs. The Community Trigger/ ASB Case Review was introduced to give victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the ability to request a formal case review where a locally defined threshold is met. The SWP is responsible for carrying out these reviews.

### **Key partnership activity during 2021-2022**

- 4.6 During 2021-2022 the SWP received 6 Community Trigger applications, 5 met the threshold for a full anti-social behaviour case review to be carried out. All applications related to neighbour disputes or issues between neighbours. [Community Trigger](#) applications can be made online and further information about them can be found on the Councils website.
- 4.7 A new Neighbour Dispute Action Group (NDAG) was set up to provide a case management approach for officers to nominate complex neighbour disputes to. This arose out of learning from the Community Trigger case reviews that were carried out which found that often the neighbour disputes had been going on for many years and agencies had worked in silos to deal with their different aspect of the problems. The NDAG was set up to provide a forum for officers to nominate neighbour disputes when they come to the attention of organisations at an early stage for a problem solving approach to be taken. The new approach is to

ensure each party is offered support and self-help advice available and the partnership considers all the tools and powers available to tackle problems relating to anti-social behaviour, intimidation and harassment. It met for the first time in December 2021 and since then the NDAG has considered 16 cases (12 cases archived/closed, 6 current cases, with 2 having been closed and then reopened).

- 4.8 The SWP has led the process in two Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in 2021-22; one is now completed and published on the SWP webpage for the council and the other is now a joint Serious Adult and Domestic Homicide Review and due to be completed in 2023.
- 4.9 Waverley and Guildford Community Safety Partnerships worked together with South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service in 2021 to plan a series of webinars for residents, business owners and community leaders. The 'Ask Me About Domestic Abuse' webinars, supported by a social media campaign, aimed to provide participants with knowledge to:
- Understand why we need to break the silence on domestic abuse
  - Be confident to recognise indicators of domestic abuse and in particular coercive control
  - Know how to support a friend, family member or work colleague that may be experiencing domestic abuse
  - Consider becoming an 'Ask Me' Community Ambassador.
- 4.10 Two 'Ask Me About Domestic Abuse' webinars were held in the afternoon and early evening of 30 November 2021. 88 people registered. 3 'Ask Me About Domestic Abuse' community ambassadors were identified and there were 277 unique visitors to 'Ask Me About Domestic Abuse -SWP Surrey' webpage. This work will continue in 2022-23 due to the high engagement at events.
- 4.11 During 2021-22 there were 496 referrals made to the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service in Waverley. In 2020-21 there were 508 referrals made. 2021-22 saw a 62% increase in referrals from 2019-20 (307 referrals).
- 4.12 In September 2021 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and supported a proposal to expand the strategic function of the SWP Executive to develop a new shared Health and Wellbeing Board and associated strategy. The Community Safety Officer role was reviewed in line with this proposal and a revised role of Safer Communities Officer was put in place to facilitate a new Board. This work was put in hold after the announcement of the collaboration of Waverley Council with Guildford Borough Council and will be reviewed over the coming year.
- 4.13 In April 2021 the first anti-social behaviour Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was approved in Waverley following a consultation process which included this Committee. The PSPO process was lead by the Head of Environmental Services, in conjunction with Surrey Police who provided evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour to support the provision of the order for the Godalming area. Provisions were also contained in the PSPO to prohibit the use of BBQs and bonfires on council owned parks and open spaces without

consent from the council. This aspect of the PSPO has been used outside the remit of the SWP and lead by the Council's Greenspaces service.

- 4.14 Implementing the use of the PSPO for dealing with anti-social behaviour in the Godalming area has taken time to agree. This has been in part due to lack of dedicated officer time to develop an implementation plan and work with relevant services in the council, and the police to agree the resources required to support it's use and carry out enforcement.
- 4.15 In April 2022 the Council appointed a corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, who as part of their role has worked with the Head of Environmental Services to agree an implementation plan for the PSPO. The role also provides specialist support to council services around the use of tools and powers available to the council under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They are also working towards implementing a corporate anti-social behaviour policy to ensure all council services effectively manage anti-social behaviour.
- 4.16 Over the past year the JAG has engaged with local youth services, for example the Friday/ Saturday Night Projects, Godalming Youth Services and Hale Youth Services, when locations have been identified where youth related ASB is taking place. When young people are nominated to CHaRMM the partnership ensures close working takes place with Targeted Youth Support (TYS) and the Youth Engagement Officers at Surrey Police. The SWP have also provided support and evidence of the need for youth services for organisations developing local youth activities in areas where there have been significant ASB.

#### **Developing a new SWP Partnership Plan 2022-2025**

- 4.17 Due to the impact of Covid-19 on partner services, the SWP took the decision in 2020 to keep the same priorities as the previous year. During the latter part of 2021 and early 2022, as the pandemic eased, the Partnership carried out a full review of its strategic priorities.
- 4.18 The SWP has considered relevant new policy and legislation, the Surrey Community Safety Agreement, listened to feedback from this Committee and, from local councillors at engagement events, and have agreed four new strategic priorities for the SWP. These are:
- Priority 1: Improve the partnership's response to community harm and anti-social behaviour**
  - Priority 2: Themed focus on domestic abuse**
  - Priority 3: Focus on crimes that most affect Waverley**
  - Priority 4: Responding to the additional vulnerabilities of our residents facing community safety issues**
- 4.19 A new Partnership Co-ordination Group (COG) was formed in 2022 by the SWP Executive to create a SMART delivery plan and to monitor it's delivery. The delivery plan contains 17 aims / focus areas to deliver on each priority and 30 actions to achieve the aims. The Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025 is contained in Annex 1.

