The Safer West Sussex Partnership

County Community Safety Agreement 2016 - 20

Revised May 2018
Introduction

Community Safety responsibilities are primarily set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act details the requirement for Responsible and Cooperating bodies including local Authorities, the Police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Drug & Alcohol Action Teams, the Police & Crime Commissioner and Probation services to develop policy and operational approaches to prevent crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending.

Since the introduction of the subsequent Crime & Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 all two-tier local authority areas have been required to have in place a county strategy group and to publish a county community safety agreement. In West Sussex the county strategy group is referred to as the Safer West Sussex Partnership.

This County Community Safety Agreement (CCSA) sets out the Safer West Sussex Partnership’s commitment to addressing the crime and disorder issues impacting on West Sussex. The document reflects both national and local priorities and acknowledges the importance of anticipating and implementing legislative changes that impact upon community safety, criminal justice and the wider roles and functions of public, private and voluntary sector agencies.

The 2016-20 CCSA was designed to be a flexible document, which could be adapted based on new and emerging priorities, the priorities of key strategic boards from within the SWSP, which include national areas of focus and statutory duties, and West Sussex County Council cross-cutting boards.

The 2017-20 strategic areas of business for the partnership have been previously agreed by partners at the Safer West Sussex Partnership Executive Board and are aligned with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner’s four-year plan. Whilst the priorities have remained the same for the 2018-19 period revisions to content have been made in order to provide the most accurate picture of each priority.

In relation to exploitation, for example, the agenda has been broadened; acknowledging the fact that it affects both children and adults (this can include sexual or criminal exploitation, drug exploitation and even ideological exploitation) and can therefore be relevant to all of the current priorities. It is therefore proposed that an overarching Exploitation Strategy be formulated for West Sussex to bring together the multi-agency work undertaken in respect of the various forms of exploitation reflected in the partnership priorities.

In line with the statutory requirement to consult the public on their views on crime and community safety West Sussex County Council is conducting an online survey of residents in April and May 2018. This survey will focus on residents understanding and experiences in relation to the partnership priorities.

The data collated from this survey will be used on a continuing basis across the next 12 months to ensure that the priorities remain relevant to West Sussex residents, and that the aims and objectives of the Partnership are communicated clearly and regularly. This information is important in understanding how residents feel about crime in their locality and what partners can do together to ensure that people feel safe across the county.
Crime in West Sussex

In the 12 months to the end of September 2017 Sussex Police recorded 50,471 crimes in West Sussex. This represented an increase of 5,461 crimes or 12.1% compared with the previous 12 months. The rise in recorded crime is broadly in line with the total for England and Wales (14%).

Long term crime data indicates that levels of recorded crime fell steadily in West Sussex from 2010 through to 2013/14 before rising again in 2014/15. The latest figures for September 2017 show that recorded crime is now higher than it was in the same period in 2010. However this rise in the figures between 2014 and 2017 can be related to increases in the recording of some crimes as part of the National Recording Standard and changes to the recording of violent crimes.

Figure 1: Total recorded crime in West Sussex October 2010 – September 2017

![Graph showing total recorded crime in West Sussex October 2010 to September 2017]

Source: Sussex Police recorded crime data

Figure 2, below indicates the number of crimes per 1000 residents (excluding fraud) in West Sussex in Q3 of 2017 (rolling) as compared to all other English county local authorities. For this period the figure is 59 crimes per 1000 residents, which is below Hampshire and East Sussex.

![Graph showing number of crimes per 1000 residents in West Sussex in Q3 of 2017 compared to other county local authorities]
The table below provides a breakdown of crime categories and the percentage change between October 2011 and September 2017. The rise in recorded violent crime is clearly shown here alongside decreases in a range of other recorded offences.

Table 1: Long-term trends in recorded crime in West Sussex, broken down by crime category October 2011 - September 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>11 - 12</th>
<th>12 - 13</th>
<th>13 - 14</th>
<th>14 - 15</th>
<th>15 - 16</th>
<th>16 - 17</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theft and handling</td>
<td>17315</td>
<td>17112</td>
<td>15112</td>
<td>14215</td>
<td>13940</td>
<td>15752</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>9429</td>
<td>9591</td>
<td>11012</td>
<td>14914</td>
<td>18274</td>
<td>20775</td>
<td>120%</td>
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<td>Criminal damage</td>
<td>7919</td>
<td>6840</td>
<td>5704</td>
<td>6187</td>
<td>6008</td>
<td>6403</td>
<td>-19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>4730</td>
<td>5071</td>
<td>4291</td>
<td>3416</td>
<td>3356</td>
<td>3933</td>
<td>-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug offences</td>
<td>2333</td>
<td>2212</td>
<td>1709</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td>1508</td>
<td>1562</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Governance**

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.

