

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Policy and Resources Select Committee
Date:	19 November 2021
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.

Recommendation

2. That the Policy and Resources Committee 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 seeks to provide an update on progress of the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group in establishing priorities and overseeing arrangements for multi-agency collaboration at the county level.
4. The Select Committee will also receive a presentation by Children's Service and the Hampshire Constabulary on the county-level multi-agency working on exploitation, serious violence and drug related harm through organised crime, including how this relates to concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in local communities.

Contextual information

5. The Policy and Resources Select Committee is the designated body for overview and scrutiny of multi-agency working at the county level to address community safety priorities. At the local level, multi-agency arrangements through district and borough community safety partnerships are overseen and scrutinised by local district and borough councils. The work of the Police and Crime Commissioner is overseen by the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel.
6. An annual report on the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group will be presented to the County Council's Cabinet in December 2021.

7. The Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group (HCSSG) was re-established in July 2018 and meets quarterly. It is required 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, threats 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.

Membership of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group (HCSSG)

8. The HCSSG is chaired by the Director of Adults' Health and Care and is attended by the Director of Children's Services, Director of Public Health and leads from Emergency Planning, Mental Health and Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Services for Children and Adults, Trading Standards, Supporting Families and the Youth Offending Team. Senior partners attend from representing HMP Winchester, the Probation Service, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Partnership of Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Local Criminal Justice Board, the Civilian Military Partnership, district and borough housing services, and community safety officers from Hampshire's district and borough community safety partnerships. Lead officers from Portsmouth and Southampton attend as observers.

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

9. The HCSSG continued to convene quarterly during 2020-21, sharing risks and opportunities for improved collaboration relating to the county-wide community safety priorities. This was against the background of developments in 2021 including revised arrangements for probation services and the election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner as well as important contemporary issues arising from the tragic murder of Sarah Everard and the Black Lives Matter Movement and, significantly, the impact of Covid-19. The pandemic, in particular, affected several important areas relating to community safety including increases in domestic abuse, violent extremism and adult and child safeguarding concerns. These impacts are set out more fully in separate reports to Cabinet
10. During 2021, the HCSSG updated the Strategic Assessment to reflect the revised Police Force Control Strategy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Serious Violence Problem profile. A summary of the Assessment is provided at Appendix One. In line with this, the HCSSG is due to agree updated priorities at its meeting on 20 December which, thereafter, will be communicated to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who is currently finalising the Policing Plan. The priorities are listed below with further detail provided in Appendix Two:
 - i) **Exploitation, serious violence and drug related harm through organised crime.**

- ii) **Intimidation violence and abuse of women and girls.**
- iii) **Hate related offences and violent extremism.**
- iv) **Promoting community wellbeing and cohesion**

11. The HCSSG has also updated the **County Agreement** describing the role of the Group as to:

- Promote a shared understanding and commitment between community safety partners.
- Provide an overview and support collaborative arrangements to address the strategic priorities.
- Provide a forum across key partnership activities for sharing strategic risks and mitigations with key areas of focus for county-wide collaboration to reduce harm.
- Have due regard to wider partnership governance.
- Provide assurance of effective collaboration to the County Council's Executive and the statutory Crime and Disorder Overview Committee for the county area (Policy and Resources Select Committee).
- Share the strategic priorities with local partnerships and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

12. Co-sponsors have been agreed for each priority who will be responsible for reporting, shared risk, mitigations and related governance developments.

13. The HCSSG identified several **key areas of focus** for continual development which should underpin county-wide collaboration around the priorities and form part of the quarterly reporting and assurance framework. These have emerged through the process of shared risk management and progress reports over the past two years and are as follows:

- Continue the development of systems approaches to timely interventions.
- Take a holistic approach to offending risk factors and rehabilitative pathways (accommodation, attitudes, thinking and behaviour, Children and family, drugs and alcohol, education, training and employment, finance, benefit and debt, health).
- Continue to embed trauma informed approaches to interventions.
- Capitalise on revised rehabilitation and offender arrangements to reducing re-offending.
- Ensure services provide effective transition into adulthood.
- Continue to develop joint intelligence and protective arrangements to combat serious and organised crime.
- Build capability and capacity to deal with on-line threats.
- Create strong shared messaging that agencies are working together to pursue justice and protect vulnerable people.

- Develop shared insight of the experience of people with protected characteristics beyond the reporting of hate crimes.
 - Further align resources and develop knowledge-based commissioning arrangements to optimise the impact of collective investment.
14. The HCSSG draws together partners across a large and complex collaborative governance structure at the county level to help deliver against the strategic priorities including:
- Hampshire Serious and organised Crime Partnership
 - Hampshire Domestic Abuse Forum
 - Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit
 - Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership
 - Hampshire Trauma Informed Practice Group
 - Hampshire Childrens and Adults Safeguarding Boards
 - Hampshire PREVENT Partnership Board
 - Hampshire Childrens Trust
 - Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnerships
 - Hampshire Modern Day Slavery Partnership
 - Hampshire Sexual Violence Partnership
 - Local Criminal Justice Board
 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System

