



SAFER COMMUNITIES

3 YEAR STRATEGY

2021-2024

FORWARD



The preparation of this three year Safer Communities Strategy is timely given the significant impact the pandemic has had on our communities and the resulting impact on what we need to do to make our communities a safer place for all.

The pandemic has created many challenges, but it is clear some have been impacted more adversely than others. Consequently, our overarching strategy of levelling up is clearly more relevant than ever.

This strategy builds on the innovative work already being delivered and identifies clear partnership priorities taking into account the detailed work undertaken by both Adur & Worthing Councils to better understand our communities.

The pandemic has clearly shown the value and importance of our communities, their cohesion and resilience. At the same time, it has emphasised the challenges we are facing. This strategy builds on those strengths and uses an asset based community approach to build on each communities' strengths to tackle the issues it faces. We recognise the importance of social inequality and other drivers of crime and will focus on measures to reduce their impact and work with other services to provide a safe and sustainable environment and opportunities for all.

The recent appalling crimes against women, the exploitation of the young and vulnerable in the commitment of crime and the increased violence against children and minority groups are all matters which are identified as our priorities for the future. We know much of that crime is hidden within our communities, made worse by the lockdowns, and we know are under-reported, but with close working partnership between all members of the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership and other stakeholders, I am convinced that we can make a positive impact on our communities' well-being and safety.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the partnership and all of the stakeholders for the huge amount of work they continue to deliver throughout the most trying of times.

**Councillor Kevin Boram,
Chair of Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership**

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INTRODUCTION

Our aim is that Adur and Worthing are places where people who live, work and visit feel safe and are safe. It is the responsibility of Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership (SCP) to work together to tackle crime and disorder and the impact they have on individuals, families and communities.

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) placed a statutory duty on every local authority in England and Wales to form a partnership with police authorities and other key stakeholders. It is the responsibility of the partnership to implement local crime reduction strategies based on the data provided by the Strategic Intelligence Assessment data and consultation with communities.

The Adur & Worthing SCP consists of:

- Adur & Worthing Councils
- The Office of Sussex Police Crime Commissioner
- Sussex Police
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- The National Probation Service
- West Sussex County Council
- Community Works (Voluntary Sector)

The last 3 years has seen the partnership deliver an innovative programme of work, much of which has been focused on safeguarding children and young people against the growing threat of exploitation and the impact of youth violence. This has included developing our Contextual Safeguarding Response to extra familial harm, initially through a pilot with a dedicated role and leading to national recognition of our work through the Contextual Safeguarding Network (CSN, see www.csnetwork.org.uk for more information) Adur and Worthing have led the way across West Sussex in developing systems and approaches to tackle child exploitation, peer on peer abuse and the impact of youth violence.

The work of the partnership has been bolstered by securing funding from the West Sussex Violence Reduction Partnership (West Sussex VRP), a subsidiary of the Sussex VRP, which has enabled us to commission projects to provide mentors to children transitioning to high school and empowering the community to become part of the response for children and young people at risk of harm.



Pictured from top to bottom: stall at Shoreham Market; Worthing seafront; person playing table tennis in Adur and Worthing

This strategy comes at a critical time. The pandemic has both exacerbated and created challenges for our communities, with some people in our communities more heavily impacted than others. The future feels increasingly uncertain for many, in terms of health, finances, education and employment. As people and communities become de-stabilised, there is a risk of more people being impacted by crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Those who choose to prey on the vulnerable will use the increased opportunities to do so. For those struggling to survive in difficult circumstances, there is a risk that they will be pulled towards offending or other harmful behaviours.

The next three years will need partners and communities to pull together and support people to recover from the impact of the pandemic, to “build back fairer” so everyone has the best opportunity to enjoy healthy, safe lives.

The pandemic has also revealed the power in our communities, with hundreds of residents going above and beyond for both neighbours and strangers, providing food, medication and companionship in times of crisis. Building on this movement, we need to work alongside our communities, using our resources to help them find lasting solutions to the local issues they care about most.

Throughout the next three years, the partnership will focus on six key strategic priorities. These priorities have been based on the data from the Adur and Worthing Strategic Intelligence Assessment, consultation with key stakeholders and through talking to our communities. The programme of work to deliver on these priorities will be detailed and monitored through the partnership’s annual plan.

Useful links

Adur & Worthing SCP website:

www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/safer-communities/safer-communities-partnership

Contextual Safeguarding Network website:

www.csnetwork.org.uk



Pictured from top to bottom: Worthing seafront; stall at Lancing Market; a family on Lancing beach

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND THEMES

OUR PRIORITIES

Reducing the harm caused by Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and acquisitive crime



Increasing safety for vulnerable adults and children



Improving pathways out of offending and reoffending



Increase community cohesion and reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and hate crime



Reduce public place violent crime with a focus on youth safety



Tackle social inequality and the drivers of crime



OUR THEMES

- Understanding how we can help women and girls feel safer in all areas of life
- Understand the issues impacting boys and young men
- Understanding the impact of crime and disorder on black and minoritised ethnic communities
- Considering how each priority might impact different age groups
- Promoting inclusive practice whereby agencies are able to respond to diversity of needs

Throughout the work of the partnership, we will be addressing the cross cutting themes of women's and girls' safety, how black and minoritised ethnic communities are impacted by community safety issues and promoting inclusive practice whereby agencies are able to respond to diversity of needs. Furthermore, we will be echoing the approach of the Safer West Sussex Partnership priorities and considering how each priority might impact different age groups such as children and young people, working aged adults and older people.