Following agreement from all partners in late 2017 the core SWSP Executive was merged with the Drug and Alcohol Board (DAB) 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 & Wellbeing Board, the Children’s Safeguarding Board, and the Adult Safeguarding Board. Many of these boards are working on work-streams and actions that have a direct impact on the work of the SWSP and it is important therefore that there are close working relationships between these boards.

The Reducing Offending Strategy Group will be responsible for delivering the new Reducing Offending Strategy, which is in development and will link across to the Exploitation Strategy and the new Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy in respect of identifying multi-agency contributions to disrupt criminal activity, bring offenders to justice and support rehabilitation across 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 including Sussex Police, West Sussex County Council, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, all West Sussex Districts and Boroughs, and Change, Grow, Live (CGL), the County Council’s commissioned alcohol and drug service provider 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.

Through co-ordinated work and interventions taken by all organisations delivery of the priority areas of business, particularly those which present threat, risk or harm to or from individuals or communities is managed effectively. Specific strands of work are reviewed and evaluated regularly to ensure the best possible use is made of collective resources and expertise.

As in other two-tier authority areas the district and borough CSPs are also 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. However, there is a greater emphasis now as a result of reduced budgets and resources on moving away from ‘business as usual’ and instead focusing on the greatest areas of threat, risk and harm. This does not mean that local issues will be ignored but it does mean that agencies need to consider those who are most vulnerable and direct resources accordingly to ensure reduced avoidable demand.

The Partnership receives its community safety funding from the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC), which has maintained the same levels of funding for CSPs and county-funded projects for the last five years. Following a review of the funding arrangements in 2017 and a consultation phase with partners the Police and Crime Commissioner has proposed a new formula for community safety funding, which will be implemented from April 2019.

In line with the legislative requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006, West Sussex County Council’s Environmental & Community Services Select Committee provides the annual scrutiny function for the SWSP and its partners.
Context

The community safety agenda continues to shift and change with the impact of new legislation and changing organisational structures. It is now essential to work collaboratively to deliver against national agendas such as Preventing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Serious and Organised Crime.

In West Sussex, now more than ever there is a requirement for joint working, with less emphasis on community safety being the responsibility of a few key agencies and more on integrated responses across teams within county and district and borough local authorities, including safeguarding, education, health and wellbeing services and housing to identify and change offending behaviour and effectively respond to exploitation.

The Partnership’s work on exploitation is informed by the Problem Analysis Triangle (PAT), which considers the elements of Victim, Offender and Location in the development of responses to crime. There is currently a huge amount of activity across the Safer West Sussex Partnership, led by a range of partners that seeks to deal with the impact of crime on victims and on disrupting offender behaviour. More now needs to be done on understanding the importance of location or place in the overall picture of crime and offending, particularly in relation to exploitation.

Although much of this activity is hidden, the learning that comes from case reviews indicates that there are visible indicators that front-line professionals and communities need to know and understand. This has been a key strand to previous work on CSE, which has concentrated on the training of staff across a number of agencies, together with campaigns designed to enable residents to report their concerns regarding individuals and locations where CSE may be occurring. Raising awareness, delivering training and providing accessible and universally recognisable channels for reporting concerns and gathering intelligence are all a vital part of this activity.

Figure 1: The Problem Analysis Triangle
In addition, the development of local Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) groups across the three police ‘Hub’ areas has facilitated multi-agency information sharing and discussion on OCGs and their activity within West Sussex and a number of ongoing interventions. Exploitation is inextricably linked with OCGs and as such, for 2018-19 the work of all three locality-based groups will include focus on Cuckooing and County Lines.

Aligned with and linked to both of these priority areas is the renewed drive in relation to drugs and alcohol by the Partnership, with the SWSP Executive Board now also having governance in relation to substance misuse. Acknowledging the cuts to Public Health grants and with substance misuse services under increased pressure nationally and locally two of the key actions under the SWSP Drug and Alcohol Plan are focused on reducing mortality and risk and improving outcomes for those within the criminal justice system who are using drugs and/or alcohol. These are some of the most complex and challenging residents who require support from a range of partners to ensure they can improve their life chances.

Discussions and negotiations around Brexit have continued to occupy huge amounts of Government time in the last 12 months which has resulted in a relatively quiet period in terms of national consultations and strategies on crime and criminal justice. The recent publication of the Domestic Violence Bill consultation and the Violent Crime Strategy, both of which have significance for the delivery of the SWSP priorities will be considered by partners in the coming months with the embedding of relevant responses into work-streams and action plans.
SWSP Priorities for 2018-19

The priorities listed in this section have been continually revised over the last 3 years as a result of ongoing assessments from lead partners based on the levels of threat, risk and harm posed under these strands of work, and on the understanding that interventions and delivery mechanisms put in place in the last 12 months may have impacted to the point that a work-stream is no longer considered to be a priority.

Responses to what are regarded as ‘volume crimes’, including burglary, theft, robbery, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage are the responsibility of a number of key agencies within the Safer West Sussex Partnership, such as Sussex Police, District and Borough Councils and other criminal justice agencies, and are supported by robust strategies and embedded delivery structures. Whilst these crimes are not therefore listed as priorities within this document they are very much business as usual for agencies within the Partnership with a commitment from all to ensure that levels of crime remain low across the county.

