



The Safer West Sussex Partnership

County Community Safety Agreement 2021–25

September 2021

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Foreword

As Chair of the Safer West Sussex Partnership (SWSP) I am proud to present our latest Community Safety Agreement (CSA) which takes effect from 1st April 2021.

The Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners in West Sussex and beyond work together to address our community safety priorities for the County, working together to improve the lives of the communities of West Sussex. Whilst enforcement of the law will always play a part in community safety, much can be done to prevent problems before they arise and a great deal of effort is being devoted to supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people, reducing offending, tackling issues of substance misuse, and developing community resilience.

I am very pleased to report that much progress has already been made by partners over the last few years in addressing the community safety issues identified in West Sussex and this latest CSA recognises the continued development of our partnership focus and activity. The community safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. The SWSP recognises the challenges in addressing these issues and operates alongside a number of cooperating bodies and other multi-agency partnerships.

Over the coming year, the SWSP will continue to support our work to reduce violence and exploitation through implementation of a Violence and Exploitation Board, bringing together our existing Violence Reduction Partnership and Exploitation Sub-groups as well as the implementation of the Government's proposed new Serious Violence Duty, the duties required through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and our response to emerging risks such as digital and on-line criminal activity. The more immediate issue during the last year has been the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and partners across West Sussex have worked tirelessly to support residents and ensure services continue to be delivered whilst adapting to new ways of working. Inevitably this has impacted on some of the CSA activities but as we follow the Governments road map to recovery, we expect to see this impact reduced.

The success of this agreement can only be achieved by everyone coming together through the strength of our partnerships and the relationships we share with our community. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank all our partners for their support, dedication and focus to protect vulnerable people, look after each other and reduce harm in our communities.

Introduction

The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) 2021- 2025 outlines the key community safety priorities for West Sussex and replaces the previous agreement (2016-2020) which expired on 31st March 2020. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed annually.

The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as West Sussex and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.

The Safer West Sussex Partnership is the multi-agency strategic community safety executive which aims to reduce crime and disorder, vulnerability and inequality through a series of cross cutting strategic priorities and county wide work streams. The Safer West Sussex Partnership priorities represent a multi-agency commitment to tackling the risks and harms faced by our vulnerable residents and communities.

The high level, strategic priorities are a collection of overarching issues spanning more than one locality that require collaboration to address. The role of the partnership is to add value to the work already undertaken by individual agencies or localities and ensure funding opportunities are maximised to help create safety and wellbeing in the spaces and places our communities spend their time.

We are seeking to achieve safer, stronger and more resilient communities, and we will achieve this by focusing strategically on the particular risks and issues that are specific to **Children and Young People, Working age adults** and **Older residents**. These are framed within a wider commitment to tackling violence, exploitation and the social inequalities that exacerbate some people's propensity to experience crime and disorder either as a victim, perpetrator, or in some instances both.

Responsible Authorities

This agreement has been drawn up on behalf of the Partners of the Safer West Sussex Partnership and in association with the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner:

- West Sussex County Council
- West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
- Local District / Borough Authorities
- Sussex Police
- Local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGS)
- National Probation Service

Strategic Intelligence Assessment

The production of a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) is a statutory requirement for the Safer West Sussex Partnership (SWSP) under The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Crime & Disorder Regulations 2011. Annual Strategic Intelligence Assessments provide the SWSP with an accurate picture of current threats, harms, and emerging risk across West Sussex using a range of verified data sources. This assessment highlights key issues, emerging trends and risks which affect our local communities.

The CSA for last year 2020-21 saw extraordinary implications owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, proactive community safety activity; ordinarily the mainstay of strategic community safety partnerships, was temporarily reduced, both locally and nationally, to make way for emergency measures to be put in place. These measures involved front line policing, health protection and the creation of local authority community hubs to service vulnerable communities and those most in need.

In recognition of these extraordinary circumstances, a decision was taken locally to change the scope of the SWSP Strategic Intelligence Assessment for 2020 (SIA), that informed the County Community Safety Agreement (CCSA) for last year by focusing its analysis of crime trends on the previous 12 months (April 2019 - March 2020) together with a provisional analysis of the immediate effects of COVID-19.

Therefore, the focus of the SIA and CCSA for 2020/21 was on the existing partnership priorities; whilst paying close attention to new and emerging issues as these arose and were identified during lockdown periods.

A jointly funded partnership analyst was recruited during 2020/21 and has undertaken work to produce problem profiles of all the current strategic priorities alongside producing a comprehensive strategic intelligence assessment of threat, risk and harm to help the SWSP set its priorities for the next 4-year period 2021 - 2025.

The main findings from data analysis conducted during the 2021 Assessment are:

- Overall crime rate has decreased by 9.3% in comparison to 2019.
- Police CSP data shows that 51.3% of all crimes in West Sussex are violent crimes which is comparable to rates across the whole force area. This figure could be even higher as these types of crimes are often underreported.
- The severity of crimes recorded continues to increase across all Districts and Boroughs with Crawley higher than Sussex and England (16.3 in Crawley, 13.8 Sussex, 11.6 England).
- Covid-19 has had a significant impact on recorded crime both nationally and locally.

- 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.
- Drug's trafficking and supply has increased significantly comparing to previous year (+ 113.9%)
- Domestic abuse crimes reduced by 0.3%, however the number of reported incidents increased by 1.6%. The severity of recorded domestic crimes has increased during 2020.
- All types of Anti-Social Behaviour (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.
- The pandemic fight is not over yet and easing of the restrictions are still uncertain at the time of compiling this report. Therefore, it is a reasonable expectation that the effects of the pandemic will be reflected in crime figures going forward.
- West Sussex is strategically important. Tourism along the coastal strip and the ports and airport helps generate extra income for the county. However, issues such as drugs trafficking, and county lines are facilitated by our strategic rail and road network.
- Adur and Worthing along with Crawley had the highest number of recorded crimes in 2020 (at 27% and 21%).

Emerging threats

The full impact of the Government-imposed lockdown implemented in March 2020 is still emerging and won't be fully known or understood for some time. However, we do know that crime figures were impacted for this period at least; with a reduction in some offences, as opportunities for offenders to commit crimes became fewer, and an increase in others – with some possible causal relationships between the two.

The Partnership acknowledges that there is a serious risk that the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a rise in violence and exploitation, including cyber-enabled crime, modern slavery and human trafficking. The main drivers of crime and vulnerability are likely to intensify, resulting in an increased risk of exploitation and abuse.

