

Waverley Borough Council

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny – Services

Date: 26 March 2024

Ward(s) affected: All.

Report of Director: Community Wellbeing

Author: Eve Budd, Safer Communities Officer

Tel: 01483 523513

Email: eve.budd@waverley.gov.uk

Executive Portfolio Holder: Kika Mirylees

Email: kika.mirylees@waverley.gov.uk

Report Status: Open

Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2024-2027

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the annual activities of Waverley's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) during 2022-2023 and introduces the draft SWP Partnership Plan 2024-2027.
- 1.2 The report provides the background for the existence of, and the roles and responsibilities of the SWP in the context of its statutory duties and functions.
- 1.3 The activities, achievements, and challenges of the SWP are summarised throughout the report, and the committee are asked to comment and provide observations or recommendations on the draft Partnership Plan 2024-2027, to be considered by the responsible authorities of the SWP. The plan will be approved by the SWP in April 2024.

2. Recommendation to Committee

- 2.1 The committee is asked to
 - review the SWP activities as set out in this report and in Annex 1.

- comment on the Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2024-2027 and provide observations or recommendations to be considered by the responsible authorities of the SWP.

3. Reason(s) for Recommendation:

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Services 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. Exemption from publication

No

5. Purpose of Report

- 5.1 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 2024 -2027.

6. Strategic Priorities

- 6.1 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.

7. Background

- 7.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were introduced by Section 6 of the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) and bring together local partners who can address crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. They work on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour, and that effective partnership working is vital to ensuring safer communities.
- 7.2 Waverley's CSP is known as the Safer Waverley Partnership (SWP). Responsible authorities that make up the partnership are:

- Surrey Police

- Waverley Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- Integrated Care Boards (ICB) - Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership and Frimley Integrated Care Board

Membership of the partnership also includes:

- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service

Statutory duties and functions:

7.3 As two-tier local authority Waverley’s Community Safety Partnership works in conjunction with other Surrey County Council lead groups supporting the delivery of shared statutory duties and shared priorities in relation to crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

7.4 The statutory duties undertaken by the CSP are:

- a strategic group to oversee and direct the work of the partnership.
- protocols and systems for sharing information are used and adhered to.
- analysis of a wide range of data, including crime levels and patterns in order to identify priorities.
- coordination of a planned response to the prevention of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour at borough level
- a partnership plan that monitors deliverable actions.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)
- local delivery of the Surrey Serious Violence Strategy.

7.5 The CSP takes a lead role to support, and co-ordinate duties placed on specified authorities. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Case Review (formally known as the Community Trigger) to give victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the right to request a multi-agency review of their case. The statutory duty is placed on the local authority, the local housing provider, the Police, and Clinical Commissioning Group, rather than the CSP itself. In Surrey the local CSP is considered best place to co-ordinate requests for ASB Case Reviews from victims.

7.6 The Police and Justice Act 2006 gave local councils the duty to scrutinise the functioning of their 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 to its responsible authorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Services takes on this function in Waverley.

Partnership activity during 2022-2023

- 7.7 The [Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2022-25](#) set out the following four priorities for a rolling three year period which are reviewed annually.
- Improve the partnership’s response to community harm and anti-social behaviour.
 - Themed focus on domestic abuse
 - Focus on the crimes that most affect Waverley.
 - Responding to the additional vulnerabilities of our residents facing community safety issues
- 7.8 The CSP uses a series of multi-agency groups to work towards the key priorities and deliver an action plan. The Co-ordination Group (COG) met 3 times during 2023 and produced and monitored the SWP delivery plan.
- 7.9 The Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHaRMM) met every 6 weeks and received 25 referrals during the calendar year 2023.
- 19 were accepted for ongoing case management.
 - 8 individuals were carried forward from 2022.
 - 22 cases were closed to CHaRMM during 2023.
 - 5 individuals were carried forward into 2024.

The total number of individuals discussed in 2023 was 33.