The priorities listed in the following section have been chosen through a combination of relevant local profiles, legislative requirements from National Government and feedback from partner agencies regarding the threats and risks that they have identified in the last 12 months.

Currently the priorities are:

- Child Exploitation
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Modern Slavery
- Preventing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism
- Serious and Organised Crime

A number of these priorities are unchanged from 2016/17, and where there is new data or analysis of the problem or where there has already been some partnership activity the revised information is included in the relevant section.

All priority areas have associated multi-agency action plans, the governance of which sits with the Safer West Sussex Partnership Executive Board.

There are a number of other work-streams that are not reflected in this document as specific priorities but that cut across or support the delivery of priority areas. These include the development of the Reducing Offending Strategy, which will consider some of the key challenges to rehabilitation in West Sussex and multi-agency activity on consultation and engagement, communications and reassurance to ensure that residents feel safe in their communities.
Child Exploitation

Child Exploitation (CE) is a form of child abuse. There are many different forms of child exploitation including sexual, criminal and drug related exploitation. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status.

A common feature of child exploitation is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and therefore does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. This is especially evident in instances of online sexual exploitation whereby the young person may never physically meet the person exploiting them, or have any knowledge that their self-generated imagery has been sold or forwarded on. No matter the circumstances, a child can never consent to their abuse, even where they believe they are voluntarily engaging in activity with the person who is exploiting them.

Current picture for West Sussex

Professionals from a range of agencies and disciplines have been working together to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation since 2013. The West Sussex Safeguarding Children’s Board has a dedicated Child Exploitation Subgroup which meets bi-monthly supported by a monthly multi-agency Missing & Child Exploitation (MACE) expert group and weekly Missing & Exploitation Operational Group. The governance for Child Exploitation is set out below:

At present around 200 children and young people have been identified as being either at risk or are currently being sexually or drug exploited in West Sussex. We know that the true level of victimisation will be higher as national research shows that BMAE communities and boys chronically under-report their experiences of exploitation and those affected by exploitation often take many years to disclose their abuse. Our data tells us that the majority of those identified as being affected by sexual exploitation are girls; with the largest proportion aged 14-17 years old. Drug exploitation can affect any young person, however in West Sussex, the majority of those identified so far have been teenage boys.
**Strategic Delivery**

Over the last 12 months, the Safer West Sussex Partnership has led the CSE Community Prevention agenda on behalf of the West Sussex Safeguarding Children’s Board. This has also included relevant sections of the Serious Case Review Key action plan. The partnership committed to 3 key strategic work-streams; supporting District & Borough professionals to recognise and respond to CSE, work alongside partners and the industry to tackle exploitation and facilitate general awareness raising with politicians, the public; including parents, carers and young people who may be at risk of CSE. To achieve this, the partnership formed a strategic commissioned relationship with Barnardo’s who have delivered Nightwatch and B You training to key sectors.

**Key Achievements**

The partnership has celebrated a number of notable successes over the year as it continues to help communities recognise and respond to exploitation.

Over 20,000 Key Stage 3 & 4 school children saw the CSE awareness play “Chelsea’s Choice” during two tours of West Sussex schools, colleges and Alternative Provision Centres and a further 1200 KS2 pupils attended workshops to help them develop resilience and build a network of trusted adults.

In partnership with Barnardo’s, we have delivered CSE awareness training to over 500 professionals across public, community & voluntary sectors including workers from the night time economy such as taxi drivers and hoteliers. These training sessions will continue to be delivered throughout 2018/19.

**Next Steps**

Looking to the future, awareness raising activity and community prevention will continue to be prioritised as we encourage long term social and cultural change. The partnership is committed to challenging communities to accept that Child Exploitation *can and does* happen in West Sussex, and continues to seek their help reporting concerns.

Partnership activity to widen the scope of child exploitation will be driven forward and delivered through a series of Knowledge Lab sessions. This collaborative approach reduces the additional burden of formal board structures, promotes inclusivity of all agencies and recognises the connection between various other work streams (e.g. Serious & Organised Crime, Drugs & Alcohol).

We will deliver year 2 of the *West Sussex Promotion, Prevention and Identification CSE Action Plan*; led by the Safer West Sussex Partnership, however activity will be broadened to address criminal and drug exploitation in addition to the sexual exploitation of young people.

This year we will run a Community Safety roadshow designed to raise awareness of key risks affecting young people including Child Exploitation and Radicalisation & Violent Extremism complemented by input on Online Safety. The roadshow will operate in each District and Borough with a number of themed events in each locality targeted to professionals, the community & voluntary sector, parents & carers, businesses and the 50+ generation.