People living in poverty or facing financial insecurity, those in overcrowded or unaffordable housing, low-wage workers and people with insecure jobs, especially migrants who have no recourse to public funds as well as children not in full time education, employment or training could be at greater risk of falling prey to traffickers and exploiters.

These risks are exacerbated by increased exposure to potential offenders through online gaming, the use of chat forums in apps, phishing attempts via email, unsolicited contact in social media and through less secure online

educational applications utilised during periods of home schooling as a result of lockdowns and social distancing restrictions.

These threats, whilst not necessarily new, are likely to be emergent as the pandemic recedes and the risks associated with time spent online is fully realised.

Working Together

The Partnership understands that we will continue to face challenges with reductions in funding and resources at a time when the volume and complexity of demands on all of our services are increasing, but by working collaboratively in a sound and confident partnership with our communities, we know that we can make a positive difference to community safety and safeguard those who are vulnerable in our communities.

Our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown what we can deliver when we work effectively with partners, including districts and boroughs, health colleagues, the voluntary and community sector, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and South East Seven partners.

This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes.

Legislation

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.

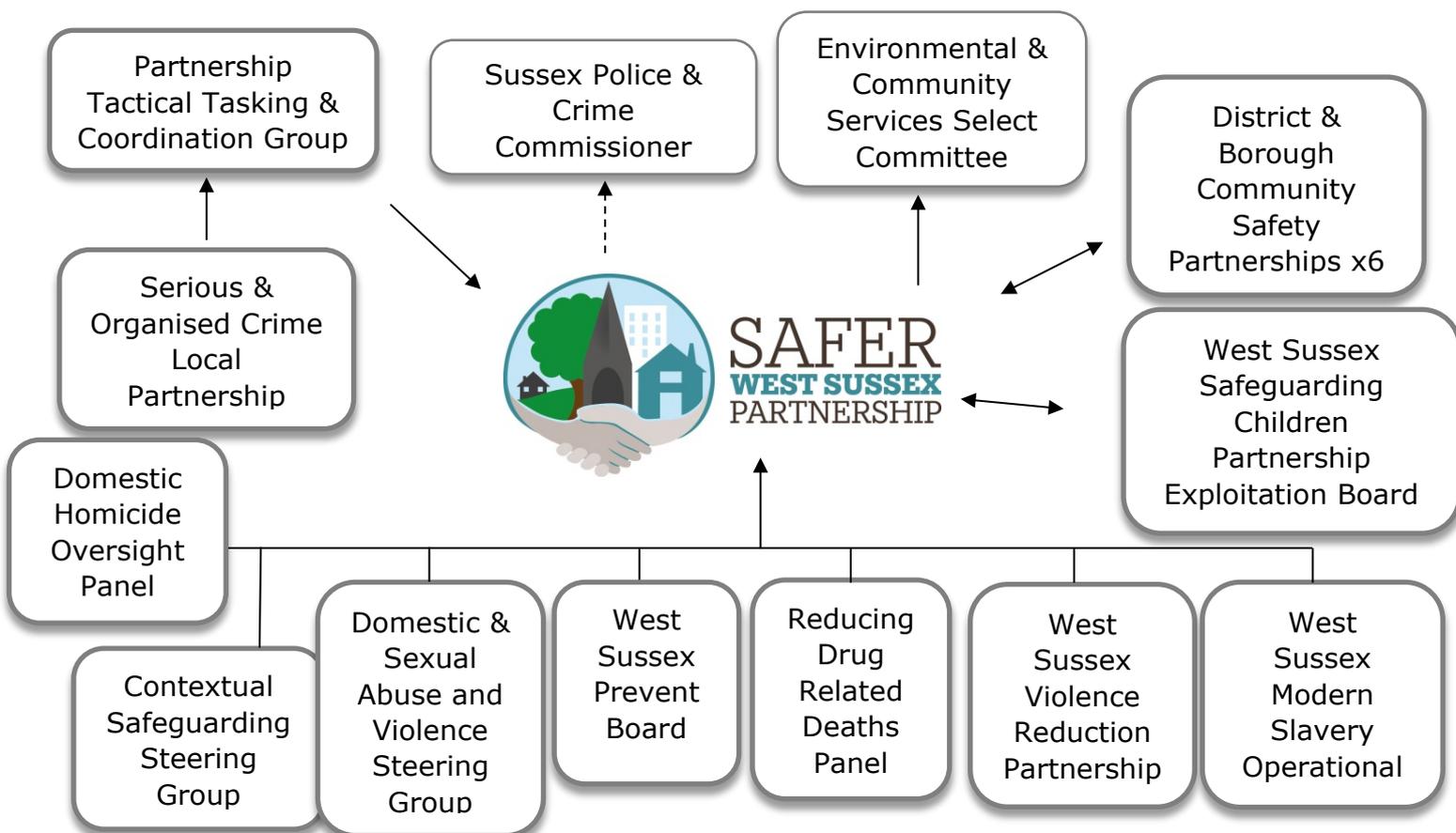
The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level was the replacement of three yearly audits with an annual strategic assessment, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. At county level, the statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police

and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). In West Sussex it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Safer West Sussex Community Safety Partnership (SWSP) on behalf of the local CSPs. The DHR process has been developed and enhanced since its introduction including the implementation of updated statutory guidance in 2016 from the Home Office.

Partnership structure and governance



The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 made it a **statutory requirement** for every local authority area to have a Community Safety Partnership and this places specific duties on Safer West Sussex Partnership and key partners.

In West Sussex the strategic coordination of community safety on behalf of the 6 local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and the funding and commissioning of related activities takes place through the Safer West Sussex Partnership Executive (SWSPE), comprising representation from each of the statutory and co-operating bodies.

SWSP Executive is accountable to West Sussex County Councils Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee and to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner if it is not fulfilling its duties.

Following agreement from all partners the core SWSP Executive was merged with the Drug and Alcohol Board (DAB) in 2018 and now serves the functions of both Boards.

The Executive has links to a number of other strategic boards within the County Council including the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, and the Safeguarding Adults Board. The relationship between these boards is formalised in a protocol, which sets out the governance arrangements, the roles and responsibilities of the boards, and how they will work collaboratively to promote the welfare of children and adults in West Sussex.