Safety for women and girls

The murder of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa in 2021 and the Me Too movement, have pushed conversations of women and girls safety to the forefront but concrete actions to address this have been slower to gain momentum. There is a renewed focus on genuinely understanding how we can help women and girls feel safer in all areas of life-at home, at work and whilst out and about. The partnership must be ready to capitalise on the funding opportunities on the horizon.

As well as the significant impact on women's health and wellbeing as a result of being a victim of crime, safety fears more broadly affect women's behaviour and choices and restrict their freedom to be in public spaces. High numbers of women report having to make adjustments to their everyday lives to stay or feel safe. This is not acceptable.

We know women are more likely to be subjected to intimate partner violence, rape and sexual assault by men, and women who are subjected to male violence also face greater barriers to achieving justice for the violence perpetrated against them.

The partnership commits to developing gender informed responses to women's and girls' safety and in particular we will work to ensure their voices are included in developing our places, spaces and services.

Women are more likely to experience fear of crime compared to men, yet are statistically less likely to experience actual victimisation. Men are much more likely to become victims of violent crimes in particular.

Throughout the priorities, you will see evidence that points to an urgent need to better understand the issues impacting boys and young men. Over represented in key high risk harms, including serious violence, criminal exploitation and vulnerability to radicalisation, we need to scale up the support and interventions that can provide this demographic with an alternative to risking harm to themselves and others.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF CRIME AND DISORDER ON BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The work undertaken by the partnership must reflect the needs of the community and recognise that people have different experiences of crime and disorder. How black and minority ethnic people feel about reporting incidents, accessing support or being treated fairly by the justice system is impacted by experiences of racism. Internationally and across the UK, events of the last 18 months have shown the importance of understanding just how racism impacts people, from how connected they feel to their local community, their confidence in accessing justice and support and how intersectionality may compound feelings of safety or lack of.

The Partnership will review the work we deliver to ensure that it tackles racism where it can and does not feed into existing inequalities. We will work to identify, acknowledge and be open to listen and learn about how racism shapes communities and will work together to co-produce culturally competent services and interventions.



Make gender informed responses



Make sure women and girls are heard



Understand issues for men












We will review the work we deliver












We will listen and learn about racism

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ADUR?

 <p>Population</p>	<p>There are 64,301 people living in the Adur District</p>	 <p>Education & skills</p>	<p>26% of people in the Adur District have no qualifications, compared to 20% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Vulnerable groups</p>	<p>16% of children and young people aged 0-19 are in relative low income families in the Adur District, compared with 13% across West Sussex</p>	 <p>Economy</p>	<p>37% of people in the Adur District aged 16-74 are in full-time employment, compared with 40% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Housing</p>	<p>13% of households lack central heating in the Adur District, compared with 2% across West Sussex</p>	 <p>Access & transport</p>	<p>21% of households in the Adur District have no car, compared with 18% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Crime & safety</p>	<p>The overall crime rate is lower in the Adur District, compared to West Sussex</p>	 <p>Communities & environment</p>	<p>The % of people in the Adur District who are 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' is 85%, similar to the average of 84.8% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Health & wellbeing</p>	<p>20% of people have a limiting long-term illness in the Adur District, compared with 17% across West Sussex</p>		

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT WORTHING?

 <p>Population</p>	<p>There are 110,570 people living in the Worthing Borough</p>	 <p>Education & skills</p> <p>21% of people in the Worthing Borough have no qualifications, compared to 20% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Vulnerable groups</p>	<p>15% of children and young people aged 0-19 are in relative low income families in the Worthing Borough, compared with 13% across West Sussex</p>	 <p>Economy</p> <p>40% of people in the Worthing Borough aged 16-74 are in full-time employment, the same as across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Housing</p>	<p>4% of households lack central heating in the Worthing Borough, compared with 2% across West Sussex</p>	 <p>Access & transport</p> <p>24% of households in the Worthing Borough have no car, compared with 18% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Crime & safety</p>	<p>The overall crime rate is higher in the Worthing Borough, compared to West Sussex</p>	 <p>Communities & environment</p> <p>The % of people in the Worthing Borough who are 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' is 79.9%, compared to 84.8% across West Sussex</p>
 <p>Health & wellbeing</p>	<p>19% of people have a limiting long-term illness in the Worthing Borough, compared with 17% across West Sussex</p>	

WHAT DOES THE SIA TELL US?