Recommendations from Serious Case Review Key (CSE in Littlehampton) will be delivered by working with District and Borough colleagues and other partners and by leading activity for SAFE (Safeguarding
Awareness for Everyone) Week. Held during November 2018, the week will help communities to understand the role they can play in being our ‘eyes and ears’ and having confidence reporting concerns. There will be a number of training events and a social media campaign which follows a successful first week of action in 2017.

Working with WSCC Safeguarding in Education and Schools, we will help steer the developing Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) curriculum for West Sussex. Giving children and young people the best start in life is imperative and this can only be achieved by working in partnership to ensure our schools have the right tools and confidence to teach our children and young people about healthy relationships and equip them to be and feel safe.

We will work with criminal justice colleagues to better understand pathways for offender management and ensure that those working with perpetrators are informed and can offer the best level of support. By focusing on perpetration and understanding the drivers that lead offenders to exploit young people we will balance rehabilitation and safeguarding for those who offend but have themselves been victimised.

Place–based Community Safety will be embedded with a focus on helping communities and key industries to understand, recognise and respond to Child Exploitation so that perpetrators are unable to operate within our county, communities are resilient and children are protected.
Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse

The Government set out its expectations in relation to Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) last year following the publication of the Ending Violence against Women and Girls strategy 2016-2020.

The strategy is aimed at making VAWG ‘everybody’s business’, ensuring that national and local government, agencies, partners and the community work together to prevent women and girls becoming victims and to provide the right support to those who have experienced abuse.

The approach, underpinned by the four pillars of prevention, provision of services, partnership working and pursuing perpetrators, is focused on achieving a reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls by 2020, with additional targets to increase reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions.

The accompanying National Statement of Expectations (NSE) provides the strategic vision for what local areas should be doing to meet the aims of the VAWG strategy. The work is supported nationally through a number of mechanisms including the provision of commissioning toolkits, dedicated funding to support and promote systematic change to local service provision, funding for rape support centres and a two-year fund for refuges and other forms of accommodation-based support.

The government’s five expectations are that local strategies and services:

1. Put the victim at the centre of service delivery;
2. Have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims safe;
3. Take a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning, acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG;
4. Are locally-led and safeguard individuals at every point.
5. Raise local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG.

Current picture for West Sussex

The West Sussex vision is that there is cross-agency working for domestic and sexual violence services across the County. At a time of national austerity the need for more effective and efficient ways of working together to tackle domestic and sexual violence is paramount. It is essential that all partners and stakeholders share in the development of a long term vision and strategy for domestic and sexual violence services.

The West Sussex 2020 Collaborative Strategy, which was shaped by the collaborative work of a wide range of stakeholders and service users, sets out a number of principles and strategic intentions with the ultimate intention of a future free from domestic violence and abuse. The accompanying action plan for this work supports the Government’s VAWG strategy with a focus on:

- **Prevention** – prevent abuse from happening in the first place by challenging attitudes and behaviours that foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.
- **Provision** – provide adequate levels of support where violence occurs.
- **Protection** - Take action to reduce the risk to families and individuals and children who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.
**Performance** – Improving data collection and information sharing, and using performance information to improve outcomes.

The strategy continues to drive partnership work to eradicate domestic and sexual abuse whilst noting that this can only be achieved by ‘bridging the gap’ between different professional disciplines. There is clear acknowledgement of the correlation between substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse and that partners must work together to ensure the best outcomes for families across the county.

West Sussex has a range of services and initiatives through the voluntary and statutory sector aimed at responding to domestic and sexual violence. These include victim-focused help, support and advocacy and refuge accommodation commissioned by the County Council.

Worth Services, which was set up in 2004 to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from domestic violence and their children is a victim’s primary point of contact. Family Support Workers typically work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans. They are pro-active in implementing the plans, which address immediate safety, including practical steps to protect themselves and their children, as well as longer-term solutions. The Worth Services team are part of MASH, the County Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and are part of the IPEH Hubs of which there are 6 across the County.

The safety plans generated from Worth also include referrals to and actions from Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) as well as sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts, housing options and services available through other organisations. MARACs consist of a range of agencies, all of whom focus on how to make victims safe.

The Drive Project is a new response to domestic abuse that aims to reduce the number of child and adult victims of domestic abuse by disrupting and changing perpetrator behaviour. West Sussex is one of three areas across England and Wales along with Essex and South Wales piloting the Drive Project during 2016-2019. Run by a partnership between Respect, SafeLives and Social Finance the project is funded by a combination of local funding from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, West Sussex County Council, and philanthropic funding from Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales and Tudor Trust.

The approach recognises that effective safeguarding of victims in the long term is underpinned by the need to focus on reducing risk of repeat offending and a commitment to strong multi-agency management of perpetrators. To change behaviour and build protective factors requires the whole system to work in a coordinated way. The Drive Project utilises a whole-family model using an intensive individual case management approach alongside a co-ordinated multi-agency response to drive perpetrators to change their behaviour.