The Partnership Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (TTCG) meets monthly to identify specific areas of threat, harm, risk or vulnerability from performance assessments or emerging patterns of crimes or incidents.

The group provides a mechanism that enables partners from a wide range of organisations to identify crime and disorder priorities within the county-wide or local Community Safety Agreements which require resourcing, expertise or interventions from more than a single organisation, or additional specialist resources.

The organisations involved include Sussex Police, West Sussex County Council, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, all West Sussex Districts and Boroughs, and Change, Grow, Live (CGL), the County Council's commissioned alcohol and drug service provider. There are three Serious & Organised Crime Local Partnership Groups that report into the TTCG.

Targeted work by organisations on priority areas of business, particularly those which present threat, risk or harm to or from individuals or communities, is co-ordinated and managed effectively and strands of work are systematically reviewed and evaluated to ensure the best possible use of collective resources and expertise.

As in other two-tier authority areas the district and borough CSPs are vital in delivering the work-streams identified as county-wide. Local priorities, driven by trends in key crime types and the views of local residents remain important to focus on the greatest areas of threat, risk and harm.

The Partnership receives its community safety funding from the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC). Following a review of the funding arrangements in 2017 and a consultation phase with partners the Police and Crime Commissioner implemented a revised funding model implemented in 2019.

Safer West Sussex Partnership Priorities for 2021-2025

The Safer West Sussex Partnership Strategic Assessment of Community Safety 2021 identifies 6 key priorities for a co-ordinated approach at the county level to complement our district and borough community safety strategies:

1. Violence & Exploitation
2. Social Inequality & Hate Crime
3. Preventing Radicalisation & Violent Extremism
4. Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse
5. Substance Misuse
6. Digital Safety.

The above identified cross cutting priorities will ensure our efforts are focused on increasing community resilience by reducing violence, exploitation and the drivers of crime for those who are most vulnerable in our communities, primarily our:

- **Children & Young People**
- **Working Age Adults**
- **Older residents.**

The Safer West Sussex Partnership is responsible for identifying how these priorities can be effectively co-ordinated across West Sussex, complementing the priorities and work of local community safety partnerships in each district and borough. At the county level, West Sussex has a range of collaborative arrangements which support the delivery of community safety and wider outcomes which are referenced throughout the Agreement.

In order to effectively reduce violence, exploitation and help tackle inequality, the partnership recognises we must combine our strengths and unify to address these issues holistically, adopting a public health approach. This includes partners and stakeholders championing the need to commit long term resource and changes to working practice in order to achieve success against high level and cross cutting priorities.

Building resilience among communities and working smarter to understand emerging threats, including new methods of perpetration will ensure the partnership addresses threat, risk and harm.

The Safer West Sussex Partnership has identified children and young people's participation as a key priority. We recognise and value the existing models of participation and engagement with young people and will seek to add value to any existing mechanisms or activities that engage our young people but recognise that working with those with lived experiences may require a different way of working.

The approach we are going to test is one that asserts strength-based, trauma informed practice with those children and young people who are less often found in existing participatory work streams and whose voices, views and values are essential to our community safety partnership and our Public Health approach to Violence Reduction.

We want to set the gold standard for active participation and understand that this starts with holding ourselves and our professional network to healthy account, placing vigorous challenge at the heart of our dialogue, which is met with commitment and tenacity. To test the new way of working, we are setting up a specific young person independent advisory group across key partnerships, that acts as an ongoing platform for challenge, scrutiny, participation, consultation, and engagement, whereby all parties can safely raise issues, concerns and proactively engage in problem solving.

Adopting a contextual safeguarding approach to understand and respond to extra familiar risk and harm will complement and enhance partnership working and allow for a wide range of agencies, including the third sector and our communities to be invested in creating safety and promoting their own wellbeing.

West Sussex Community Safety Agreement Priorities and Cross-Cutting Themes:

Increasing community resilience by reducing violence, exploitation and the drivers of crime. *All crime has a significant affect on those who experience it, their families, the economy, health and criminal justice systems.*



1. Violence & Exploitation

The long-term impact of violence and exploitation is significant for those who experience and witness incidents as well as the communities in which it occurs. Whilst West Sussex remains a safe and prosperous place to live and work, the threat of violence and exploitation is ever present for a small minority of vulnerable people. The Safer West Sussex Partnership has identified violence and exploitation as a cross cutting theme that affects all 3 priority groups: vulnerable Children and Young people, working age adults and older residents

County co-ordination

To tackle serious violence and exploitation more effectively, the Safer West Sussex Partnership is assuming responsibility for a new multi-agency Violence and Exploitation stakeholder group. This group includes senior officers from community safety, the Safeguarding Adults board, and Safeguarding Children's Partnership, along with representatives from key organisations including (but not limited to) District and Borough Councils and Sussex Police. The group's strategic vision is to develop and embed a public health approach to tackling violence and exploitation through the lens of contextual safeguarding practice; maximising opportunities to work as one.

In practice this means transforming the way we think about and respond to crime and disorder. Understanding the causes of crime, including the ways in which risk and harm can vary according to the places people spend their time and who they are with, allows us to consider how best we can work collaboratively with a wider range of partners to safeguard those directly affected by violence and exploitation and support communities to be, and feel, safer.

Driving front line delivery

Work to tackle violence and exploitation is not new. We already have strong and established [community safety] partnerships across West Sussex who help deliver our strategic ambitions around contextual safeguarding, sexual and criminal exploitation, violence reduction, modern slavery and human trafficking. Our revised public health approach will enable us to build upon the work we have already undertaken in each of these fields by aligning strategic governance and collectively addressing violence and exploitation in the widest sense.

At county level, we are working across services to review wider responses to violence and exploitation, including the co-creation of a new multi-agency exploitation hub. Complimenting Adult Social Care responses to extra familial risk and vulnerability together with Children's Services Family Safeguarding Model, which is due to be operationalised Autumn 2021, processes are being reviewed to ensure we are best placed to identify, screen and manage violence and exploitation contextually at the earliest possible opportunity.

Currently, children identified at risk of or experiencing exploitation are triaged with appropriate cases discussed at a weekly Missing and Exploitation Operational Group (MEOG) to ensure appropriate mitigation and support is

offered. Those identified at greatest at risk are escalated to the complex safeguarding meeting. The MEOG process is under review to understand how risk can be assessed and managed in relation to locality-based models of working that are gaining traction across West Sussex.