4.20 The Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025 only includes what can be done above and beyond what each partner already contributes to community safety. It will however highlight areas where improved partnership working is required and where support is needed to achieve this. It will be reviewed and updated regularly by the COG and is considered a live document.

4.21 The delivery plan uses a RAG status to prioritise partnership activity:

<b>RED</b>	High priority	Partnership work that has risk and needs to be actioned
<b>AMBER</b>	Medium priority	Partnership work that needs to be carried out but there is more time
<b>GREEN</b>	Lower priority	Partnership work that tends to need less resources to carry out

4.22 The Partnership has established partnership working mechanisms through its various groups of CHaRMM, JAG, NDAG, SOC JAG and these will continue to deliver on partnership work alongside the Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025.

4.23 In order to be transparent a public version of the Partnership Plan 2022-2025, contained in Annex 2, is available on the council's website to aid understanding of the partnership, its priorities and the various groups which operate under the auspices of the SWP.

#### **Key Partnership activity / progress of delivery plan (April 2022 to Sept 2022)**

4.24 There have been 26 individuals discussed at CHaRMM from 1 April 2022 to the 30 Sept 2022. 23 nominations have been made (4 have been nominated twice). 18 individuals have been removed. There are currently 18 individuals being considered by CHaRMM.

4.25 The NDAG currently has 6 neighbour disputes being case managed by the group.

4.26 There have been 7 locations discussed at JAG, 4 carried over from the previous year and 3 locations nominated and adopted.

4.27 In July 2022 the SWP supported Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness week and signed up to the ASB pledge, which reaffirms partners commitment to tackling ASB in Waverley.

4.28 The Council have publicised the following on its social media channels via its own social media posts, sharing from the relevant channels e.g. (Surrey Police, SFRS etc). This forms part of ongoing joint communications across the partnership to raise awareness of the SWPs priority areas of work and keep Waverley residents informed about community safety issues.

- County Lines (shared from Surrey Police channels)
- ASB Awareness week (news story, social media posts and sharing posts from other relevant channels)
- Catalytic Converters (shared from Surrey Police channels)
- Domestic Abuse (social media posts and news story for DA Awareness Week, also shared from relevant channels)

- Fire Safety / Burger off (social media posts and shared from Surrey Fire & Rescue channels)
- White Ribbon day (social media posts, news story and sharing from relevant channels)
- Dispersal Order (social media posts and sharing from Surrey Police where relevant to Waverley areas)
- As Me about Domestic Abuse webinars (November 2021) – (social media posts and shared from relevant channels)
- No Cold Calling
- Scams (social media posts and sharing from other channels)

4.29 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised with the SWP in November 2020 that it was concerned about the way rural crime was being categorised and the understanding officers have of what rural crime is. Following the meeting the Waverley Safer Neighbourhood Team have taken an active approach to ensuring that crimes recorded as rural do actually meet the definition of [Rural Crime](#). A sergeant reviews all the crimes recorded as rural to confirm they meet the definition and carries out action to correct those that don't. This involves educating officers and staff about the correct way to record crime and providing feedback when mistakes are made. Recorded rural crime in Waverley remains low with a total of a total of 17 crimes reported between April and Sept 2022. Rural crimes in Waverley are reported in a 'Rural Crime Newsletter' which is sent out by email every month. This provides information about the rural crimes taking place, patterns for the public to be aware of and offers crime prevention advice where possible. 1700 people currently receive the newsletter by email.

## 5. **Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan**

The Partnership helps deliver the Council's Corporate Priority - ***Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities*** through improving and developing engagement with all stakeholders to better control crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

## 6. **Implications of decision**

### 6.1 **Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)**

There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. The service is delivered within approved Council budgets and is supported by external funding.

### 6.2 **Risk management**

Risks are managed through the Safer Waverley Partnership Executive on a quarterly basis. Risks are identified and mitigated through a risk register and are managed and delivered through formal mechanisms of the partnership.

### 6.3 **Legal**

The Council has statutory responsibilities to consider the impact of its functions and services in relation to crime and disorder implications as well as the wider community impacts. This report highlights part of the Council's response to this area in terms of its statutory responsibility for working within the Safer Waverley Partnership. The Partnership does not lead to the transfer of functions from one partner to another but encourages a multidisciplinary approach to solving issues and the use of the most appropriate powers.

There are a number of different functions and sets of powers from across the Council referenced in the various actions which the Council is undertaking the detailed analysis of the legal implications of each of these is undertaken within the projects.

#### **6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion**

There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications of this report as it summarises the activity of the partnership. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council and the partnership projects to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

#### **6.5 Climate emergency declaration**

Consideration of the Council's environmental and sustainability objectives will need to be made when making decisions on the implementation of local community safety activity.

#### **7. Consultation and engagement**

The Safer Waverley Partnership Executive have been consulted on the plan and have agreed the priorities and delivery plan.

#### **8. Other options considered**

There are no further options to be considered with this report.

#### **9. Governance journey**

Overview and Scrutiny - Services.

### **Annexes:**

Annexe 1 – Safer Waverley Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025

Annexe 2 – Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2022-2025 public version available on website

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### **Background Papers**

There are / are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

*Background papers are those that are referred to in the report, but are not published and accessible to the public.*

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Name: Katie Webb  
Position: Community Services Manager  
Telephone: 01483 523340  
Email: [katie.webb@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:katie.webb@waverley.gov.uk)

Name: Eve Budd  
Position: Safer Communities Officer  
Telephone: 01483 523513

Email: [eve.budd@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:eve.budd@waverley.gov.uk)

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal Services: 26/10/22 IH

Finance: 20/10/22 RP

Strategic Director: date

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Penny Marriot