The Drive Project pilot focuses on priority high-risk or serial perpetrators identified via the MARAC, as this group carries the greatest risk of serious harm and engage poorly in available services. All Drive interventions are driven by the primary aims of reducing risk and increasing victim safety.

The Year 1 Evaluation of the Drive Project published by Bristol University indicates that the project is working with a high-risk, high-harm cohort with a complex needs profile that is distinct from other
perpetrator groups, such as those presenting at structured domestic violence perpetrator programme groups with many in receipt of intensive casework having not been worked with in any consistent or focused way previously. Early findings from the reasonably small cohort who had completed their intervention within the study period suggest that the model which combines both support and disruption activity is most likely to achieve successful outcomes. These emerging findings also demonstrate the clear need for, and potential of, a coordinated response for disruption where direct contact with the perpetrator is not possible.

In addition to specialist services delivered through commissioned providers, Operation Encompass is currently being rolled out to all West Sussex schools and colleges during April 2018. Supported by the Safer West Sussex Partnership the project enables the early reporting by police to schools and colleges when a student on their roll has been present at, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident. A notification from the police allows educational establishments to provide support to the affected student or better understand their situation which may help to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on the child’s wellbeing. Evidence from the pilot which ran in Crawley indicated that multi-agency working and information sharing was improved through the project.

**Next Steps**

SafeLives are working with the County Council to deliver further initiatives intended to enhance and further strengthen its domestic abuse resolution services and also further the policy aim that families and children should have a healthy family, home and work life. Accordingly there is a focus on developing resilient families, resilient communities and ensuring that West Sussex is noted as a county where families can thrive and prosper.

As part of a Beacon Authority and included in a national three-year initiative coordinated by SafeLives the Beacon Site will provide a holistic package of support to those experiencing domestic abuse, offering a range of interventions to address their needs and improve the response and the options available to agencies.

In addition to the existing Drive Programme this will include ‘Connect’, which will pilot five interventions that reduce risk from domestic violence in families and ‘One Front Door’, the SafeLives vision for the transformation of local systems, processes and multi-agency response to child and adult safeguarding concerns. The One Front Door provides a clear referral pathway for any safeguarding concern by any agency, member of the public, self-referral or friend and family members.

Acknowledging that government has recently launched a consultation on domestic abuse, seeking new laws and stronger powers to protect and support survivors the partnership in West Sussex will continue to focus on developing effective interventions with perpetrators, utilising the full range of pre-court and criminal justice sanctions.

A ‘stock take’ of learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR’s) will be undertaken across the county to ensure that learning from DHR’s as well as relevant recommendations from Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews is embedded into multi-agency practice as well as ensuring that inter-agency information sharing on risk remains a priority.
There are timely opportunities to further develop partnership approaches, especially in respect of disruption, which support the early findings from the Drive Project and the recent Sussex wide expansion of the Integrated Offending Management Programme to bring all offenders into scope.

The profile of Stalking and Harassment has been significantly elevated on the national agenda and further strengthened by the Stalking Protection Bill. The Safer West Sussex Partnership Annual Conference held in March 2018 welcomed 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. The addition of these areas of focus to the existing Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse priority within the County Community Safety Agreement will underpin the commitment to respond to the widening challenges in respect of violence against women and girls.

Partnership activity to refresh and widen the scope of the existing collaborative strategy and drive forward the action plan objectives will be delivered through a series of cross cutting Knowledge Lab sessions. This approach reduces the additional burden of formal board structures, promotes inclusivity of all agencies, complements the Pan Sussex governance arrangements for Domestic and Sexual Abuse and recognises that there is significant synergy with other work streams (e.g. Drugs and Alcohol, Honour Based Abuse).
Drugs and Alcohol

Drug Misuse

The 2017 national Drug Strategy was published in July and highlights the Government’s intentions for delivery across the UK. In its introduction it clearly sets out the challenge in terms of the social, health and economic cost of drug use in England and Wales:

- The social and economic cost of drug supply in England and Wales is estimated to be £10.7 billion a year, just over half of which (£6 billion) is attributed to drug related acquisitive crime.
- Drug related and drug enabled activities are key drivers of new and traditional crime: possession of drugs; crimes committed to fund drug dependence; the production and supply of harmful substances often linked to serious and organised crime.
- Drug market violence can be associated with human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Drugs can play a role in facilitating child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.
- The use of illicit drugs in prisons has an impact upon violence, self-harm and suicides.

Drug use and drug dependence are known causes of premature mortality. While overall drug use nationally continues to decline, new figures released in September 2017 by the Office for National Statistics show a further rise in deaths nationally for 2015 to the highest number ever recorded. Registrations of drug misuse deaths in England increased by 8.5% in 2015, following an increase of 17% in 2014 and 21% in 2013. Heroin related deaths have doubled since 2012 in England and Wales (579 to 1201 – a 107% increase) to the highest records since records began 20 years ago.