Within each of our district and borough localities, stakeholders meet regularly to discuss groups and locations of concern; considering the impact of place and space on vulnerability, working with those who have influence over these contexts to create safety and wellbeing.

Tactically, a series of multi-agency action plans driving workstreams to address violence and exploitation have been developed and are being consolidated. Examples of successful multi-agency work to reduce risk and harm achieved last year include production of a countywide modern slavery transparency statement, operations to target county lines and cuckooing as well as school-based alternatives to permanent exclusion as this is known to increase risk of violence and exploitation among children and young people exponentially. Much of this work will continue, with renewed focus and strategic direction.

Understanding extra familial risk and vulnerability

In order to work to our best potential, we need to fully understand issues affecting our county and our vulnerable communities; namely: children and young people, working age adults and older residents. For the last decade, we have relied upon policing colleagues to help us understand the picture of crime and disorder across West Sussex. Whilst this has been immeasurably valuable, the Safer West Sussex Partnership now has a dedicated Partnership Analyst who is able to undertake strategic intelligence assessments of key issues including Violence and Exploitation. Drawing upon a wider range of information and data sources, we will be even better placed to comprehensively recognise and respond to the complexities of violence and exploitation going forward.

Raising awareness of key issues, including drivers of violence and exploitation, remains a priority, with some of this work absorbed by the West Sussex Community Safety and Wellbeing Service. Where additional specific needs and workforce development have been identified, we develop and/or commission training; such as the Serious Organised Crime, County Lines and Exploitation sessions we commissioned St Giles Trust to deliver during 2019/20 alongside a piloted Peer Mentoring Programme. We also delivered the SOS+ St Giles Trust Programme to pupils of the West Sussex Alternative Provision College; all of which was funded by the Violence Reduction Partnership. Going forward, we will use evidence from our strategic analysis and partnership intelligence to plan and deliver relevant awareness raising sessions.

The Partnership will work to further enhance the sharing of strategic threat and vulnerability profiles with all partner agencies in a format which increases awareness and understanding; including reported and recorded crime, case management trends, risk of missing episodes and school exclusions, together with national referral mechanism reports and evidence to measure the impact of

serious and organised crime groups who are known to groom, recruit and exploit some of our most vulnerable communities.

We will also seek to better understand methods of perpetration, working with colleagues from youth and adult criminal justice services.

Emerging Threats

There is a serious risk that the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a rise in violence and exploitation, including cyber-enabled crime, modern slavery and human trafficking. The main drivers of crime and vulnerability are likely to intensify, resulting in an increased risk of exploitation and abuse.

People living in poverty or facing financial insecurity, those in overcrowded or unaffordable housing, low-wage workers and people with insecure jobs, especially migrants who have no recourse to public funds as well as children not in full time education, employment or training could be at greater risk of falling prey to traffickers and exploiters.

These risks are exacerbated by increased exposure to potential offenders through online gaming, the use of chat forums in apps, phishing attempts via email, unsolicited contact in social media¹ and through less secure online educational applications utilised during periods of home schooling as a result of lockdowns and social distancing restrictions.

These threats, whilst not necessarily new, are likely to be emergent as the pandemic recedes and the risks associated with time spent online is fully realised.

Reporting and recording

Serious violence and exploitation encompasses many different threats, including serious and organised criminality as well as links to modern slavery and human trafficking, the sexual and criminal exploitation of vulnerable children and adults for gain.

A fundamental part of merging the work to address violence and exploitation includes reviewing and prioritising cross cutting actions that are evidence led and outcome focused. This will ensure the essential work already underway is consolidated and strengthened.

A key responsibility of the Partnership Analyst going forward is to work with the Safer West Sussex Partnership Tactical and Tasking Group to create a performance management dashboard so the group can track prevalence of issues across the County.

For some practitioners and organisations, working contextually to address place based and group level vulnerability and harm is a new and culturally different way of responding. Through workforce development and co-production of new

¹ Including but not limited to Instagram, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Omegle, Houseparty, Telegram & Wickr

tools for reporting, recording and managing risk, we will continue to build capacity and professional curiosity in our workforce and partners.

Alignment of resources

With the commitment to work collaboratively comes new opportunities to maximise funding potential and align resources so they can be used for best effect. Government funding to address serious [youth] violence continues to provide the bulk of the financial capability for the violence and exploitation work. However, the new strategic group is committed to pooling resources where and when appropriate; horizon scanning new sources of funding to further build upon the resources we currently have.

At a local level, locality partnerships receive funding via the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, with further opportunities to bid for additional targeted Community Safety funding grants. This enables the operational work to be delivered.

Currently, the Safer West Sussex Partnership Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (PTTCG) meets monthly to identify specific areas of threat, harm, risk or vulnerability from performance assessments or emerging patterns of crimes and incidents. The group provides a mechanism that enables partners from a wide range of organisations to identify crime and disorder priorities which require resourcing, expertise, or interventions from more than a single organisation, or additional specialist resources.

Local Links

Work to address violence and exploitation must be carried out in collaboration as no single agency can address the complexities of these issues nor the breadth of work required to keep communities safe from harm. We will continue to work closely with internal services, partnership colleagues and multi-agency stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Sussex Police, Probation & Youth Justice, District & Boroughs and our health partnerships.

2. Social Inequality & Hate Crime

Social and economic inequality can have profound effects on the welfare, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, families, communities, and society. As the long-term impact of the pandemic becomes apparent, social inequality may become an even greater issue locally.

Hate Crime accounts for a very small number of offences in West Sussex. Although the numbers of crimes are low, there is a significant impact on those affected by it, as not only it can lead to inequalities in access to services and opportunities but also impact on people's sense of wellbeing and belonging.

Working towards a more inclusive and cohesive society will help to reduce the impact of inequality and prejudice in West Sussex.

County co-ordination

Important work is currently being undertaken across West Sussex by individual agencies to explore social inequality but there are benefits to ensuring this work is coordinated and delivered collaboratively to be most effective.

WSCC intend to undertake a scoping exercise to best identify a network of agencies and community groups whose work includes a focus on tackling social inequality and supporting cohesive communities. This will enable WSCC, agencies and communities to collaborate to better explore the opportunities available to provide a voice to all within our diverse communities, identify how to improve access to services and develop work that supports cohesion locally.

WSCC intend to identify examples of good practice from agencies within and outside of West Sussex relating to social cohesion and tackling inequality.

