

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-23

For Full Council on 27 April 2022

Summary

Lead Member: Councillor David Scott, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

Lead Director: Paul Taylor, Director of Change and Communities

Head of Service: Denise Haylett, Head of Facilities and Community Hubs

Report Author: Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Community Safety Partnership	17 February 2022
Portfolio Holder	17 February 2022
Management Board	16 March 2022
Communities CAB	30 March 2022
Cabinet	14 April 2022
Full Council	27 April 2022

Recommendations

Officer / Committee recommendations as supported by the Portfolio Holder:

1. That the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-23 be approved.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Tunbridge Wells is amongst the safest places to live in the county. In calendar year 2021 Tunbridge Wells was well positioned within Kent, coming first or second in 10 of our 14 regularly measured crime-types, and third place in all but Hate crime where we sit fourth (sixth in 2020)
- 1.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposed a statutory duty on partners, referred to as 'responsible authorities', to work closely together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime. Partnerships were formalised as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), now referred to as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 1.3 The partners referred to in the Act as 'responsible authorities' are Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company, and the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (from 2021, the West Kent Integrated Care Partnership).
- 1.4 The CSP also has many non-statutory partners including housing associations, other housing providers, and voluntary and community organisations.
- 1.5 The CSP meets quarterly to discuss strategic aims and is chaired by the District Commander and Borough Council's relevant Head of Service.
- 1.6 The Community Safety Unit (CSU) was set up in 2010 as the operational delivery unit of the CSP. It is a multi-agency partnership and includes officers from TWBC, KCC (Community Wardens), Kent Police, Safe Town Partnership, Protection Against Stalking and other agencies working together to reduce crime and disorder.
- 1.7 Most partners meet two mornings every week to discuss matters of crime and anti-social behaviour and to put in place plans to address ongoing issues. In addition to morning briefings, partners come together at various monthly meetings to discuss vulnerable adults, young people, open spaces, organised crime and domestic abuse.
- 1.8 In addition to the day-to-day work to address crime and anti-social behaviour the Community Safety Partnership sets local priorities for themes that are important to residents and require a high level of partnership working.
- 1.9 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Constitution and the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 states that the Partnership Plan must be adopted by Full Council. The plan is presented to Cabinet for recommendation and to Full Council for adoption.
- 1.10 Based on intelligence from an annual assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour data, a Partnership Plan is developed in consultation with a range of community safety

partners. The Strategic Assessment, and the identified priorities and activities for 2022/23, were discussed at a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership on 17 February 2022.

- 1.11 The plan also complements and supports the delivery of the “Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan 2017-2021”, published by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner – and extended to March 2022 following postponement of the PCC elections in 2021); and the Kent Community Safety Agreement published by the KCC Community Safety Unit.
- 1.12 Priorities identified by the Strategic Assessment process were discussed at a CSP meeting on 17 February 2022, and the following were agreed upon:
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Substance Misuse and Supply, and Alcohol Abuse (inc. violence-related issues and knife crime)
 - Anti-social and High-risk Behaviour (including violence-related issues)
 - Road Safety
 - Violence Against Women and Girls
- 1.13 Following several high-profile violent, and fatal, attacks on women (in other parts of the country) the government launched a *tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy* to “ensure women and girls are safe everywhere - at home, online and on the streets.”
- 1.14 While issues of violence were already integrated into two local CSP priorities (Anti-social behaviour and Substance Misuse & Supply) a stronger focus on violence against women led to a fifth priority being added for Q4. This was agreed with the relevant portfolio holder and members of the Community Safety Partnership at the quarterly meeting in February 2022. The priority has been retained for 2022/23.
- 1.15 Full details of the plan and the data used in the assessment are attached as appendices. The plan will be monitored quarterly at strategic CSP meetings.

2. Options Considered

- 2.1 Under the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Constitution and the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, this plan must be brought in front of Full Council for formal adoption.

3. Preferred Option and Reason

- 3.1 This report is designed to inform members of the multi-agency activity which TWBC and partners have committed to undertake to reduce crime and disorder. The preferred option is for the plan to be considered and approved.