Nationally fewer people are coming into structured drug treatment (in 2015/16, a total of 203,808 people received treatment for drug misuse) and more people are leaving treatment successfully. However on both these indicators there is considerable variation across local authorities.

There is a need to be vigilant to new and emerging patterns of drug use and challenges posed by use of new psychoactive substances (NPS), image and performance enhancing drugs and the use of multiple drugs (poly substance misuse). One NPS of serious concern which has attracted recent media attention is Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that can be around 100 times more potent than heroin.

Alcohol Misuse

While overall alcohol consumption rates in England have fallen by around 18% since 2004, more than ten million people (24% of the population) drink at levels that increase the risk of harm to their health. Health problems and costs associated with alcohol misuse rise year on year with research increasingly showing clear links between harmful consumption and common illnesses. As illustration of the scale, the following is taken from a 2016 report by Alcohol Concern:

- In England there are an estimated 595,131 dependent drinkers, of whom only 108,696 are currently accessing treatment.
- In 2015, there were 8,758 alcohol related deaths.
Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among 15-49 year-olds in the UK, and the fifth biggest risk factor across all ages.

Alcohol harm is estimated to cost the NHS around £3.5 billion annually.

In 2015, 196,000 prescriptions for drugs to treat alcohol misuse were issued, costing around £3.9 million. This is double the number in 2005.

Alcohol-related crime in the UK is estimated to cost between £8bn and £13bn per year.

In 2015, there were over 8,000 casualties of drink driving accidents in the UK, including 220 fatalities and 1,160 serious injuries.

In 2015, victims believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in over half (53%) of all violent incidents, (704,000 offences).

64% of stranger violence, and 70% of violent incidents at weekends, evenings and night-time are alcohol-related.

Current picture for West Sussex - Prevalence

Opiate use
Using data from 2014/15, it is estimated that there are approximately 2,230 opiate users in West Sussex.

Crack Cocaine use
Using data from 2014/15, it is estimated that there are approximately 1,927 crack cocaine users in West Sussex. The use of crack cocaine has seen an increase nationally, with an increase of 20% in the south east.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
NPS prevalence data is not available at local level. NPS prevalence data in England and Wales is limited to the annual crime survey. This shows that the prevalence of NPS is generally low compared with well-established drugs such as cannabis, powder cocaine and ecstasy. The survey findings suggest that the overall trend in NPS use is decreasing, although data from NPS drug seizures suggests that supply is increasing.

Poly drug use seems to be one of the features of NPS use – i.e. people who use them tend to also be using other drugs.

Alcohol
At present there is no national model that estimates the prevalence of alcohol dependence reliably at a local level. The Department of Health has commissioned Sheffield University to develop a model to estimate the prevalence of dependent drinking in local populations by severity (i.e. Increasing Risk, Higher Risk, High Risk). We do not yet know when this data will be available.

In the meantime, the Public Health England: Risk Factors Intelligence (RFI) team have used data from the Health Survey for England, collected between 2011 and 2014, to estimate that:

- 23.7% of adults (over 18) in West Sussex are drinking above the lower risk limits of 14 units per week,
- 14.4% of adults (over 18) engaged in binge drinking on their heaviest drinking day in the past week.
Young People

What about YOUth (WAY) survey 2014 was a one off survey designed to collect robust local authority level data on a range of health behaviours amongst 15 year-olds, including whether they smoke, drink alcohol or have taken drugs. The findings have been published in the West Sussex Child Health Profile 2018:

In the 2014 WAY survey data for West Sussex:

- 7.7% of 15 year-olds were regular drinkers (drinking at least once a week)
- 19.7% had been drunk in the last 4 weeks. This is worse than the England average.
- 69% had never had an alcoholic drink. This is higher than the England average.
- 13.6% had never tried cannabis. This is worse than the England average.
- 6.2% had used cannabis in the last month. This is worse than the England average.
- 1.3% had used drugs (excluding cannabis) in the last month.

West Sussex Data from Lifestyles of 14 to 15 year-olds in West Sussex 2015

- 3.7% of 14-15 year-olds surveyed regularly drink alcohol.
- 36.3% of 14-15 year-olds surveyed occasionally drink alcohol.
- Of the 40% of 14-15 year-olds who drink occasionally or regularly, 89% drink once a week or less, 9% drink 2-3 times per week, 2% drink on 4 or more days per week.
- Beer is most commonly consumed by boys and spirits are most commonly consumed by girls.
- Of the 40% of 14-15 year-olds who drink occasionally or regularly, 43.9% of young people occasionally drink with the intention of getting drunk. 11.6% regularly drink with the intention of getting drunk.
- The proportion of young people who drink alcohol in their own homes has increased in recent years from 47% in 2009 to 61% in 2014.

Use of services

While we have seen a reduction in the overall number of people in contact with drug and alcohol services nationally this is not the trend in West Sussex.