WSCC part funds the pan-Sussex Hate Incident Support Service (HISS). This well-established initiative works to key priorities to promote the service and prevent as well as respond to hate incidents and hate crime. Its early identification and response model seeks to reduce repeat victimisation and reduce community tensions. The Countering Extremism Team support HISS awareness raising activities and the development of community engagement strategies with community safety leads across the county.

Driving front-line delivery

A training package has been developed and is being delivered to WSCC staff and partners to explore the impacts of racism to better equip practitioners to identify barriers faced by many minority ethnic populations. An Equality and Inclusion training package is currently being delivered to WSCC staff and voluntary organisations to support practitioners to explore biases that can impact on service delivery and community inclusion.

Resources and campaigns are being developed and promoted as follows:

- For WSCC staff, partners, and educational establishments to increase skills and knowledge regarding the impacts of racial inequality and how to promote anti-discriminatory practice. This is intended to enable practitioners to better ensure services are accessible to all in the communities and identify both current and potential barriers.
- To improve awareness within communities of ways to respond to and tackle discrimination, inequality and prejudice. This will ensure communities have a means to challenge narratives which seek to divide them.
- To improve awareness within communities of how to respond to hate crime and incidents, highlighting reporting mechanisms and support available.

Understanding risk and vulnerability

WSSCC intend to undertake research to better understand the experiences and any barriers to services faced by Minority Ethnic populations in West Sussex. This will enable services to begin to identify how to improve access to all.

It has been important to continue to work with partners in monitoring tensions locally, nationally, and internationally to understand and, where possible, counter the impact(s) of tensions locally at an early stage.

Reporting and recording

The Hate Incident Support Service undertakes a 'Distance Travelled' outcomes survey of clients to understand the impact of the support provided, including their sense of wellbeing, perception of safety and ability to cope.

The Countering Extremism Team will review the resources and campaigns created for practitioners and educational establishments and evaluate the impacts on skills and knowledge regarding racial inequality, promoting anti-discriminatory practice and understanding the impacts of hate crimes and incidents.

The Countering Extremism Team will regularly evaluate the resources and campaigns developed for communities to identify whether community members are accessing them and ensuring they are appropriate and effective.

Alignment of resources

There will be further exploration of opportunities to work with other internal WSSCC services, partners and voluntary and community groups to both better understand the impacts of social inequality on specific social groups and in identifying ways to tackle inequalities and improve lives.

The Hate Incident Support Service is participating in the development of the pan Sussex Hate Crime Community Engagement Strategy. The focus of this work is on a school's programme and partnership work with existing Sussex Police & Community Safety Partnership activity to avoid duplication and ensure resources are pooled in response to identified local priorities.

Local links

The WSSCC Refugee Resettlement Team will build community engagement teams for the resettled population within communities around the county, with the aim to promote advocacy and cultural orientation both within the refugee population and the communities at large. This will include work with resettled groups to ensure they have full access to digital technology hardware (computers, internet) and that they have access to IT skills training to enable their full participation. This approach also provides an opportunity for awareness raising amongst the refugee community of hate incidents and crimes and how to report them, which can help to enable early intervention, avoid rising tensions and improve cohesion.

3. Preventing Radicalisation & Violent Extremism

Violent extremism relates to beliefs which condone violence for the purposes of furthering an ideological, political, religious or personal cause, with terrorism relating to the use or threat of violence to advance these causes. Through the process of radicalisation, people may come to adopt extremist views which support the use of violence and terrorist acts. In some cases, the individual may go as far as perpetrating them.

Domestic and international politics have the potential to heighten support for extremist ideologies and groups and to increase tensions between and within communities, thus creating a driver for radicalisation. Brexit, refugee resettlement, the involvement of British people in terrorist groups abroad, and the apparent growth in support for and visibility of extremist right-wing views, as well as the coronavirus pandemic, are all areas for potential community tension. Locally, right-wing terrorism (RWT) and faith claimed terrorism (i.e., Daesh/Al Qaeda) pose a threat, and extremist groups are known to use the internet, social media, and gaming platforms to disseminate messages. The threat from online radicalisation has increased as adults, young people, and children spend more time online for work, socialisation, and education as a result of the pandemic. Vulnerabilities such as isolation, low self-esteem, feelings of rejection and grievances can mean individuals are susceptible to the risks of online radicalisation and self-radicalisation.

The Covid-19 pandemic also saw the emergence of several online conspiracy theories wherein blame for COVID-19 was directed at some ethnic or faith groups or institutions. These theories have led to both online and offline harm or threats of harm.

County co-ordination

West Sussex benefits from established multi-agency working regarding the Prevent & Channel Duty. A Prevent Board meets quarterly and produces a jointly owned action plan, updated annually based on the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). West Sussex County Council facilitates this Board and the monthly Channel Panel for the county.

The Prevent Board action plan includes strategies to develop and promote resources that raise awareness of the Prevent referral process and the key signs of radicalisation to look out for; community engagement and improving understanding of the role the online space plays in radicalisation into violent extremism. The Board will continue to identify effective and sensitive ways to share information with communities and partners regarding any concerning trends and emerging threats that impact on West Sussex and the surrounding areas. Some of this work is tasked to the Countering Extremism Team.

Driving front-line delivery

The Countering Extremism Team has developed a Prevent training strategy which is promoted to and accessed by WSCC staff, partners, educational environments, and communities. This strategy outlines priority agencies, identifies a range of products to reach a variety of agency needs, and is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to emerging local and national threats and patterns, whether on or off-line.

The Countering Extremism Team provide accessible information on the key aims of Prevent for practitioners and community members through several mediums including regular newsletters, social media outputs and webpages. These are used to provide updates, resources and information to raise awareness and increase confidence in preventing radicalisation into violent extremism. Knowledge Hub sites have been created to support practitioners in delivering Prevent locally, and a separate Knowledge Hub site developed to support the collation, dissemination and monitoring of local tensions. Webpages on the WSCC Services for Schools site provide school staff with links to teaching resources and policy guidance in relation to Prevent and hate incidents.