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) is a yearly report, produced by all local police districts in collaboration with other agencies. The aim of SIA is to identify trends in crime on a local, national and international level so we can respond accordingly. Below are the results for Adur and Worthing:

<p>Overall crime rate</p>	<p>In Adur overall crime rate has increased by 6% in comparison to 2019, whereas in Worthing crime has decreased by 11%</p>	<p>Drug offences</p> <p>Drug trafficking, supply and possession offences have increased significantly in both Adur and Worthing compared to previous year (Adur 50%, Worthing 17.2%). This increase is attributed to increased police activity and targeted operations, which has led to a greater exposure of these offences</p>
<p>Violent crime</p>	<p>Police data shows that 51% of all crimes in Adur; and 52% of all crimes in Worthing are violent crimes which is comparable to rates across the whole West Sussex County. This data includes domestic violence offences</p>	<p>Domestic abuse</p> <p>In Adur domestic abuse crimes increased by 1%, along with the number of reported incidents which increased by 5%. In Worthing, domestic abuse crimes reduced by 12%, the number of reported incidents remain static. The severity of recorded domestic crimes has increased during 2020</p>
<p>Severity of crime</p>	<p>The severity of crimes recorded continues to increase across West Sussex. Adur's crime severity score is 9.3 and Worthing 12.1, which for Adur, is lower than Sussex (11.6) and both are lower than England (13.8)</p>	<p>ASB incidents</p> <p>All types of ASB incidents have increased, likely due to community tensions exacerbated by 3 national lockdowns within the last year. Youth related ASB has been a particular issue</p>
<p>Risks for certain groups</p>	<p>While a majority of the high-level crimes reduced, the risk for the most vulnerable adults and children have increased, including domestic abuse and drug use and exploitation</p>	<p>% of all crime in West Sussex</p> <p>Adur and Worthing combined represent 23% of all recorded crimes in 2020 across West Sussex. Worthing represents 15% and Adur 8% of all recorded crimes. Contributing factors for Worthing include a night time economy and a high level of proactive targeted operations for drug activity</p>

PRIORITY I

Reducing the harm caused by Serious Organised Crime and acquisitive crime

What do we mean by this?

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) refers to the crimes committed by people who work together for an extended period of time, to plan, coordinate and conduct crimes, more often than not, motivated by financial gain¹ according to the National Crime Agency (NCA). This is in contrast to individual, opportunistic or spontaneous acts of offending. SOC constantly evolves, but it centres on the exploitation of the vulnerable and is often not recognised by communities and as a result it is vastly under-reported.

SOC includes:

- Cyber-crime
- Online child exploitation and abuse
- Immigration crime
- Fraud and economic crime
- Drug trafficking
- Modern slavery

Why is this a priority?

The human and economic cost of SOC is high-it is responsible for more deaths than any other security threat and costs the UK £37 billion annually. Around 350,000 individuals in the UK are believed to be engaged in SOC (NCA).

In 2020, drug trafficking offences rose by 131% in Adur and 108% in Worthing. The increase in offences reflects police and partners' success in raising awareness, and identifying and arresting perpetrators. Considerable partnership resources have been deployed to raise awareness and take a proactive approach including several targeted operations.

¹ www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/533-national-strategic-assessment-of-serious-and-organised-crime-2021/file

It does however demonstrate the impact of organised crime gangs on our local communities-both in the supply of drugs to vulnerable people and also drawing young people into their high risk criminal activities. One third of modern slavery offences in Adur and Worthing in 2020, involved a male under the age of 18, pointing to a growth in child criminal exploitation linked to county lines.

Reported Modern Slavery cases in Adur and Worthing are relatively low but increasing. In 2020, according to Home Office data, Sussex ranked 6th in the UK for Modern Slavery Offences. Previous local cases of domestic servitude, organised begging, forced labour in nail bars, car washes and sexual exploitation highlight the need to keep this high on everyone's agenda.

The pandemic provided the perfect opportunity for cyber criminals to step up targeting people, with many spending more time online looking for new business opportunities, or even romantic relationships.

It is clear that Adur and Worthing needs to be part of the fight against the threat of SOC.

The partnership will:

- Empower the community and professionals to spot the signs of serious, organised crime
- Develop the intelligence and target resources to identify perpetrators of SOC
- Improve and promote pathways for victims of serious organised crime to access support
- Reduce the demand for drug markets through supporting people to access recovery services and support
- Raise awareness of scams and fraud amongst the community and professionals
- Respond to emerging patterns of acquisitive crime such as burglaries, vehicle and cycle thefts for example



PRIORITY 2

Increasing safety for vulnerable adults and children

What do we mean by this?

Many crimes are underreported but we know that they cause great harm. These are the crimes that may happen mainly behind closed doors such as domestic abuse, elder abuse, taking over the homes of vulnerable people (cuckooing) and the exploitation of children. Perpetrators of these crimes depend on isolation, secrecy and shame to carry out these crimes, reinforcing the need to raise awareness, provide services for victims and ensure perpetrators are identified and held to account.

This priority will address:

- Domestic abuse
- Child exploitation
- Contextual safeguarding
- Sexual violence
- Stalking and harassment
- Cuckooing
- Harmful practices such as FGM and so called honour-based violence

Why is this a priority?

Domestic abuse has always been a key priority for the partnership. Domestic abuse costs lives and despite the combined efforts of the public and voluntary sector, the grim statistic of two women a week killed by male partners, has remained unchanged for decades.