The prime contractor in West Sussex (CGL, Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network) reports a 17.45% increase of people in contact with services from March 2016 to March 2017, and a further 4.74% increase from March to December 2017 (latest figures available).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All in treatment as at</th>
<th>March 16</th>
<th>March 17</th>
<th>Difference from 2016-2017</th>
<th>Dec 17</th>
<th>Difference from 2017 to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opiate</td>
<td>1075</td>
<td>1117</td>
<td>3.91%</td>
<td>1099</td>
<td>-1.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-opiate</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>58.39%</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>-11.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol only</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>27.06%</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>13.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-opiate and alcohol</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>33.51%</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>19.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2363</td>
<td>17.45%</td>
<td>2475</td>
<td>4.74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The service has a dedicated Criminal Justice Intervention Team that works in partnership with criminal justice agencies to support people to address their substance use and offending behaviour. Service returns show a Criminal Justice caseload of approximately 140.

The service has a dedicated Young People & Families Team that works with people up to the age of 24 years (and no lower age limit). Service returns show a Young Persons caseload of approximately 195.

**Substance Misuse Deaths**

West Sussex is not an outlier and the numbers of all service user deaths (alcohol and drugs) reported by the CGL service to the commissioning team have not shown significant changes over the last three years.

ONS figures suggest drug related death counts in West Sussex have historically been between 52 and 72, with rates of 2.0 to 3.4 per 100,000. With recent rates increasing slightly, it is reasonable to expect approximately 70 cases per year.

Agreed local targets with the service are: a reduction in the rate of premature deaths reported to the commissioning team that are alcohol and/or drug related, and evidence that learning is shared and applied across the partnership. An annual report will be produced by the commissioning manager in 2018.

**Next Steps**

The complexity of substance misuse – its causes and its harms – means that our response is best when coordinated and done in partnership. With this in mind the work-plan for the year is based on presentations and discussion from a wide ranging audience at the Safer West Sussex Partnership Conference (March 2018). The work-plan has been further developed in consultation with services and stakeholders.

There is consensus that - at minimum - the areas of work worthy of focus for their ability to reduce crime, prevent harm and effectively support those affected by substance misuse are:

- **Tackling drugs litter:**
  - reducing drugs litter in West Sussex;
  - improving reporting;
  - providing specialist training.

- **Reduction in substance misuse deaths:**
  - reducing drug related deaths in West Sussex;
  - sharing learning;
  - increased intelligence on drug trends;
  - increased distribution of Naloxone.
- Reduction in drug related offending:
  
  ➢ work across the partnership to increase effective uptake of services by criminal justice service users;
  ➢ diverting people away from criminal justice system and into treatment.

The plan will be regularly reviewed through the year with updates brought to each quarterly Safer West Sussex Partnership Board. We aim to see significant progress made against each of these areas and a positive impact on reducing the harms caused by substance misuse.
Modern slavery is an umbrella term, encompassing human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour. It is an extremely serious crime where people are exploited for criminal gain. The complexity of these crimes makes it very difficult to quantify the scale of those living in modern day slavery. However, in 2010 it was estimated that there are 10,000-13,000 victims living in the UK today and according to official figures, the number of potential victims being trafficked into Britain has risen by 245% over the last five years.

From 1 November 2015, to comply with S.52 of the Modern Slavery Act specific public authorities have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any person identified in England and Wales as a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. This applies to a number of public authorities including the police and county, borough and district councils. Notification is made by the National Referral Mechanism process. It should be noted that the detail required to populate NRM submissions often requires an understanding of modern slavery and a thorough cognitive interview of any potential victim.

Under Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the police are obligated to investigate Modern Slavery and as such detailed referrals are essential.

Victims of Modern Slavery
Anyone can become a victim of modern slavery – any age, race or gender. Modern slaves and victims are intentionally treated as commodities for the sole purpose of financial gain with brutal and creative control measures employed to ensure compliance and dissuade any disclosure to authorities. Victims are often sold like objects, forced to work for little or no pay, live in fear and squalor, have their freedom restricted and are at the mercy of their employers.

In total 5,145 potential victims of slavery or trafficking were submitted to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2017, a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, such as those subjected to sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude. This is an increase of 35% on the previous year when there were 3,804 referrals. British nationals made up the highest number of cases for the first time.

Reporting showed potential victims of trafficking from 116 different nationalities in 2017, with Albanian and Vietnamese nationals the most commonly reported potential victims after the UK.

The most common exploitation type recorded for victims was labour exploitation, which also includes criminal exploitation, accounting for 2,352 cases; nearly half of all referrals in 2017.

The number of children thought to be victims rose by 66% from 2016, partly because of the growth of a drug supply route, known as ‘county lines’. This is where city-based gangs use young people as couriers to move and distribute illicit drugs like heroin and crack cocaine to less urban rural and coastal areas.

Modern slavery victims can be recruited anywhere in the world including any Sussex town or village and have a large range of threats, deception or other coercion tactics imposed upon them to facilitate their
movement and subsequent exploitation. Some of these can be as simple as the promise of lucrative work, but others such as Nigerian Ju Ju spiritual ceremonies can be used to blackmail, be highly traumatic for victims and unfamiliar to our services and professionals.