- 11 were nominated as anti-social behaviour perpetrators.
 - 3 were nominated as vulnerable perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.
 - 8 were nominated as victims of anti-social behaviour (6 were noted as vulnerable victims)
 - 3 were nominated as the result of Closure Orders on a property.
- 7.10 The Joint Action Group (JAG) met every 6 weeks and had 4 locations referred in 2023.
- 3 were accepted to the agenda for ongoing discussion.
 - 2 locations were on the agenda and carried forward from 2022.
 - 6 locations were considered.

12 emerging issues were brought to JAG by partners. These are issues that partners are aware of, which may have been raised by a local councillor or resident and there is some evidence of a problem. This allows the partnership to assess the problem to enable an appropriate and proportionate course of action.

- 2 of these became full nominations.
- 7 licensed premises were discussed at JAG during 2023.
- The Sandy Hill Task and Finish Group concluded in February 2023 and led to the re-forming of the Sandy Hill Inclusive Partnership meeting (SHIP).
- Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) were carried out in areas in Cranleigh and Farnham.

7.11 The Neighbour Dispute Action Group (NDAG) first met in December 2021 and had its last meeting in August 2023. During this time

- 20 neighbourhood dispute cases were considered.
- 5 cases were discussed twice (closed, then reopened then closed again)
- 1 case was discussed 3 times.

The Co-ordination Group (COG) of the Partnership took the decision, at the request of the NDAG Chair, to not continue with the NDAG.

It was agreed by the COG that the introduction of the NDAG had not resulted in any reduction in applications for ASB case reviews relating to neighbour disputes.

It was agreed that CHaRMM would be used to case manage individuals involved in complex neighbour disputes and JAG or a task and finish/ time limited group would be used to problem solve locations where complex neighbour disputes were taking place.

7.12 ASB case review applications. In the calendar year of 2022 there were 5 ASB case review applications received.

- 3 met the threshold for a full ASB case review to be carried out.

In the calendar year of 2023, 8 applications were received – an increase from 2022.

- 4 met the threshold for a full ASB case review to be carried out.
- All applications related to neighbour disputes or issues between neighbours.

7.13 The Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025 contained in Annex 1 details the partnership's actions against the agreed priority areas, with end of year status and comments. The end of year status uses the following RAG criteria:

RED	Not completed
AMBER	Partially completed
GREEN	Completed

Domestic Homicide Reviews and Domestic Violence Workstreams

7.14 In 2022-2023 a centralised Surrey-wide support for CSPs was established to assist them to fulfil their statutory duty to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). A funding commitment of £5,000 per district/ borough council per year for a 3-year period, along with contributions from Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG and NHS Frimley CCG were made.

This funding provides.

- a central co-ordinator post to work with CSPs.
- a commissioning pot and a training budget to ensure lessons learned are shared to lead to tangible improvements in agency responses to domestic abuse.

The CSP still has overall responsibility for carrying out DHRs.

7.15 There have been 39 DHRs in Surrey since 2011 (data up to Dec 2023).

- 17 of the 39 reviews were joint reviews (Safeguarding Adults/ Childrens Reviews).
- 17 reviews have been suicides and 15 of these suicides have been since 2019.
- Out of the 39 reviews there have been 31 female victims and 8 male victims.

Waverley has had the second highest number of DHRs in Surrey at 8.

7.16 Changes are due to be brought into law for the name 'Domestic Homicide Review' to be changed to 'Domestic Abuse Related Death Review' to better reflect all deaths which fall within their scope.

The purpose of the review is to identify and implement lessons learnt from deaths which have, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse with the aim to better protect victims in future.

- 7.17 There has been one joint Safeguarding Adult Review and Domestic Homicide Review (SAR/DHR) in Waverley in progress since 2022-2023. It was due to be completed in 2023, however due to new information being provided it has been delayed.
- 7.18 The CSP has a strong working relationship with the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (SWSDA). It continues to work with the service to maximise funding opportunities to support domestic abuse survivors.

During the year April 2022 to March 2023 there were 553 referrals made to the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (SWSDA). This is an increase of 57 (11.5%) referrals from the previous year.