Whilst Adur and Worthing didn't have the same significant rise in reported domestic abuse incidents and crimes as seen by other parts of the UK following the pandemic, there is no doubt that the pressured circumstances will have led to a very real increase in the frequency and level of abuse. In Adur, domestic abuse constitutes 20% of all reported crime and in Worthing, 16% of all reported crime. Early analysis of domestic abuse in West Sussex in 2020 reveals that the severity of domestic abuse has increased, exposing the real threat to life for those being subjected to violence and underpinning the importance of a sustained and co-ordinated response.

Children living in households where there is domestic abuse are also victims. In a recent study by West Sussex County Council it was found that 100% of the children excluded from school in Adur and Worthing in the last year, had experienced domestic abuse. The fear and anxiety that children feel when exposed to domestic abuse impacts in a multitude of ways, throughout childhood and beyond. To reduce harm caused by domestic abuse we need to improve and increase services for perpetrators of domestic abuse who want to change their behaviour. More than 75 perpetrators have accessed interventions to change behaviour through the partnership programmes led by the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner, underlining the importance of working with both victims and perpetrator of abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2020² has conferred additional duties on authorities that must influence the work of the partnership including the duties owed in relation to accommodation and housing, access to justice, investment in training and early intervention within schools' relationship and sex education.

Drug trafficking and supply offences have risen dramatically in both Adur and Worthing over the last 12 months. We know that drug markets operate through exploiting children to transport and sell drugs or through the cuckooing of the home of a vulnerable adult. According to Sussex Police figures, Adur and Worthing have some of the highest numbers of cuckooed properties in West Sussex and also high numbers of children who have indicators for criminal or sexual exploitation. We know through our work in the Peer Group Conference, that children as young as 10 are being exploited, both by adults and older peers.

Partnership Focus:

- Work together to raise awareness of high harm crimes
- Ensure there are clear referral pathways understood by communities and professionals.
- To hold perpetrators of harm accountable through support and enforcement
- Embed the duties conferred by the Domestic Abuse Act 2020
- Continue to build on the contextual safeguarding response to extra familial harm, empowering communities to identify and respond to children at risk of harm.
- Harness the voices of experts by experience to ensure services are fit for purpose
- Increase professionals' understanding of harmful practices and their prevalence in our communities



For more information on contextual safeguarding, visit the CSN website:

www.csnetwork.org.uk/en

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents>

PRIORITY 3

Improving pathways out of offending and reoffending

What do we mean by this?

People commit crime for a variety of reasons but we know that there are certain 'push' factors that can make it more likely that people will commit crimes. Social inequality, financial hardship, childhood developmental trauma, problematic & chaotic substance use can all contribute to the conditions that make it harder for people to live a life that is not impacted by offending and reoffending. An early intervention approach is key to prevent these issues escalating and undermining a person's ability to thrive in education, employment and sustain positive relationships. Breaking the cycle of trauma and supporting families to provide a stable and loving environment will impact positively on community safety.

We have highlighted the need to take a gender informed approach to community safety. Males are both statistically more likely to be victims and perpetrators of crime, so in addition to considering how women and girls can feel and be safer, we must work in tandem to support men and boys to develop the values, strategies and behaviours that reduce the likelihood of becoming involved in offending.

For people who have offended previously, it can be extremely difficult to access the support and resources to find stability and prevent further offending, for example finding employment and housing after prison or support with recovery from alcohol and substance use. This priority refers to the services and programmes that can divert people from offending and reoffending.

Why is this a priority?

Reducing crime and disorder is not just a question of arresting and punishing offenders. We know from the Public health approach that any real reduction in crime can only be achieved by intervening at the earliest opportunity and taking a long term approach to tackle the drivers of crime. It is through early intervention and supporting people to build safe, healthy and connected lives, we can reduce the number of people impacted by crime and disorder.

Alcohol is a key driver of violent crime. Nationally, 40% of all violent crime (500K offences), is recorded as alcohol related. Across West Sussex approximately 24% of adults drink above the lower risk levels for alcohol consumption.³ Street drinking and the associated ASB is one of the most frequently cited concerns about our town centres and foreshore by residents and businesses in Adur and Worthing.

³ www.jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/assets/core/FINAL-JHWS-2019-2024.pdf

We know problematic substance use is linked to organised crime but also places huge demand on health, social care and criminal justice agencies. At an individual level, it undermines the ability to gain and sustain housing, employment and positive relationships. This year, there has been an increase across the country in the number⁴ of drug overdoses including West Sussex and in particular, Worthing, demonstrating the significant threat to life posed by Class A drug use.

Partnership Focus:

- Prioritise prevention- increasing the interventions that prevent first time entry into the criminal justice system such as diversion and support
- Work with partners to improve access to accommodation, education, training and employment opportunities
- Support people to access the help they need to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol
- Increase opportunities to build positive relationships through mentoring, peer support and pro-social community based activities
- Work with those with lived experience to co-design and co-produce services and projects that are based on what people need, not what services are available
- Work together to improve support and supervision for those at high risk of offending or reoffending
- Work together to raise awareness of the impact of trauma and increase the prevalence of trauma informed services



⁴ Public Health England August 2021

PRIORITY 4

Increase community cohesion and reduce **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** and hate crime

What do we mean by this?