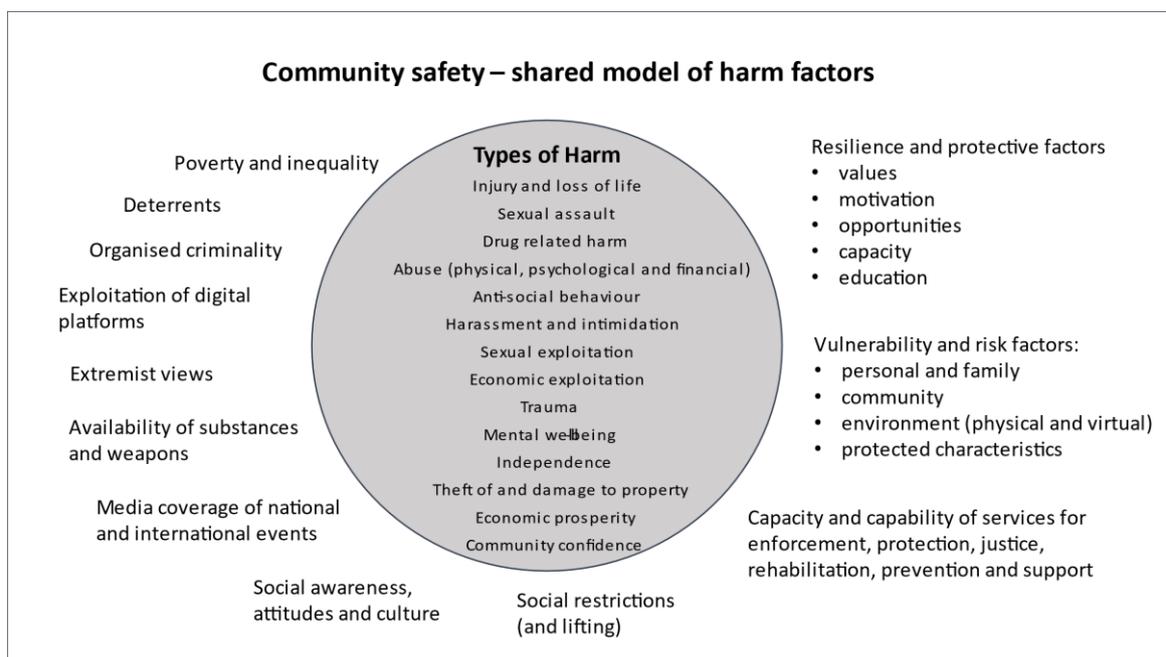
Climate Change Impact Assessment

15. 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.
16. 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

17. This report demonstrates positive progress in the work of the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy Group, especially in providing assurance around collaborative activities throughout, and emerging from, the Covid-19 pandemic. It has set a sound, evidence-based set of priorities and an assurance framework for effective collaboration for the next two years.

Appendix One - Summary strategic assessment update 2021-23



Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse incidents and recorded crimes have continued their upward trend, mostly in Violence without Injury crime types.

- COVID-19 lockdown measures exacerbated domestic related violence and harm, the longer-term effects of which are yet unknown. Child to parent violence and abuse (CPVA) is believed to have intensified in lockdown, with parents less inclined to report violence and abuse from their own children until behaviour escalates to a dangerous point.
- There is a continued increase in stalking and harassment. Stalking clinics and training are likely to be improving recognition of offences. Only four Stalking Prevention Orders (SPOs) have been issued. Analysis of the risk from stalking and harassment is necessary to better understand demand.

Drug Related (Community) Harm

- Class A drugs and the supply mechanisms around them remain the highest risk compared to lower classes and new psychoactive drugs.
- Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) continue to primarily supply the powder cocaine market, with County and Local Drug Networks (LDNs) driving the heroin and crack markets.
- OCGs, middle market and/or importation activities cause little Drug Related Violence (DRV) in comparison to street-level dealing. DRV and Drug Related Harm (DRH) are most commonly linked to the activities of County Lines (CLs) and LDNs, however gaps in relation to the identification and recording of drug networks impacts accurate assessments of threat, risk and demand.

- Any impact Covid-19 had on Class A supply chains appears to have been temporary. The level and types of exploitation exhibited by CLs and LDNs has increased, with lockdowns appearing to have enhanced grooming capabilities with young people exploited to commit serious offending and perpetuate the exploitation cycle.
- A pursue only approach to CLs and LDNs has had limited impact on the drugs market. Lines are quick to re-establish - the longer they are active within an area, the more established, higher risk, and exploitative they become. Innovative partnership approaches linking targeted enforcement and safeguarding of vulnerable children need to be maintained and further developed to reduce threat levels and increase community confidence.