- 7.19 Waverley Borough Council has provided SWSDA Service with a contribution of £2,000 toward running the 'Fatfish' programme (Facilitating Art Therapeutically). The programme works with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse.

During 2022-23 the programme supported 36 children from Waverley on a one-to-one basis and 1 for group work sessions.

Anti Social Behaviour and PSPO Workstreams

- 7.20 In April 2021 Waverley Borough Council made a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) intended to deal with anti-social behaviour in Godalming and Farncombe and the prohibition of lighting barbecues and bonfires on Waverley managed parks and open spaces throughout the borough.
- 7.21 The Order was put in place for a maximum of 3 years and is due to expire on 20 April 2024. Work is currently ongoing to evaluate the effectiveness of the Order and consult with stakeholders and public on whether it should be extended for a further 3 years. The results of this will inform the report requesting a decision on approval, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be provided with an update.
- 7.22 In 2023 Southern Internal Audit Partnership undertook a review of the management of anti-social behaviour by the Council. The audit focused on ensuring there was a consistent process of identification, recording and monitoring of anti-social behaviour cases, that included information sharing both internally and externally with members of the SWP.

- 7.23 The findings of the audit report provided good insight into how ASB is currently managed, and together with some positive key observations identified significant gaps, weakness and elements of non-compliance and highlighted required improvements in our system of governance and risk management.
- 7.24 The Council now has a dedicated ASB Officer within the Community Services Team who has assisted in the preparation of an ASB action plan that will help ensure the issues identified in the audit report can be reconciled and monitored through the Audit Committee.

8. SWP Partnership Plan 2024-2027

- 8.1 The draft SWP Partnership Plan 2024-2027 in (Annex 2) seeks to set out how the partnership will ensure it meets its statutory duties and functions. It takes a proportionate and measured approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Waverley, recognising that Waverley is one of the safest boroughs in Surrey. This will be approved by the responsible authorities of the SWP in April 2024. The key priorities are
- Community Harm and Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Focus on the crimes and community safety issues that most affect Waverley to maximise a response through partnership working

9. Consultations

- 9.1 Ward councillors are invited to attend operational task and finish groups where referrals are received for their ward.

10 Key Risks

- 10.1 The resources to deliver activity and interventions aligned to the priorities of the SWP are additional to the day-to-day functions of each partner agency. The capacity to deliver these interventions is determined by multi-agency partnership working which may be impacted by individual agency contributions.
- 10.2 The ongoing financial challenge for all partners mean that priorities set out by the SWP will require agility to respond appropriately to the changing needs of the community.

11 Financial Implications

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

12 Legal Implications

- 12.1 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.

13 Human Resource Implications

- 13.1 The SWP consists of representatives from the 'responsible authorities' as set out in the legislation.
- 13.2 The Council's lead officers supporting the strategic work of the partnership are the Safer Communities Officer within the community services team.
- 13.3 The Council's specialist lead officer for supporting the development of policies, processes and procedures for anti-social behaviour is the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer within the community services team.
- 13.4 The Community Services Manager chairs CHaRMM
- 13.5 There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. The service is delivered within approved Council budgets and is supported by external funding.

14 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 14.1 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.

15 Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

15.1 In the context of this report there are no climate change/ sustainability implications arising directly.

16. Summary of Options

16.1 The committee is asked to consider and comment on the activity of the SWP and draft partnership plan.

17 Conclusion

17.1 The report provides information for the committee to review the actions of the SWP in 2022-2023.

17.2 The report sets out the draft SWP Partnership Plan 2024-2027 for the committee to consider and comment on.

18 Background Papers

None

19 Appendices

Safer Waverley Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2025 (Annex 1)

Draft Safer Waverley Partnership Plan 2024-2027 (Annex 2)

Please ensure the following service areas have signed off your report.
Please complete this box, and do not delete.

Service	Sign off date
Finance / S.151 Officer	22.2.2024
Legal / Governance	21.2.2024
HR	21.2.2024
Equalities	
Lead Councillor	
CMB	
Executive Briefing/Liaison	
Committee Services	