Feeling connected to neighbours and the wider community is key to feeling safe. Without this, we see division between people and groups, whether it is through ASB targeted against individuals and in our public spaces, or through hate crime driven by intolerance and misunderstanding between different groups in society. Public place ASB can make some areas feel intimidating and out of bounds, whether through groups of young people gathering in parks, or the behaviour that can arise from street drinking. Since the pandemic, we have seen divisions grow as people develop different beliefs and values in how the spread of COVID-19 should be managed. Our departure from the European Union and the impact of international politics, also impacts on how people feel about their own lives and the people they live alongside.

We also need to build community cohesion and inclusion if we want to reduce the number of people drawn into extremist activities fuelled by harmful ideologies, whether they are religious or racist ideologies or the emerging threat to women by the growing Incel movement in the UK.

Therefore this priority addresses:

- ASB
- Hate crime
- Radicalisation
- Harmful ideologies

Why is this a priority?

Lack of community cohesion creates conditions for people to cause each other harm, to focus on differences, not connection.

ASB reports to Adur & Worthing Councils have doubled during 2020, largely driven by lock-down restrictions, reduced tolerance to other lifestyles and increasing pressures on individuals trying to navigate difficult circumstances. Many people are feeling fearful and trying to manage the pressure on their own mental health. The impact of ASB on individuals and communities is significant - from people feeling unsafe in their own homes to communities feeling fearful in public spaces. It impacts on feelings of wellbeing and can lead to social isolation and reduced opportunity to engage in healthy behaviours. We know the causes of ASB can be complex, and supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour is an integral part of our partnership approach.

Hate crime reporting levels are relatively low in both Adur and Worthing but the impact can be significant. There has been a 69% increase in demand for services from Victim Support's Hate Incident Support Service in Quarter 1 of 21/22 compared to Quarter 4 of 20/21. This rise coincides with further easing of lock down restrictions and increased activity in the leisure and retail sectors.

In statistics provided by Sussex Police, racially-motivated incidents and crimes have increased by approximately 10% between 2018 and 2020. Hate crimes and incidents against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) community have also risen by approximately 40% between 2018 and 2020. Both are likely to be under-reported. A recent survey by Brighton based charity Switchboard⁵, highlighted how the pandemic had negatively impacted the LGBTQ+ community, with a large number of people reporting a significant decline in mental health, isolation and increasing substance use as a coping mechanism. This emphasises the importance in improving our understanding how inequalities can widen marginalisation in our communities and feed into the ability to feel safe.

In West Sussex, almost half of all individuals identified as being at risk of radicalisation⁶ relate to mixed or unstable ideologies - ideologies that may change, contradict or appear unclear. The second most prevalent is ideologies connected to the extreme right wing. Males outnumber females considerably and the under 18 age group makes up 50% of all referrals to Channel, the intervention process for people at risk.

As our communities become more diverse, it is imperative that we get this right, that we increase community confidence in reporting and that services and workforces are equipped to deal with differing experiences and needs.

Partnership Focus:

- Provide support to victims of ASB and hate crime taking a harm centred approach
- Empower communities and professionals to report ASB and hate crime
- Use all appropriate tools to prevent perpetrators of ASB causing further harm
- To better understand the impact of ASB and hate crime on black, minoritised ethnic and LGBTQ+ communities
- Facilitate a joined-up, multi agency approach to reducing ASB and hate crime for individuals and communities
- Create opportunities to bring people together to increase community cohesion
- Increase reporting and access to support for victims of hate crime
- Ensure services are able to respond appropriately to diversity of experience and needs



⁵ www.switchboard.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Covid-19-Report.pdf

⁶ B. Knight-West Sussex Community Safety - Channel Referral Overview January - June 2021

PRIORITY 5

Reduce public place violent crime, with a focus on youth safety

What do we mean by this?

Violence in a public place can take many forms - it includes spontaneous eruptions of violence, violence between strangers or between parties known to each other. It also includes robberies with an aggravating factor of threats and violence.

The Sussex VRP definition of serious violent crime is:

- Violence that occurs in a public place
- Has a victim, suspect or offender under the age of 25
- Causes or is intended to cause serious injury or involves the use of a weapon

Why is this a priority?

Serious violent crime reports in Adur and Worthing account for 26% of all public place violent crime in West Sussex.⁷ Worthing Central has the highest proportion of all serious, violent crime. Serious violence is a particular issue for the night time economy with 63% of public place violent crimes taking place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning between 6pm and 6am. Violence in this context places pressure on frontline emergency services and impacts the local economy as people are deterred from spending time in locations that feel unsafe.

Our conversations with women and girls and other those undertaken nationally by organisations such as Reclaim the Streets and Make Space for Girls, suggest they feel most unsafe in public places such as town centres and parks, particularly after dark. They cite harassment and fear of sexual violence as reasons that impact their access and enjoyment of public spaces. However, the data shows that young men and men are most likely to be victims of serious violent crime. Men account for 81% of serious violence offences and 72% of victims.

