

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

July 22 2019

By Director of Community Services

INFORMATION REPORT



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Annual Crime and Disorder Update

Executive Summary

This report aims to raise awareness for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the crime and disorder situation for review during the 2018/19 year.

Crime and disorder levels in the Horsham District for 2018/19 reflect the ongoing commitment to partnership and are the lowest in Sussex, very much below the average level for England and Wales and presently in the lowest quartile of the Home Office Most Similar Group, making Horsham one of the safest District's in the country.

Reported anti-social behaviour continued to fall thereby bucking the local and regional upward trend which is considered a real positive for local communities. Violent crime however is a concerning picture with month on month increases throughout the 2018/19 year. While these increases are in line with other areas in Sussex and nationally, it is a trend that cannot continue and the Community Safety Partnership has received additional funding to try and tack the problems.

Overall the Community Safety Partnership has had another productive year despite the austerity measures putting pressure on the resources available to tackle key issues. A summary of some key outputs from the partnership is provided as an appended document providing a flavour for the sorts of projects and initiatives and were delivered against the three priorities being: vulnerable people, county line drug dealing and road safety.

In recognition of the changing partnership landscape, it is accepted by statutory partners that we must adjust our working methods to reflect available resources. A new Partnership Network is being proposed by Horsham District Council as the lead CSP partner which would see us taking a more holistic approach to problem-solving and merging existing partnership structures to join agendas.

In more recent years, the Partnership has moved to prioritising those things that cause the most harm, have impacted the most vulnerable or pose the highest risk. These complex issues have required some investigation in order to further understand the complex issues, some exploration of options within new legal powers and for creating opportunity for innovative practice. The next steps from this are the learning from what has or hasn't worked, the sharing more widely of this learning and integrating ways of working across the wider community safety agenda.

Recommendation

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report

Reasons for Recommendation

The report is a Statutory Requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998)

Background Papers

N/A

Wards affected:

All Wards

Contact:

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1 Key Information

- 1.1 The root causes of crime are complex and take long term solutions that require a multi-agency approach. The impacts of the cuts to the public sector are a factor and the Community Safety Partnership is in the difficult position of being asked to do more with less within an arena of complexity and which is of considerable interest to the public.
- 1.2 Statutory agencies that form the Horsham District Community Safety Partnership have worked tirelessly throughout 2018/19 to embed a variety of work into a 'business as usual' approach. This includes partnership working, joint problem solving, shared action plans for complex cases and awareness raising. Examples of partnership groups in operation and the areas they aim to address are as follows:

Anti-social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG) – Monthly meeting focussing on problematic individuals and locations in a multi-agency setting.

Pubwatch – Monthly meeting with licensees to target violent crime in licensed premises

Joint Action Group (JAG) – Bi-monthly meeting with key stakeholders to respond in a quick time fashion to problems reported by the community including Parish Councils.

Early Intervention Programme (EIP) – Monthly meeting focussing on young people who are both at harm and are causing problems within the District.

Weekly Intelligence Meetings (WIM) – Police led meetings to inform partners of key emerging issues

Table 1: Total Crime (Horsham District) July 2018 – June 2019

Total Crime Horsham												
Recorded Offences	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Monthly Jul-17 - Jun-18	523	521	522	519	467	481	501	440	487	527	509	528
Monthly Jul-18 - Jun-19	526	513	499	574	580	512	524	529	614	537	602	0
Difference	3	-8	-23	55	113	31	23	89	127	10	93	-528
Rolling Year Jul-17 - Jun-18	5911	6011	6069	6098	6127	6158	6225	6214	6102	6116	6042	6025
Rolling Year Jul-18 - Jun-19	6028	6020	5997	6052	6165	6196	6219	6308	6435	6445	6538	6010
Absolute difference	117	9	-72	-46	38	38	-6	94	333	329	496	-15
Percentage difference	2.0%	0.1%	1.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%	1.5%	5.5%	5.4%	8.2%	0.2%

1.3 Total crime levels in the Horsham District for 2018/19 can be seen in **Table 1** above and show a very slight reduction when compared to the same figures reported from July 2017 to June 2018 with an absolute difference of 15 crimes.

