

# Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-24

For Full Council on 5 April 2023

## Summary

**Lead Member:** Cllr Nancy Warne  
**Lead Director:** Paul Taylor  
**Head of Service:** Denise Haylett  
**Report Author:** Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager  
**Classification:** Public document (non-exempt)  
**Wards Affected:** All

Approval Timetable	Date
Community Safety Partnership	26 January 2023
Portfolio Holder	13 February 2023
Management Board	16 February 2023
Communities CAB	08 March 2023
Cabinet	23 March 2023
Full Council	05 April 2023

## Recommendations

Officer / Committee recommendations as supported by the Portfolio Holder:

1. That the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-24 be approved.

# 1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Tunbridge Wells is amongst the safest places in the county. Despite a 1.8% increase in 'all crime' we experienced the lowest overall crime rate in Kent during calendar 2022. It's worth noting that margins across many crime types are small with respect to our West Kent neighbours, but Tunbridge Wells has a busy night-time economy.
- 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, Probation Service, Kent and Medway Integrated Care Partnership.
- 1.4 The CSP also has many non-statutory partners including registered social landlords and other local housing providers, a business crime partnership (Safe Town Partnership), CCTV Operations and voluntary and community organisations.
- 1.5 The CSP meets quarterly to discuss strategic aims and is chaired by the Borough Council's Head of Facilities & Community Hubs.
- 1.6 Partners meet on Teams two mornings every week to discuss matters of crime and anti-social behaviour, monthly to discuss vulnerable adults, young people, open spaces, organised crime and domestic abuse.
- 1.7 In addition to the day-to-day work partners undertake to keep Tunbridge Wells safe the Community Safety Partnership sets local priorities for themes that are important to residents and require a high level of partnership working.
- 1.8 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 2023/24, were discussed at a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership on 26 January 2023.
- 1.9 The plan complements and supports the delivery of "Making Kent Safer 2022-25", published by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Kent Community Safety Agreement published by the KCC Community Safety Unit.
- 1.10 Priorities identified by the Strategic Assessment process were discussed at a CSP meeting on 26 January 2023, and the following were agreed upon:
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Substance Misuse and Supply, and Alcohol-related Behaviour

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Road Safety
- Violent Behaviour (incl. Violence Against Women and Girls, NTE)

1.11 While issues of violence were integrated previously into two other CSP priorities 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 January 2023. We suggest extending the priority to cover all forms of violent behaviour for 2023/24.

1.12 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 26 January 2023, with the Portfolio Holder in attendance.

## **Recommendation from Cabinet Advisory Board**

4.2 Communities CAB will be consulted on 8 March 2023.

## **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 twice yearly 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 2022-23
- Appendix B: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-24 and Summary Strategic Assessment 2022-23

## 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.

Claudette Valmond, Head of Legal Partnership, 20/02/2023

### B. Finance and Other Resources

No implications

Jane Fineman, Head of Finance & Procurement, 15/02/2023

### 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.*

Karin Grey, Sustainability Manager, 15/02/2023

## **F. Community Safety**

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

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol and substance misuse, addressing domestic abuse, tackling youth anti-social behaviour in public spaces, addressing violent behaviour, in particular violence against women and girls, tackling young street groups, and contributing to better road safety where possible.

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, 22/02/2023

## **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, 17/02/2023

## **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.*

Sarah Lavallie, Corporate Governance Officer, 17/02/2023

## **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.

Mike Catling, Corporate Health and Safety Advisor, 22/03/2022

## 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, 16/02/2023