

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	13 December 2022
Title:	Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group during 2022.

Recommendation

2. That Cabinet notes the progress on the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group (HCSSG), including the role in providing oversight and assurance of collaborative arrangements at the Hampshire county-level to address community safety priorities.

Executive Summary

3. This report provides an update on progress of the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group in ensuring effective collaborative arrangements at the county level to address strategic community safety priorities.

Contextual information

4. The role of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group (HCSSG) is to prepare a Community Safety Agreement based on a strategic assessment for the area which gathers evidence to inform strategic priorities relating to current and emerging risks and vulnerabilities. The HCSSG oversees county-level collaborative arrangements for addressing these priorities and how the responsible authorities under community safety legislation might otherwise work together to reduce crime and disorder or combat substance misuse.
5. The HCSSG is chaired by the Director of Adults' Health and Care and meets quarterly. It is well attended by wide range of senior representatives from community safety partner agencies.

Hampshire Strategic Assessment for Community Safety and Hampshire Community Safety Agreement.

6. The HCSSG agreed the updated County Agreement presented in draft to Cabinet in December 2021, including the revised strategic assessment and updated priorities:
 - Exploitation, serious violence and drug related harm through organised crime.
 - Intimidation violence and abuse of women and girls.
 - Hate related offences and violent extremism
 - Promoting community wellbeing and cohesion
7. Throughout 2022, the Group has received assurance reports from sponsors on the partnership arrangements supporting these priorities and looked holistically at the emerging risks and opportunities for enhanced collaboration. This has included sharing local responses to a number of related national initiatives including:
 - the introduction of a new statutory duty on serious violence
 - the response to the national strategy for violence against women and girls
 - the response to the new 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives: “From Harm to Hope”.
 - The establishment of the new Probation services
8. The Board also considers shared risks, opportunities and responses which cut across these priorities for example:
 - the role of on-line safety in preventing exploitation, abuse, hatred and tackling organised crime
 - the role of restorative justice in meeting the needs of victims, serving penalties, preventing re-offending, and reducing harm
 - the legacy impacts of covid for vulnerable people and communities compounded by current cost of living challenges
 - the further development of trauma informed practice across all agencies

Priority 1: Exploitation, serious violence and drug related harm through organised crime.

9. A new Serious Violence Duty introduced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is expected to come into force in 2023 with statutory guidance awaited shortly in time to prepare profiles and plans for 2024. It requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. Prisons, youth custody agencies and educational authorities may also need to work with these core partners.
10. With annual funding from the Home Office via the Police and Crime Commissioner, the County Council has been working with partners since 2019 to form a multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit to improve multi-agency working with young people at risk including protecting young people from the continued threat of county-lines activities; to establish a shared evidence base; and to use annual Home Office funding to commission a range of

interventions which in 2021 engaged 680 young people. From 2021-22, recorded serious violence has continued to rise nationally and this is mirrored in all districts in Hampshire except Fareham. Havant, Gosport, Rushmoor and Basingstoke have the highest rates of serious violence. Serious violence specifically involving young people (under 25) and including the use of a knife is highest in the urban centres of Basingstoke, Andover, Farnborough and Eastleigh.

11. Organised crime is a key driver for serious violence especially in the drug supply market as well as other harms including exploitation and fraud. This is a priority for Hampshire Constabulary working with regional, national and local partners to reduce harm in Hampshire and national partners. At the same time, and consistent with the national 10-year drugs plan, it is important to ensure access to effective drugs treatment and recovery services through Public Health led partnerships, and to address the demand for recreational drug use. The HCSSG provides a vehicle to ensure that the partnerships addressing the respective elements of this priority are aligned and connected in promoting a whole system approach.

Priority 2: Intimidation violence and abuse of women and girls (VAWG).

12. During 2022, multiagency work has developed at pace on this agenda following the publication of the national VAWG strategy. The overall approach is co-ordinated by the Police and Crime Commissioner through a multi-agency VAWG Task Force. This work is focusing on the themes of prevention; building confidence in reporting; expediting the legal process; managing offenders; and data analysis. Key objectives are to rebuild trust and confidence in policing; address (up to 80%) under-reporting of violence against women; defining the problem through evidence led analysis; addressing societal problems including behavioural norms; a shift towards a perpetrator focus; quicker justice; addressing desensitisation and normalisation including with children; addressing additional challenges for marginalised groups; understanding long-lasting health impacts and trauma; and increasing capacity for domestic abuse perpetrator services.
13. Work is underway to create a problem profile, with a call for evidence by the PCC conducted in March 2022. The CPS have made rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) a priority and doubled the number of specialist lawyers who deal with these cases. A tri-force action plan for Wessex region has been produced for domestic abuse to address the conviction rate and to offer further support to victims in the justice system. Training is being provided for licensed premises on sexual violence.
14. The HCSSG provides an overview across this newly focused strand of work; the established multi-agency arrangements led by the Director of Public Health on domestic abuse; and the important contribution of work led by the County Council to support schools in addressing prejudicial language and behaviour.

Priority 3: Hate related offences and violent extremism.

15. The HCSSG has received reports from the Hampshire Prevent Partnership Board and assurance around the multi-agency arrangements. This work is detailed in a separate report to Cabinet.
16. PREVENT is concerned with pre-criminal justice interventions to prevent radicalisation and the risk of undertaking or supporting acts of violent extremism. The HCSSG provides a forum to draw this work together with a broader view of hatred and its impact on community safety. It is important to continue to promote the reporting of all hate-related offences and to continue to build an understanding of the harmful impacts of such offences as well as the wider lifelong experiences of groups with protected characteristics.
17. The acknowledged challenges in under-reporting of hate-related offences mirror those for VAWG. This requires building increased confidence in reporting and enabling different ways to report, including anonymously. The multiagency approach has continued during 2022 to creating and promoting more third-party reporting centres across Hampshire. The work to support schools on prejudicial language and behaviour referenced under VAWG is also important in this priority and the County Council has a strong compliance from schools with the offered incident reporting framework. The HCSSG will be considering ways to build a stronger shared understanding of these aspects of harm.

Priority 4: Promoting community wellbeing and cohesion.

18. Whilst the first 3 priorities focus on aspects of harm, this priority is concerned with opportunities to support safer communities through cohesion and mutual support across Hampshire's communities. It provides a helpful opportunity to hear more perspectives from across the voluntary, community and faith sector members of the HCSSG and to consider how community and voluntary organisations can work together better with public sector partners to identify risks and work together on solutions.
19. The group has considered progress on the re-establishment of voluntary and community support services, including the challenges of re-building the volunteer base and financial resilience of many organisations following the pandemic measures. This role of the sector and active communities is critical in supporting the community safety priorities as well as many other outcomes for vulnerable people.
20. The HCSSG has considered some key areas of focus for the voluntary and community and faith sector working with public sector partners including activities to address anti-social behaviour, youth mentoring schemes and early interventions for young people's mental wellbeing. The HCSSG has promoted further voluntary sector involvement with the key partnerships to ensure the challenges and contributions of the sector are better understood and to ensure commissioning processes are better connected to support effective and sustainable provision from the sector.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

21. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
22. This is an annual report providing an update on the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group, so therefore no Climate Change assessment has been undertaken.

Conclusion

23. This report demonstrates continued progress in the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group in providing assurance around effective collaborative arrangements to address the strategic priorities, and in supporting effective links between the respective partnerships to promote whole systems working and efficient use of resources.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Document Location	
Hampshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Hampshire Community Safety Agreement	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

<http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-assessments.htm> No adverse impacts