1.4 Throughout the year, the Community Safety Partnership has a statutory function for monitoring crime and disorder levels. This information is provided using Sussex Police data and is summarised in a format that enable comparisons to be made. **Table 2** below provides an overview of the recorded crime data comparing July 2017 – June 2018 with the same period the following year. The table shows incidents with a significant increase or decrease from the full crime data collated by Sussex Police. Violent crime is the most significant increase with Anti-social Behaviour (ASB nuisance) and burglary dwelling showing significant decreases

Increases	2017/18	2018/19	Difference
Violent crime	2,738	2,841	+103
Violence against the person	2,466	2,619	+153
Domestic abuse	1,468	1,506	+38
Criminal damage to a vehicle	246	295	+49
Harassment	180	233	+53
Hate crime *	198	232	+34
ASB – personal	174	213	+39
Drug possession	134	166	+32
Criminal damage to a building, other than dwelling	59	96	+37
Serious knife crime	6	15	+9

Decreases	From	To	Difference
ASB nuisance	1,496	1,288	-208
Burglary - dwelling	513	407	-106
Sexual offences	239	192	-47
ASB Environmental	83	63	-20

Table 2: Recorded crimes with significant increases or decreases

1.5 This information is useful in forming a view around areas in which the Partnership needs to concentrate, however this information requires context from a wider perspective. In this way the Partnership looks at other Districts and Boroughs in Sussex. **Table 3** below provides a comparison between a number of key local authority areas within Sussex. The Horsham District has the lowest level of recorded crime both for 2017/18 and 2018/19, retaining the position as the safest District in Sussex moving Horsham ahead of Wealden who previously held this spot.

Total Crime Comparison		
Horsham	Rolling Year 17-18	6025
	18-19	6010
Crawley	Rolling Year 17-18	11982
	18-19	12434
Mid Sussex	Rolling Year 17-18	6657
	18-19	6758
Chichester	Rolling Year 17-18	6498
	18-19	7036
Wealden	Rolling Year 17-18	6219
	18-19	6231

Table 3: Total Crime Comparison Table

1.6 In 2018/19 the Community Safety Partnership focussed on three key priority areas:

- 1. Vulnerable People**
- 2. County Lines Drug Dealing**
- 3. Road Safety**

1.7 An account of the work outputs achieved by the Community Safety Partnership can be seen in **Appendix 1**. This document is provided as an annual return to the Police and Crime Commissioner who provides funding to the partnership on an annual basis. The document shows the breadth of work undertaken. Partners with responsibility for the above priority areas are encouraged to submit quarterly update returns to the partnership which are monitored for progress.

1.8 Overall the level of reported crimes appears stable and Horsham District's relative level of crimes recorded is positive when compared to other Sussex District and Borough areas. A particularly noteworthy reduction is our level of nuisance anti-

social behaviour which is very much bucking the trend of a more upward trajectory in other locations. We have for some years put a lot of resource into dealing with anti-social behaviour and it is likely (although hard to prove) that this is a reflection of our investment in the local warden service and our anti-social behaviour caseworkers, both unique in terms of how the teams work.

- 1.9 With the above said, there is however real concern about the rising levels of violent crime in particular and how disruptive such crimes can be to local people and our communities. This fact has been recognised by the Home Office who have provided significant funding for 2019/20 enabling our local Community Safety Partnership to address some of the problems.
- 1.10 The principles of collaborating in partnership to respond to key issues continues to be regarded as the most efficient and effective way to work, however pressures on budgets mean that partners are not able to commit previous time / officer resource levels in support of partnership activity which is suffering as a result when compared to the investment in time of 10-15 years ago.
- 1.11 In responding to this new environment in which partner organisations now operate, it is clear that we must consider changing our working arrangements to reduce the resource burden. It is therefore proposed that we move away from stand-alone partnership model for single agendas (including Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing) and instead adopt a new model delivered through a single structure - the Horsham District Partnership Network.
- 1.12 The Partnership Network (PN) is being proposed with the aim of bringing together senior representatives from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors to provide direction for the District's future, respond to local priorities and engage more effectively with local concerns. The PN would seek to take a more holistic approach to problem-solving and merging existing partnership structures to join agendas.
- 1.13 The PN is not an operational organisation in itself but brings partners together to work together in identifying strategic challenges that will benefit from collaboration, and prioritising them based on where the partnership can add most value.
- 1.14 A paper has been prepared and is being presented to the Senior Leadership Team for consideration in late July. If approved the new model would need partner sign-off before being adopted. An all member briefing will follow later in 2019 and a progress report will be provided to the Committee within the next 12 months.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 The work programme of the Community Safety Partnership supports the Council Corporate objective by playing an active role in supporting the reduction of antisocial behaviour and ensuring residents are safe.

3 Next Steps

- 3.1 A further report will be provided to the Committee within the next 12 months.

4 Resource Consequences

4.1 There are no associated resource consequences.

5 Legal Consequences

5.1 There are no associated legal consequences.

6 Risk Assessment

6.1 There are no associated risks.