Understanding risk and vulnerability

Risk and vulnerability are identified and addressed in the following ways in West Sussex:

- The West Sussex Channel Panel operates within Home Office guidelines to identify, risk assess and mitigate vulnerabilities associated with radicalisation into violent extremism by providing relevant targeted support. Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Every person adopted into Channel receives a tailored support plan which may utilise local and/or national resources and continues to receive that support until the risk is reduced.
- The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is produced by Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) to identify risk on an annual basis. It is shared with partner agencies and used to inform focus on mitigation of risk and so may lead to tailored training packages with specific themes or aimed at specific agencies.
- A multi-agency tensions monitoring group has been established for partners to safely share images and information regarding online and offline narratives that could generate tensions in local communities. This ensures tensions are identified early and responded to with appropriate interventions that best reduce the severity and impacts on local communities.
- Significant tensions are reported to the police and central government via the National Community Tensions Team to inform activity and policy.

Reporting and recording

A multi-agency countywide referral system is in place which continues to be promoted to partners to ensure they are able to raise concerns thereby safeguarding people vulnerable to radicalisation in West Sussex.

Further resources are being developed to support communities to better understand the safeguarding aspect of Prevent and to feel more confident to identify and raise concerns about radicalisation, leading to greater community resilience.

Alignment of resources

Colleagues from Adults' and Children's social care are key partners in Prevent and Channel delivery in West Sussex which allows for joint working regarding safeguarding, training and communications.

West Sussex has a close strategic working relationship with other local authorities in the South-East region which enables sharing of resource and good practice.

Local links

There is good awareness and engagement from partner agencies specified within the Prevent Duty and Channel guidance. The Prevent Board is well-attended with all specified sectors represented, including a District and Borough community safety representative.

4. Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse

The Pan Sussex Strategic Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Framework 2020 - 2024 brings together national and local government, third sector partners and stakeholders alongside the community - working together to ensure the provision of robust, high quality support to those who have experienced, recovering from, or at risk of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. Domestic abuse is 'everybody's business' - from neighbourhoods to businesses - it is not and must never be considered an inevitability. The right interventions, in relation to both those experiencing, and responsible for the abuse can stop occurrence, reoccurrence, or escalation. We want to ensure that, across Sussex, quality, coordinated responses from the statutory and voluntary sectors are consistently available, not only to support victims, survivors and their children, but to also address perpetrators' behaviour effectively.

The Pan Sussex domestic and sexual violence and abuse strategic framework and associated action plan identifies our ambition to ensure long term sustainability and prioritisation of this work, using a whole system, and 'whole of society' approach - a multi-agency strategy that includes different professionals and agencies, local and national government, third sector partners and others all working together to tackle VAWG.

The Vision for Sussex

"We want to see an end to domestic abuse in Sussex. We are committed to preventing domestic abuse, improving the support and protection for victims and their children, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions".

County co-ordination

The Pan Sussex Strategic Framework, developed in collaboration with stakeholders and service users, sets out a number of principles and strategic intentions. The accompanying action plan for this work supports the strategy with a focus on the aforementioned priorities:

- Prevention and Early Intervention - working together to prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place, or from happening again by changing attitudes and challenging behaviours, not just as professionals, but in our communities. By using evidence-based approaches we will protect victims of abuse and try to break the cycle of offending.
- Service Provision- together we will provide quality, coordinated and accessible interventions and support, reflective of what people want and need. We will work with victims and survivors to improve our understanding of their experience of our services. We will commission and develop services intelligently, providing the appropriate services to prevent abuse in a long term and sustained way. We will assist in enabling recovery and recognise the impact of Domestic Abuse on **all** of those affected by it, and provide holistic, victim centred services.
- Partnership Working – Pan Sussex we will work collaboratively in and with a broad coalition of partners to develop and provide consistent quality services across all sectors for those at risk of or suffering from Domestic Abuse.
- Perpetrator Accountability – Domestic abuse can only end if we address those that are perpetrating abuse. This means challenging the social norms that facilitate abuse, intervening with those on the cusp of offending, those already causing serious harm, and all stages in between. In West Sussex we coordinate the partnership response to domestic and sexual violence and abuse through the West Sussex Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse steering group, which in turn supports the delivery of the pan Sussex strategic framework through the Sussex Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, ensuring a coordinated Sussex wide approach where necessary.

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act places a duty on tier 1 local authorities to assess the need for and commission support to victims and their children residing within refuges and other safe accommodation. A multi-agency local partnership board, to include those with lived experience, will be developed and will consult as it performs certain specified functions.

Having regards to the need's assessment, we will develop, publish and give effect to a strategy for the provision of locality-based support, having regard to the need assessment.

The domestic and sexual violence and abuse community safety lead officer will work closely with the domestic abuse commissioner's office locality lead to share local and national themes, learning innovative and best practice.

The Pan Sussex strategic framework makes clear that all domestic and sexual violence and abuse should be taken seriously, and that all victim/survivors should have access to appropriate support at the time it's needed, alongside a clear need for diverse services to meet the diverse needs of victim/survivors.

Domestic and sexual violence and abuse remains a gendered crime, overwhelmingly, the majority of female domestic homicide victims were killed by men. Research tells us that women are more likely to experience severe and repeated forms of abuse, including sexual violence, they are also more likely to have experienced sustained physical, psychological or emotional abuse or violence, which results in injury or death.

Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) has rightly become a national focus, our communities have been shocked and appalled at the tragic murders of Bibaa Henry, Nicole Smallman, Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa, all kidnaped and murdered by men in public spaces – there is a palpable sense of anger, fear and unrest amongst women who do not feel safe on our streets. The actions of these individuals have eroded public trust and have made women frightened to walk our streets. Whilst the murders of the above women have shone a spotlight on VAWG within our communities, they are not the only women to have lost their lives as a result of men's violence – In the weeks following the abduction of Sarah Everard on the 3rd of March 2021, a further 80 women have been killed where a man is the principal suspect.

In Sussex Local Authorities have worked closely with the Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to identify the priorities we need to take action on and to best utilise government funding to ensure that women feel safer in public spaces and within the night-time economy. This has resulted in the successful application for additional funding to provide physical safety improvements, including additional streetlighting, increased specialist police and innovative alternative safety provisions, alongside prevention and education work and comprehensive communications campaigns. We have consulted with our communities, charities, expert, and 'by and for' services as well as women who are actively working within the activism space in order that we understand the experiences of women and girls across Sussex.

Whilst tackling street harassment, domestic, and sexual violence and abuse remains some of our highest profile work in eliminating VAWG, we are equally committed to raising the profile of, and eliminating other 'hidden harms' and harmful practices that predominantly effect women and girls. These may include, but are not limited to, forced marriage and 'so called' honour-based violence and abuse, FGM (female genital mutilation) and child marriage.