⁷ Sussex VRP Serious Violence Problem Profile 2021 (West Sussex Overview) – C. Rivers, Sussex VRP Analyst

In the last two years, we have experienced a vast increase in the amount of young people affected by youth violence, both as perpetrators, victims and children who worry about becoming victims. We know that this has increased fear amongst young people and within the wider community. We know that this fear can drive young people to carry weapons which increases the risk of harm and serious injury with 72% of all serious crime in West Sussex now involving a knife or sharp instrument. In the last 12 months, Adur and Worthing has had the highest proportion of knife possession offences in West Sussex.

Whilst public place violent crime has not increased in the last 12 months, the severity of injuries has increased. Fear is increasing, and greater numbers of young people are impacted by violence. The harm caused to individuals and communities is significant and therefore reducing public place violent crime is a priority for the Partnership.

Partnership Focus:

- To increase safety for women and girls
- To work with partners to provide early intervention support to those who are at risk of perpetrating or becoming a victim of violence
- To work with partners to increase safety in the night time economy
- To work with partners to increase education and awareness of the impact of carrying weapons and knife crime
- To work with community and voluntary sector partners to provide positive activities for children and young people



PRIORITY 6

Tackle social inequality and the drivers of crime

What do we mean by this?

Social inequality is a driver of crime and disorder. We can't increase safety and feelings of safety without reducing social inequality. Social inequality refers to a broad range of issues and factors but refers to the lack of or unequal access to the economic, social and cultural resources that are necessary for an adequate standard of living.

By setting this as a priority, the partnership invites our wider stakeholders, beyond criminal justice partners, to consider the role they can play in reducing the drivers of crime and leveraging opportunities to increase safety and wellbeing within their part of the system.

Access to housing

Good, stable housing is the cornerstone of health, wellbeing and feeling safe. Without good accommodation, it is harder to focus on all other aspects of living a good life - secure employment, building positive relationships, staying healthy, raising a family, pursuing interests and hobbies or feeling connected to the surrounding community.

As partners, we often see the fall out of people being homeless, vulnerably housed or living in overcrowded conditions - poverty, ASB, poor mental health, chronic health conditions, isolation and being drawn into offending as a way to survive.

The Partnership will work closely with the agencies responsible for providing services and accommodation for those in housing need, including sharing data of crime and disorder issues, developing the projects and initiatives that support people to stay and be safe, in their homes.

Access to Education and Employment

Education is key to achieving the knowledge and skills to access employment but more than this, education is the largest universal protective, pro-social environment that our society offers. For children and young people disengaging or being excluded from school, there are multiple risks that can be exacerbated; a decline in mental health, loneliness, or becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence or exploitation. Locally, we have seen school exclusion as a common denominator amongst the children impacted by serious youth violence.

With the rate of school exclusions increasing, we know that more needs to be done to ensure that children and young people can stay in mainstream education, both through supporting teachers and school staff to work with children facing multiple barriers but also working with children and families to address the difficulties they are experiencing.

Our work with the West Sussex VRP is key in addressing school exclusion and we must build on this as a partnership to ensure children are given the best chance of attaining the skills and qualifications to obtain economic stability in their future lives.

Access to Good Work

“Good Work” provides not only financial stability but also purpose and direction. The pandemic showed us that for many people, employment is insecure and fails to provide the level and consistency of income required to withstand periods of instability or crisis.

For young people in particular, the availability and quality of decent work is an issue with young people more likely to be subject to insecure work (zero hours contracts, agency work, temporary contracts or a combination of all three). It is important that young people have aspirations and there are viable pathways to economic stability if we are able to provide a counter narrative to the “get rich quick” appeal of criminal activity. Many young people need significant support to navigate the path to their goals, where this support is lacking, schools, the community/voluntary sector and statutory agencies must ensure this support is available. The role of mentoring and individualised support is central to achieving this.

The central role of good work cannot be underestimated. In addition to financial stability, purpose, connection, it is a key social determinant of health and wellbeing.

Access to community resources

Adur and Worthing has a wealth of natural resources - with 91 parks, the South Downs and the coast, green and blue spaces are within easy reach of every person who lives here. There is also unprecedented investment coming into the area through commerce, partly driven by the changing demographic of people moving into the area who require employment, housing and leisure opportunities that reflect their aspirations.

We do know however, that not everyone feels they have equal access to these community resources. We know that women and girls feel differently about using parks and town centres for exercising or socialising due to the threat of harassment or violence from men. We know that parks are often identified as areas that feel out of bounds to younger and older people due to ASB, substance misuse or drug dealing.

The development of our public spaces can be key to increasing feelings of safety for our community - creating opportunities for leisure, exercise and socialising for everyone is important. Alongside the obvious safety measures of CCTV and lighting, we know we can reduce fear and increase feelings of safety through natural surveillance and mixed, inter-generational use of our public spaces.

Adur & Worthing Councils support “15 Minute Cities/20 Minute Neighbourhoods”, where residents can have most of their needs met within a short walk or cycle ride such as open spaces, health care and shops. This strengthens the bonds and connections within the community. Such neighbourhoods are said to be “safer, quieter, more diverse and economically vibrant”.⁸

To find out more, visit the Royal Town Planning Institute website below and search "15 Minute Cities/20 Minute Neighbourhoods"

www.rtpi.org.uk

Widening inequality means social and leisure activities are at risk of slipping from the reach of many young people and those impacted by financial hardship. Affective displacement, where indigenous communities feel excluded by regeneration, impacts negatively on crime and disorder - anger and marginalisation plays out in ASB and acquisitive crime. We need to ensure that the wealth generated by new businesses and a buoyant local economy is distributed in a way that benefits everyone.