4. Consultation on Options

- 4.1 The CSP ratified the identified priorities at the meeting on 17 February 2022, with the Portfolio Holder in attendance.

Recommendation from Cabinet Advisory Board

- 4.2 Communities CAB will be consulted on 30 March 2022.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 The plan will be made available on the Council's website.
- 5.2 Partner commitments to the plan will be monitored quarterly at CSP meetings.
- 5.3 Monitoring information is sent to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for those priorities or actions funded by his annual Crime Reduction Grant.

6. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2021-22
- Appendix B: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2022-23 and Summary Strategic Assessment 2021-22

7. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

As detailed in the body of the report the Partnership Plan is formulated as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Regulation 4 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 require Full Council to adopt the Partnership Plan.

At this stage there are no direct consequences arising from the recommendation that adversely affect an individual's rights and freedoms as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998. Potentially, consequences could arise in the future implementation of the plan that would need to be evaluated at the time.

Helen Ward, Lawyer (Contentious), Mid Kent Legal Services, 09/03/2022

B. Finance and Other Resources

All actions within the plan will be undertaken from existing resources or funded by the CSP.

[Name, title and date of finance officer who signed off the report]

C. Staffing

No direct implications

[Name, title and date of HR officer who signed off the report]

D. Risk Management

No direct risks arise from this report.

[Name, title and date of report author]

E. Environment and Sustainability

No direct implications.

Section 40, National Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

40(1) Every public authority must, in exercising its functions have regard so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Section 85, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

85(1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

TBC Karin Grey, Sustainability Manager, XX/03/2022.

F. Community Safety

The activities contained within this plan are designed to build safer communities by tackling the CSP's priorities of:

Reducing alcohol and substance misuse, addressing domestic abuse, tackling anti-social behaviour, contributing to road safety and addressing Violence Against Women and Girls.

Section 17, Crime and Disorder Act 1998

17(1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager, 22/2/22.

G. Equalities

Decision-makers are reminded of the requirement under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper could directly impact on end users.

The priorities identified support the aim of the public sector equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation by:

- Providing support services for women and men who experience domestic abuse.
- Delivering an action plan to address violence against women and girls.

Section 149, Equality Act 2010

149(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Sarah Lavallie, Corporate Governance Officer, 3/3/22

H. Data Protection

The proposals in this report do not present any changes to how personal data is processed by the Community Safety Partnership. The Council has appropriate safeguards in place to keep data secure, including when working with our partners.

Article 5, General Data Protection Regulation 2016

1. Personal data shall be:

(a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject;

(b) collected for specific, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes;

(c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;

(d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;

(e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed;

(f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

TBC Sarah Lavallie, Corporate Governance Officer, XX March 2022

I. Health and Safety

The plan should help to have an overall increase in safety within the Borough. This would have a positive impact on the safety of staff of TWBC as well as showing that the council are taking their responsibilities seriously with regards to reducing anti-social behaviour. Making the communities safer and more secure to work and live for all.

TBC [Name, title and date of Health and Safety Officer who signed off the report.]

J. Health and Wellbeing

The actions contained within the plan should contribute to increased wellbeing, and the work to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse should have a positive impact on the health of those affected.

1. *Areas of deprivation: Will the proposal have an impact (positive or negative) on those living in areas of deprivation within the borough (40% most deprived in the country). These are Sherwood, Southborough and High Brooms, Broadwater and Rusthall.*
2. *Healthier lifestyle opportunities: Will residents be more or less able to make healthier lifestyle choices such as physical activity (e.g. active travel, access to green spaces or access to leisure facilities), healthy eating (e.g. proximity or access to take away shops, allotments, food stores) and being smokefree*
3. *Social and Community networks: Will the proposal make it easier for people to interact with one another e.g. encouraging community engagement*
4. *Living and Working Conditions: does the proposal improve work or home environments, increase job, education or training opportunities, improve access to health services or housing*
5. *General Socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions: Are there any other factors that may impact the above*

Rebecca Bowers, Health Improvement Team Leader, 10/03/2022