

Swale Policy and Development Review Committee 17 January 2017

Community Safety Plan Refresh 2017/18

1. Introduction

This paper discusses the process undertaken to refresh the Swale Community Safety Plan for 2017/18. It discusses the suggested priorities identified by the annual Strategic Assessment, along with those highlighted by the community consultation. Views are sought from Committee members on these priorities, which will be finalised by the Community Safety Partnership Executive on 26 January 2017.

2. Community Safety Plan Refresh Process

The Community Safety Plan is refreshed annually. Initially a strategic assessment is undertaken that draws together data from various partners, and considers for a number of issues, including the level of risk and harm to communities, individuals and organisations; existing responsibilities; and the capacity and capability of the Partnership to tackle each issue.

A survey is also undertaken with the community that is considered as part of this process. Residents are asked how much of a concern specific issues are within their area; and to list their top three community safety concerns.

The Community Safety Partnership Executive will discuss the findings of the Strategic Assessment, community feedback, and wider comments from partners at their annual Away Day in January. Priorities for the year will then be agreed, and the Community Safety Plan and action plan will then be drawn up and agreed by April.

3. 'Tell us what matters to you survey' results

108 responses were received to the community survey, which closed at the end of November 2016.

Respondents were asked regarding a number of issues, how concerned they were about each within Swale. The five issues that the greatest number of people ranked as of 'great' concern were:

- Fly Tipping - 50 respondents rated as 'great concern';
- ASB – 47;
- Speeding Vehicles – 46;
- Litter – 40; and
- Drugs use – 37.

Respondents were also asked to list their top three issues. Those issues that featured the most number of times within these top three priorities were:

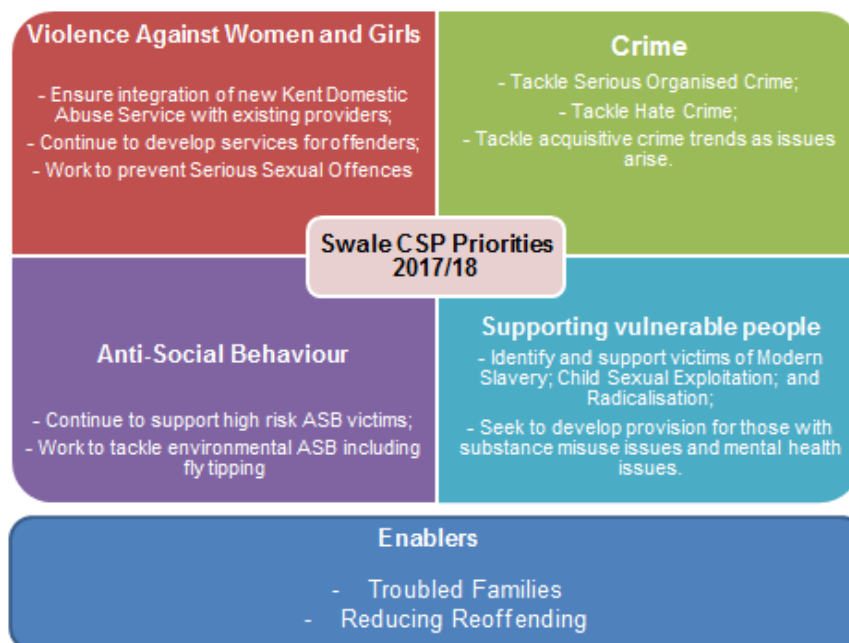
- ASB – 49;
- Drug Dealing – 39;

- Fly Tipping – 27; and
- Speeding – 27.

4. Strategic Assessment Findings

Through the strategic assessment process a number of community safety issues have been analysed, including those that are existing priorities for the CSP, and those that are either emerging issues or of concern to communities.

The diagram below shows the recommended priorities following this process:



Violence Against Women and Girls is a long standing priority for Swale CSP, and it is recommended that it remains a priority. This is due to the impact on victims and their families; the increasing volume of reported incidents; and the need to embed the new county-wide domestic abuse service which will commence on 1 April 2017. Continuing to work on ensuring services are in place for perpetrators should also remain a focus.

There has also been an increase in reported sexual offences and, given the age profile of victims and that over half of offences are reported to take place in a public place, there is a role for the Partnership to play in identification of vulnerable locations and safety activities.

Crime is also a long standing priority for Swale CSP, and it is recommended that it remains a priority, with its focus continuing on tackling serious organised crime. The impact of Organised Crime Groups on victims, communities, and organisations is high. The Partnership has a role to play through the use of tools, powers and sharing of intelligence on individuals within these groups.

It is also recommended that Hate Crime forms part of this priority. Further analysis is needed to better understand the increase in incidents reported and the role the Partnership can play in raising awareness of reporting, tackling incidents, and building community cohesion. Volumes of acquisitive crime (such as burglary and shoplifting) are reducing and, due to the well embedded partnership mechanisms already in place, it is recommended that these issues are only tackled should a trend or hotspot location arise.

ASB is also a long standing priority for Swale CSP, and it is recommended it remains as such, given the volume and level of community concern. Multi-agency processes are well embedded, and are proficient at identify and tackling trends and hotspots, including for environmental ASB such as fly tipping. Supporting road safety initiatives led by KCC and KFRS will also be included under this priority.

A Safeguarding priority was introduced in 2016/17, but is recommended that this is amended to become **Supporting Vulnerable People**. This is to include identifying and supporting victims of Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, and Radicalisation. Although reported volumes of these issues are low, it is considered that these are largely hidden issues, and that as such awareness still needs to continue to be raised, with mechanisms to share intelligence on these issues needing to be developed and embedded.

It is also recommended that this priority include supporting those affected by substance misuse issues and mental health. Substance misuse is an issue that cross-cuts across many of the categories of interest to the Partnership, specifically serious organised crime. It is of great concern to the community, and increasing emphasis is being placed upon it County-wide. The impact of mental health of both victims and offenders can have great impact on those individuals and organisations seeking to address them. Focus needs to be on increasing understanding of mental health services available locally, and increasing local engagement with such services.

Troubled Families is currently considered a key enabler for the Partnership, also cross-cutting all priorities. It is recommended it remains a key enabler, working to address the challenges identified in relation to outcomes for crime/ASB and education/ employment, and supporting the target for 2017/18 (which is higher than for 2016/17) of families to 'turn around'.

Reducing Reoffending is also a key enabler for the Partnership and is recommended it remains so. This is due to changes in the Integrated Offender Management process and the need to re-establish the Reoffending Group, to determine what, if any, multi-agency actions can be taken to address common themes affecting offenders.

5. Next Steps

All comments received on suggested priorities will be discussed along with the Strategic Assessment, by the CSP Executive on 26 January, where the Partnership priorities will be formally agreed for 2017/18.