Development of our public spaces needs to include diverse voices from the outset, to understand how the community will use the space and ensure that the community feels connected to change.

⁸ www.smarttransport.org.uk/insight-and-policy/latest-insight-and-policy/what-is-a-15-minute-neighbourhood

The Partnership will build and develop the relationships with the agencies responsible for our parks and town centres including voluntary groups and commercial bodies, to promote shared understanding of how feelings of safety and equality of access to these spaces can be strengthened through design, development and through investing the associated CIL/106 income.

The Partnership will also help to bring diverse voices into the planning and design processes for shaping public spaces.



Cyclist in Shoreham



Chesswood Farm Site Manager Rik Pease at Worthing allotments



Community Alarm recipient



Worthing town centre

OUR APPROACH

A public health approach

Tackling the drivers of crime and taking an early intervention approach is at the heart of a public health approach to reducing violence and crime. Violence in particular is viewed as having the same characteristics as a disease or virus with causes, symptoms and antidotes.

A public health approach takes a long term view, seeking to reduce violence and associated crimes by tackling underlying risk factors as set out in the CAPRICORN (Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending by children) framework.

RISK FACTORS

Individual risk factors:

- early malnutrition
- behavioural risk factors
- alcohol or drug misuse
- traumatic brain injury
- language difficulties

Family risk factors:

- abuse
- emotional or physical neglect
- household alcohol or drug misuse
- household mental illness
- family violence
- family breakdown
- household offending

School and peer group risk factors:

- poor educational attainment
- truancy
- exclusion from school
- gang membership
- low expectations from teachers

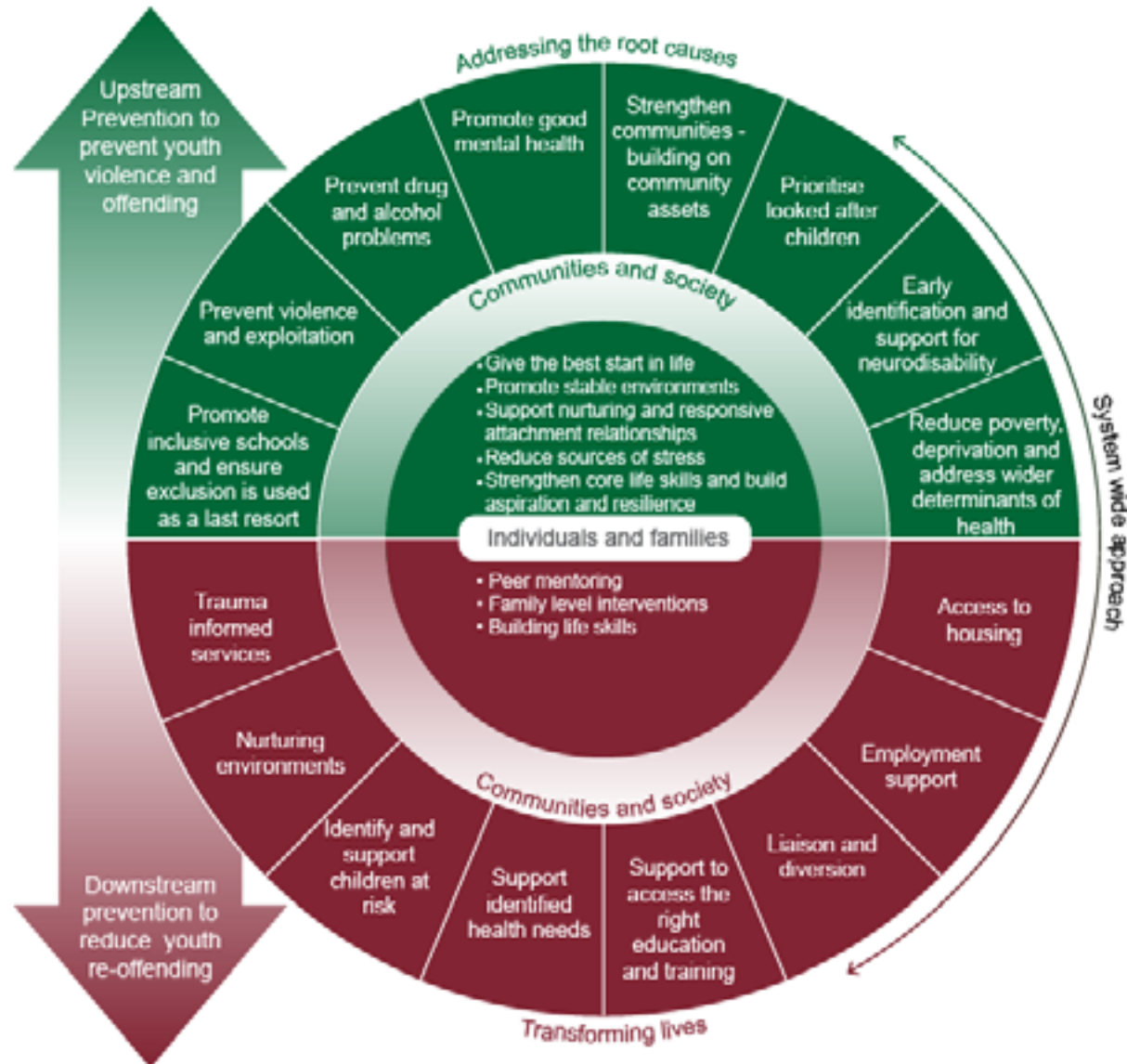
Community risk factors:

- deprivation
- poor housing
- unsafe areas
- poor social mobility
- high crime rate
- high unemployment
- racism

To find out more about CAPRICORN, visit:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-offending-and-re-offending-by-children

The CAPRICORN framework



A public health approach means evaluating what works and increasing the interventions that are evidenced to make a difference. Capturing performance data will be key to ensuring that the partnership work is beneficial to all sectors of our community and that it is making a difference to how safe people are and feel.

Data informed

Adur and Worthing SCP is committed to better serving the varied and diverse communities of Adur and Worthing. Key to progressing this commitment is the use of both data and community engagement to inform and guide evidence based public service provision. The strategic intelligence assessment has provided an overview of how much crime and disorder has been recorded in Adur and Worthing, but we can do better. For example, deepening our understanding of what prevents people from reporting, how people currently feel about the services that are being provided and whether the partnership is targeting resources in the best places.

The partnership has committed to co-funding a West Sussex County Council analyst to assist in building this understanding

The Community Safety Strategy has, as part of this approach, undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure the areas of focus and priorities identified by the partnership are effectively responding to the needs of all our communities. The process of being data informed is an ongoing process and we will need to test and adjust our plans as new information becomes available, for example on the impact of the pandemic on particular communities, the new demographic information provided by the 2021 Census data and the following updated Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Trauma informed

There is a growing understanding of the impact of developmental trauma on an individual's ability to thrive. The effects of being exposed to traumatic events in childhood can (and do) last a lifetime, making it harder for children to develop the behaviour and skills that lead to academic attainment, healthy relationships and in turn undermine the ability to successfully navigate the path to employment, decent housing and building a stable foundation for their own families.

Adults impacted by trauma are over-represented in the criminal justice system, both as victims and perpetrators, often both. We also find trauma as a common denominator amongst children excluded from mainstream education, children being supported by the Youth Justice Service, amongst people who are rough sleeping or vulnerably housed and people who have problematic substance use. Furthermore, it negatively impacts people's ability to engage with services and build the professional and personal relationships that support health, wellbeing and safety. It is easy to see why we must consider trauma hand in hand with developing responses to crime and disorder issues.

The partnership will promote a trauma informed approach through actively raising awareness of the impact of trauma and the benefits of working in a trauma informed way. It will identify and create opportunities for educating partners and stakeholders across Adur and Worthing to understand the impact of trauma and work towards a community of practice to develop expertise across the localities.

Asset based

As a partnership, it can be tempting to target resources at the projects and interventions that attempt to “fix” a problem, that allow us to show tangible outputs of how many people we have worked with, how much it cost and if we are lucky, how much it reduced crime. With finite resources we will only ever reach a finite number of people and without a legacy, the same issues will re-emerge, just with different players.

Asset based working means harnessing the strengths, power and expertise that exists within our communities, in the resources and people so that the shifts in behaviour and relationships can be instigated by the people most affected and best placed to know how things need to change. Asset based means a shift of power, doing with and not doing to our communities. Change that is generated through an asset based approach is more likely to be adopted and continued by our communities.

The SCP will tackle crime and disorder by adopting a participatory, asset based approach. We will do this by working alongside the community and grass roots organisations to identify the safety issues they are most motivated to address. We will empower them to develop tailored solutions that the community can get behind, supported by the resources available to the partnership.

The partnership will demonstrate its faith in the community by commissioning, wherever possible, local organisations and individuals to deliver projects and interventions, building local capacity and creating opportunities for local people to build knowledge and expertise to find solutions to the issues that undermine community cohesion and safety.

We will ensure that we capture the voice of the community and maximise opportunities for co designed and co produced solutions throughout the work of the partnership.

Timeline

Action	Date	Responsibility/ lead
Develop Year 1 annual delivery plan	October/ November 2021	SC Partnership
Data analysis, intelligence assessment, census data, community consultation to prepare for Year 2 annual plan	April - July 2022	WSSCC Partnership Analyst, AWC Communities and Wellbeing, all partners
Develop Year 2 annual delivery plan	September 2022	SC Partnership
Data analysis, intelligence assessment, census data and community consultation to prepare for Year 3 annual plan	April - July 2023	WSSCC Partnership Analyst, AWC Communities and Wellbeing, all partners
Develop Year 3 annual delivery plan	September 2023	SC Partnership
Review 3 year Partnership Strategy and prepare 2024-2027 Strategy	July- September 2024	SC Partnership



Worthing Pier



Customers and stalls at Lancing Market



People playing table tennis in Adur and Worthing



View of Shoreham footbridge

SAFER COMMUNITIES
3 YEAR STRATEGY
2021-2024