A multi-agency approach is in place to raise the profile of FGM and other harmful practices and to identify and ensure that timely and appropriate support is

accessible to those that need it. The Community Safety Partnership welcomes additional funding that has been made available to provide 'by and for' services to ethnic minority women.

West Sussex has benefitted from the relaunch of the countywide VAWG forum – bringing together expert, multi-agency service providers to share resources, expertise, training and knowledge, as well as providing insight into service user trends and themes in this area. The forum amplifies the voice and experience of survivors, allowing us to listen and respond to feedback, with all partners committed to transforming 'consultation' into 'co design and production'.

The Community Safety Partnership have worked with third sector partners to roll out a comprehensive communication campaign, reaching into communities to raise awareness, reduce stigma, encourage reporting and promote service able to provide support.

Driving front-line delivery

The Pan Sussex Strategic Framework will continue to drive partnership work to reduce domestic and sexual violence and abuse whilst also noting that this can only be achieved by successfully 'bridging the gap' between services. There is clear acknowledgement of the correlation between co-occurring needs, particularly around women who are subject to multiple disadvantages. Partners must work together to ensure the best outcomes for families across the County.

Sussex has a range of domestic abuse services provided by the voluntary and statutory sector aimed at responding to domestic abuse by reducing risk, providing trauma informed support and education. These services offer victim-focused and family-based support and include an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service provided by the local authority.

In West Sussex, there are specialist services available, including Independent sexual violence advisors, and women only services. There is however a need for further development of specialist services, in order that those facing additional barriers to support are acknowledged and have access to support that best meets their needs. This includes services for the LGBTQ+ community, male victims and those experiencing, or at risk of honour-based violence and abuse or forced marriage. Scoping work has begun on these areas, engaging with national specialist organisation and working closely with the OPCC on identifying and utilising funding opportunities.

- Annual conversations with front line providers promote effective delivery of services by providing support, early identification of challenge and development of opportunity. Geographical or provisional gaps are identified, and remedies considered via the domestic and sexual violence and abuse strategic steering group.
- A pilot programme working with perpetrators of domestic abuse in in place.
- WSCC Safeguarding in Education and Schools, have co-designed the Relationship and Sex Education, previously PSHE, curriculum for West

Sussex. Giving children and young people the best start in life is imperative and this can only be achieved by ensuring our schools have the right tools and confidence to teach our children and young people about healthy relationships, recognising the signs of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and equip them to be and feel safe.

- Information on legislation and its local application; local data and profiles relevant to domestic and sexual violence and abuse including stalking and harassment and harmful practices; and needs assessments and reviews is available at *Safe Space: Sussex*. Partners aim to maintain an up to date and relevant information resource to help in our response.

Identification of risks and vulnerability

Effective arrangements are in place to support identification of domestic abuse, supported by training, delivered by WORTH services and voluntary sector partners. Work is underway to streamline our countywide training offer, ensuring accessibility to businesses and the wider community

Our front-line staff are knowledgeable, confident and supported to deliver trauma-responsive practice, both within domestic and sexual violence and abuse services and across the wider partnership. Highest risk victim/survivors are referred by IDVA's, or any other agency to one of 4 Multi agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC's) held across the county. A MARAC is a multi-agency meeting where relevant and proportionate information is shared, and action plans are collaboratively designed to reduce risk and increase safety. Whilst the primary role of the MARAC is to safeguard adult victims, the MARAC will also make links with other agencies and multi-agency meetings to safeguard children and look at strategy and information sharing that may disrupt or dismantle the behaviour of the perpetrator.

The Worth Services team are integrated into the local authority multi-agency safeguarding hub, ensuring effective and timely multi agency responses to risk and support

The profile of Stalking and Harassment has been significantly elevated on the national agenda and further strengthened by the Stalking Protection Act 2019. The Safer West Sussex Partnership welcomes this dedicated focus and recognised that improved levels of understanding and awareness across the partnership workforce and within our communities will be an essential step to tackling this pernicious behaviour which can lead to some of the most serious crimes including domestic violence, sexual assault and murder. We have developed a countywide network of stalking champions from across the partnership and have commissioned Sussex based specialist stalking advocacy service, Veritas Justice, to deliver training to the network - enabling them to raise the profile of this important issue and support available.

Cases of domestic abuse are recorded by Police on SCARF's (single combined assessment of risk form) which are sent to the MASH for multi-agency decision making on support and risk management requirement. All adults maintain the right to independent access to the countywide IDVA service, which is a centrally

funded by the local authority, and is currently located within the Early Help service.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Guidance published in 2011 by the Home Office was replaced by further statutory guidance in 2016. A “domestic homicide review” means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by:

- a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or
- b) a member of the same household as himself.

DHRs main purpose is to prevent domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses for victims by developing a coordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity. DHRs are held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death and in West Sussex they are hosted by the Safer West Sussex Partnership. Families should be given the opportunity to be integral to reviews and should be treated as a key stakeholder. Following the completion of the review a report and action plan is produced which is quality assured by the Home Office and the action plan is overseen via the Safer West Sussex Partnership’s Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Steering Group, to ensure that recommendations and actions are integrated into service delivery and common practice.

A review of new learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews is being undertaken across the whole county to ensure that learning from DHRs as well as relevant recommendations from Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews are embedded into multi-agency practice as well as ensuring that inter-agency information sharing on risk remains a priority. We are currently developing a Pan Sussex domestic homicide protocol and policy to ensure best practice and opportunity for learning.

5. Substance Misuse

The priority is informed by the [West Sussex Substance Misuse Needs Assessment 2021](#). It has the following sections:

- Context, policy and priorities
- Local Population characteristics/demographics in West Sussex
- Substance use and prevalence in the community, with particular attention given to vulnerable groups
- Community level impacts
- Service information and unmet need
- Mental health and pathways for co-existing conditions (i.e., substance misuse and mental health)
- COVID response and new ways of working.

Our engagement with partners when undertaking the Needs Assessment consistently demonstrated the complexity and extent of substance misuse and the harm it causes at both a personal and community level. However, it also showed the many possibilities for positive change.

