

Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-25

For Full Council on 3 April 2024

Summary

Lead Member: Cllr Nancy Warne, Cabinet Member for Rural Communities, and Deputy Leader

Lead Director: Paul Taylor, Director of Change & Communities

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

Report Author: Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Community Safety Partnership	25 January 2024
Portfolio Holder	25 January 2024
Management Board	19 February 2024
Communities CAB	7 March 2024
Cabinet	21 March 2024
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 March 2024
Full Council	3 April 2024

Recommendations

That Full Council be recommended:

1. That the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-25 be approved.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out a statutory framework for agencies to work together as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with a duty to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and the fear of crime.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The CSP works with many other agencies, including registered social landlords and other local housing providers, a business crime partnership (Safe Town Partnership), the Borough Council's CCTV Operations, Business Improvement District (BID) and many other voluntary and community organisations.
- 1.4 The Community Safety Partnership receives annual funding and support from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Other funding streams are available for addressing the priorities identified annually through a strategic assessment.
- 1.5 On 24 January 2024 various members of the CSP met throughout the day at a series of workshops to confirm our priorities for the forthcoming financial year and to set out some actions to address the challenges we face.
- 1.6 The priorities and activities for 2024/25 were then discussed more broadly at the quarterly strategic meeting of the Community Safety Partnership on 25 January 2024.
- 1.7 Partnership priorities identified by the Strategic Assessment process and agreed at the 25 January CSP meeting:
 1. Domestic Abuse
 2. Anti-Social Behaviour
 3. Substance Misuse and Alcohol Abuse, NTE
 4. Road Safety
 5. Violence, Stalking and Harassment
 6. Violence Against Women and Girls
 7. Business and Environmental | Town Centre Issues (Youth ASB, Shoplifting, Graffiti)
- 1.8 The Partnership Plan and the data used in the assessment are attached as appendices. The plan will be monitored quarterly at strategic CSP meetings as more frequently by the Council's Community Safety Team.
- 1.9 The plan 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 Kent Community Safety Unit.

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 Workshops were held with a range of partners and service providers to discuss issues in public spaces, and some of the drivers of this anti-social behaviour and substance (including vapes and energy drinks) misuse. Other workshops discussed our domestic abuse, stalking and violence against women.
- 4.2 The CSP ratified the identified priorities at the meeting on 25 January 2024, with the Portfolio Holder in attendance.

Recommendation from Cabinet Advisory Board

- 4.3 The Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board were consulted on 7 March 2024 and agreed the following:

That the Partnership Plan be approved / sent to Cabinet

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 monthly by the Council's Community Safety Team and 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 2023-24
- Appendix B: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024-25

7. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

[Report author to insert comment on legal issues including what is the legal authority for this decision or report, what if any are the legal implications? Seek legal advice when completing. The relevant legal officer must sign off the report before it is submitted to Democratic Services.]

Claudette Valmond, Head of Legal Partnership, /02/2024

B. Finance and Other Resources

There is nothing in the plan that commits us to additional spending. However, ongoing discussions may be had throughout the year. Funding in respect of the frontline provision we put out last year, should we wish to run similar projects this year, will be sources from elsewhere.

Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager, 28/02/2024

C. Staffing

There are no commitments in the action plan that would require any agency to change its own business practice or model, including ours. Worth noting 2.19 in the Action Plan is a discussion that would align with this.

Terry Hughes, Community Safety Manager, 28/02/2024

D. Risk Management

[Report author to insert comment on managing risks arising from the report including whether the matter is included in the strategic risk register, or if it should be, how the risks will be managed. Advice can be sought from the Head of Audit.]

[Name, title and date of report author]

By separate email

E. Environment (inc. Biodiversity) and Sustainability

No initial sustainability issues identified. However, for any specific projects being delivered that need such a report, the Climate Emergency Impact Assessment should be used to review the climate change impact from the outset.

Henry Saunders, Sustainability Manager, 19/02/2024

F. Community Safety

This partnership plan aligns with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

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, 07/02/2024

G. Equalities

No issues have been identified.

The Data Governance team are working on an EqIA and will send it across shortly. This may not arrive before CAB.

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:

- Continuing to provide support services for women and men who experience domestic abuse.
- Targeted engagement with schools and other educators in risky behaviour to help tackle anti-social behaviour, and working with relevant partners to address persistent anti-social youths.
- Exploring options for tackling anti-social behaviour in minors such as civil injunctions and FPN's.
- Delivering events to address violence against women and girls.
- Self-defence classes for 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.

Abigayle Sankey, Corporate Governance Officer, 26 February 2024

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, UK GDPR (Data Protection Act 2018).

1. Personal data shall be:

(a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;

(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, 27/02/2024

I. Health and Safety

[Report author to insert comment on if/how the proposals affect health and safety issues. Consideration must be given to our legal obligations. The Health and Safety Officer must be consulted on the report.]

Mike Catling, Corporate Health and Safety Advisor, /02/2024

J. Health and Wellbeing

[Report author to insert comment on any social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's health and wellbeing therefore these should be taken into consideration. The Health and Wellbeing team should be consulted on the report.]

- 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 to 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*

Helen Gaunt, Health Improvement Team Leader, /02/2024