Serious Violence and Knife Crime

- Most Serious Violence (MSV) recorded within the force area decreased by 13% when compared to the previous year. Simultaneously domestic related MSV increased by 12%.
- There were 15 homicides (four knife-enabled) during 2020 in four categories: drug-related harm, serious violence, domestic abuse or child abuse. Victim and suspect profiles are different for each.
- There has been an increase in weapons and an on-going presence of street level drug related violence.
- Even with the suppression of the night-time economy during lockdown, MSV was concentrated within the urban areas, particularly Southampton and Portsmouth city centres, on weekend evenings. Violence is likely to rise following of the lifting of lockdown measures.
- Youth on youth violence, both victim and offender under 25 years of age, accounted for 20% of all MSV
- Hampshire's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), led centrally by the OPCC, is undertaking further analysis for a cohort of 342 knife crime offenders aged under 25 when they committed their offence, or offended against a victim who was under 25. This should provide essential insight for the development of partnership approaches to preventing serious violence.

Child Abuse

- Child protection contacts and referrals to children's social care have increased during the pandemic although there has been a slight reduction in police recorded child abuse cases. Grooming offences increased by 83%.
- As crime volumes fell during the first lockdown, the proportion of repeat victims rose sharply.
- Cruelty/Neglect accounts for around 30% of all Child Abuse and is likely to increase as COVID restrictions are relaxed.

Children at Risk of Criminal and Sexual Exploitation

- Children flagged at risk of CCE have increased from 126 in 19/20 to 347 in 20/21.
- Inaccurate or inconsistent recording of CSE crimes presents a challenge to accurate understanding and identification of opportunities for early intervention.

Sexual harassment and Serious sexual offences

- Hampshire remains consistently high in terms of recorded serious sexual offences amongst comparable police force areas.
- Sexual offences reported in 2020-21 reduced by 6% compared to 2019-20; Rape offences fell by 5%.
- Lockdown restrictions and the limited night-time economy in 2020-21 is reflected in a 17% increase in domestic rapes in contrast to a 50% reduction in 'stranger' rapes and reported acquaintance rapes falling by a third.
- The most significant risk with the return of the night-time economy is the increase in stranger offences. Pre Covid-19 issues of lone predatory males, identified as an issue in multiple districts, are likely to return.
- Non-recent offences have consistently accounted for 25-28% of sexual offences since 2017-18.
- A recent rapid review by OFSTED highlighted a high prevalence and a degree of normalisation of sexual harassment experienced by girls both at school and in unsupervised spaces. A body of work is progressing to encourage discussion and reporting of experiences of women in different aspects of their lives.

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)

- There are 168 active Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) across the South East region, including 47 that are "owned" by Hampshire Constabulary. All forces in the South East region recorded an increase in the number of OCGs mapped in 2020/21. Hampshire mapped 10 new OCGs between April 2020 and March 2021
- OCGs continue to modify their communication methods despite the takedown of Enchrochat.
- Modern day slavery and human trafficking crimes have continued to increase at a reduced rate. Following the rise (+54) in 2019, there was an increase of (+25) in 2020. The profile of Modern Slavery Victims remains unchanged.
- Over 75% are male and over 50% are British including victims of child criminal exploitation, adult criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation. National reporting suggests that the pandemic has served to increase the

risk towards sex workers. Despite the volume of intelligence, further work is required to understand sex working, in particular via adult websites.

- Firearms discharges remain low; however, analysis of intelligence, offences, incidents and discharges indicate that the availability and accessibility of firearms has increased and these are largely linked to drugs related organised criminal activity.

Appendix Two: Proposed community safety strategic priorities

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

This priority encompasses county-wide activity addressing:

- intelligence-led disruption of organised criminal organisations and networks
- vulnerabilities to exploitation (including on-line) especially related to county lines
- support for victims of exploitation
- the impact of organised criminal activity on perceptions of antisocial behaviour in local communities
- interventions for substance and alcohol misuse
- rehabilitation and offender management
- positive pathways away from criminal involvement
- drivers of weapon carrying and resilience of young people

Priority 2: Intimidation violence and abuse of women and girls.

This priority includes county-wide activity aimed at:

- addressing the cultural and societal drivers of attitudes towards women and girls from a young age
- Shaping policies in schools and workplaces
- interventions for domestic abuse victims, families and perpetrators,
- tackling alcohol abuse
- safe public spaces
- stalking
- on-line abuse and safe use of the internet
- a balanced focus on addressing the attitudes and actions of males to ensure women and girls are empowered and not subject to intimidation, violence or micro-aggression
- a better understanding and shared appreciation of lived experience of women and girls
- justice and support services for victims of sexual violence

Priority 3: Hate related offences and violent extremism

This priority encompasses activity across the county to:

- promote good community relations, cultural understanding and respect in all settings
- protect the public from acts of extreme violence
- managing risk to prevent radicalisation in key settings (including online)
- de-radicalisation interventions
- encouraging reporting of hate crimes
- a better understanding and shared experience of lived experience of people who are subject to hate crime and offensive behaviours

Priority 4: Promoting community wellbeing and cohesion

This priority encompasses activity across the county to:

- create positive activities, environments and opportunities to support wellbeing
- encourage caring communities, inclusion, voluntary and mutual support
- promote opportunities for personal and community development, resilience and prosperity
- build civic pride in Hampshire and local communities
- celebrate diversity and mutual understanding
- build on the positive community capacity legacy opportunities arising from the pandemic

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

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.)

Document

Location

Document Location

Hampshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment

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:

No adverse impacts