Reflecting the findings and recommendations of the Assessment, the priority domains for action in 2021/2 are:

1. To reduce deaths caused by drug taking and ill health associated with long term substance use:

- by making Naloxone (or equivalent) used to prevent overdose widely available. In summer 2021, this will include a focus on support for adults who are homeless or insecurely housed
- by enabling equitable access to healthcare and other specialist support
- by training hub-based smoking cessation advisors on the treatment pathway for adults who misuse cannabis, and on brief interventions for this cohort
- through the promotion of pharmacy-based needle exchange and access to blood borne virus screening in order to reduce the risk of infection (for example Hepatitis B, C and HIV)
- by promoting targeted and accessible messages that support early access to treatment.

Measures of success will include:

- widening the distribution and uptake of Naloxone
- knowledge and use of the care pathway for adults with problematic cannabis use
- increase in Overdose training to people using services and to workforce
- system wide awareness raising of measures to reduce risk of catching or transmitting Hepatitis C
- increase in the numbers of people who are screened and treated for Hepatitis C
- increase in rates of smoking cessation among drug users.

2. To ensure the delivery of effective treatment and recovery support by:

- safeguarding vulnerable adults and their families through joint working with partners, the aim of which is to reduce harm and increase likelihood of recovery from substance misuse. The above includes particular attention to the needs of people with co-existing conditions
- supporting families affected by substance misuse and domestic violence
- substance misuse service leads and commissioner being active participants in the Pan Sussex Strategic Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Framework 2020 – 2024
- strengthening prison to community protocols and procedures and offer of support to opiate users known to criminal justice systems
- providing advice and support for those affected by someone else's substance misuse, and recognising the important role they can play in that person's recovery
- ensuring that those who require more specialist or longer-term residential support have access to options that support change.

Measures of success will include:

- a clearly articulated and integrated response to support adults with co-existing conditions.
- improved retention in substance misuse treatment across all drug types, for adults with co-existing conditions
- co-ordinated and accessible interventions for victims of domestic abuse
- (continued) improvement in the rates of successful completion of community and residential treatment (opiate, non-opiate and alcohol)
- evidence of engagement with service users and shared decision making
- increase in the uptake of community based, medically assisted alcohol withdrawal programmes
- improved continuity of care between prison and community, to support recovery from substance misuse among people leaving custody. This will include learning from the new (Universal Allocation) investment in 2021/22
- an expansion of community recovery coaches.

3. To strengthen prevention and early identification:

- by securing a rolling programme of drug and alcohol awareness training for the partnership workforce
- through the promotion of a joined-up approach in licensing, involving input from public health and local data/intelligence
- by reviewing the current arrangements for drug alerts and local drug information systems
- analysis of the patterns and volumes of service delivery around alcohol brief interventions and onward referrals, e.g., into treatment services
- through the provision of dedicated support to parents who are misusing alcohol, and to children of alcohol and drug dependent parents.

Measures of success will include:

- Availability of new online modular drug and alcohol training, with evidence of uptake and impact.
- Examples of licensing decisions for significant venues (for example in areas with evidence of negative impact on customers) with the preferred outcome based on robust representations. To include where available, local ambulance and/or A+E data.
- An agreed reporting mechanism across the partnership for 'near misses', and evidence of actions taken.
- Evidence of learning from the final Evaluation of the Therapeutic Service Offer for Children of Alcohol and Drug Dependent Parents, and of the Growing Families Service supporting parents and their partners.

6. Digital Safety

The SWSP SIA has identified Digital Safety as a priority focus for 2021/22, whereas in previous years it has been a cross cutting theme through the other priorities.

County Co-ordination

The recent covid-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever before how digital technology has become invaluable to access key services, learn, work, support us to live independently, and stay in touch with others. Unfortunately, criminals have also used this opportunity to exploit our increased digital use and it has become even more challenging to safely navigate being online.

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) has committed to developing a community focused countywide Digital Access, Inclusion and Safety Strategy, to ensure that everyone can access digital services safely and to support independent living.

WSCC will be bringing together key partnership leads to begin an initial discussion to understand and determine what are the key issues, what should be included as part of this strategy and who else needs to be consulted with. The aim is for the strategy to be completed and set by the beginning of 2022.

Data & Intelligence

Together in partnership, Sussex Police and the WSCC Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) team have produced a quarterly fraud data report. The aim of the report is to assist with improving how we develop resources and target online fraud prevention work across the county. Trends will be monitored, hotspots identified, and partners will work together to better engage with residents about digital safety.

The SIA has found that cybercrime continues to be an issue of concern in West Sussex. Cybercrime often involves the exploitation of vulnerable people and is significantly underreported. The impact of this type of crime can often involve financial loss but evidence shows there can be significant impacts on health and

wellbeing which can in turn put increased pressure on social care and public health services.

Locally the threat of grooming and exploitation has increased as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. The use of unregulated online spaces is becoming more prevalent. This, along with the increase in time spent online due to Covid-19, has led to radicalisation trends wherein disinformation and conspiracy theories influence online and offline harmful behaviour

With a Partnership Analyst now working as part of the WSCC CSWB team, there is now the opportunity to access cybercrime data on a regular basis to enable us to better understand what is happening locally, target our work effectively and react with a timelier response.

Local links

WSCC CSWB team continues to fund and deliver an annual Get Safe Online (GSOL) programme, working with partners to use and share resources across the county to engage residents with how to stay safe online. An opportunity has arisen to develop and deliver a Digital Ambassador programme that will help to better engage with residents locally, increasing networks and better reaching our elderly and vulnerable communities.

For children and young people, we know that education and parent/carer support is vital to build and ensure their digital resilience. Digital and Media Literacy is a key cornerstone of the West Sussex Education for Safeguarding RSHE curriculum, which is now available and being delivered to registered schools. Online Safety is a key concept throughout the new mandatory RSHE curriculum for both primary and secondary education. A Digital Safety package of training is due to be offered to schools from September 2021 to better enable staff and parents to support pupils' digital lives.

Links to plans

The priorities set out in this County Community Safety agreement link to, and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies including:

- [The Safer Arun Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2021](#)
- [The Safer Arun Partnership Plan 2021 - 2022](#)
- [Sussex Police & Crime Plan 2021 - 2024](#)
- HMPPS Reducing Reoffending Plan, Probation Service Kent, Surrey, and Sussex 2021-2024
- Mid Sussex Partnership (MSP) 2021/2022 (refreshed annually)
- Safer Crawley Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2021
- [West Sussex Substance Misuse Health Needs Assessment 2021](#)

In partnership with:



SAFER
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Probation
Service



NHS
University Hospitals Sussex
NHS Foundation Trust



Horsham
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Council



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