Victims of modern slavery can be targeted by traffickers through many methods, sometimes with the promise of a better life, or for employment or education. Modern slaves are often hidden in plain sight, and are forced into labour exploitation or a life of abuse.

There is a strong chance that people living or working in everyone’s local neighbourhood are being exploited and controlled by others. Similarly, there is the same chance that those conducting such exploitation or facilitating the travel of victims also live in our communities.

**Current picture for West Sussex**

Operation Eagle is the National Police response to Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking (MSHT) and Organised Immigration Crime.

There were 51 reported crimes of modern slavery in Sussex between the 1st October 2016 and the 30th September 2017, a 155% increase on the previous year. Using the most robust assessment tool currently available, (Joint Slavery and Trafficking Analysis Centre, Modern Slavery Annual Strategic Assessment, 2017) it is estimated that there are around 500 victims of MSHT across Sussex and neighbouring force Surrey at the moment.

Multi-agency activity and intelligence gathering during 2017 indicates that labour exploitation is the most widespread form of exploitation occurring across Sussex. Increases in exploitation connected to domestic cleaning services, car washes and agriculture have been seen in the last year with construction work and nail bars also featuring strongly. The victim/offender relationship is consistent with national findings that non-British offenders are highly likely to target victims with whom they share national, ethnic or linguistic ties.

**Strategic Delivery**

The Safer West Sussex Partnership and the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to working with partners in a more structured approach in order to identify victims of slavery, signpost support and disrupt and prosecute the traffickers to prevent slavery.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has funded a new post in 2018 - Sussex Police’s first Anti-Modern Slavery Delivery Manager. This role will be dedicated to working with partners to better understand the complexities and scale of modern slavery and human trafficking across Sussex, and provide the right level of interventions and support to the victims of this emerging crime.

The Sussex Modern Slavery Network is a framework for bringing together all of the organisations across Sussex that are committed towards tackling modern slavery, prosecuting perpetrators and assisting the victims.
East and West Sussex County Councils, Brighton and Hove City Council, Sussex Police, East and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Immigration Enforcement are represented within the network. The network does not have a statutory role, but does feed into the three respective community safety partnerships and seeks to coordinate activity to prevent duplication and ensure a collaborative Sussex wide approach.

**Next Steps**
The Sussex Modern Slavery Network will work collaboratively to deliver the Pan Sussex Modern Slavery Delivery Plan 2017 to 2020. This is a Sussex wide approach with the ultimate aim of delivering a 4 tier approach aligned to the National Modern Slavery Strategy, which builds on and adapts the framework that has been implemented in both the Government’s Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism strategies. It has 4 components:

- **Pursue**: prosecuting and disrupting individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery.
- **Prevent**: preventing people from engaging in Modern Slavery.
- **Protect**: strengthening safeguards against Modern Slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and increasing awareness and resilience against this crime.
- **Prepare**: reducing the harm caused by Modern Slavery through improved victim identification and enhanced support and protection.
Preventing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

The Prevent Strategy is part of the Government’s wider Counter-Terrorism strategy, CONTEST. CONTEST is organised around four principal work-streams:

- **Pursue**: to stop terrorist attacks.
- **Prevent**: to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- **Protect**: to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack.
- **Prepare**: where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact.

Prevent addresses radicalisation to all forms of terrorism, including the extreme right-wing, and the non-violent (which can popularise views that terrorists exploit), prioritising according to the risks faced.

The Prevent strategy identifies 3 key objectives:

1. **Ideologies** – to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
2. **Individuals** – to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
3. **Institutions** – to work with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health) where there are risks of radicalisation.

The success of Prevent is seen as dependent on a wide range of statutory and community organisations. As a result, the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** placed a duty on a number of statutory sectors to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the **Prevent Duty**. Under the duty, local authorities, schools, further and higher educational establishments, the health sector, police, prisons and probation must have an understanding of the level of risk of radicalisation in their area, work in partnership, and share information appropriately.

Those in leadership positions must promote the importance of the duty, ensure it is implemented effectively and that staff, especially those on the ‘frontline’, are adequately trained.

In order for the County Council to meet its obligations under the new duty, WSCC has a nominated Prevent Lead and a dedicated Prevent Training Officer. To address the identified risks, a multi-agency West Sussex Prevent Board has been established, accountable to the Safer West Sussex Partnership, and an action plan drafted.

Objectives include supporting partners to achieve compliance with the Prevent Duty, awareness raising of Prevent amongst local communities to increase referrals and maintaining links with other strategic boards relevant to Prevent.

**Channel**

Channel is a key aspect of the Prevent Strategy and was also placed on a statutory footing in 2015. Channel is a voluntary programme which aims to support vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity. Therefore it seeks to:
Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity;

Ensure that individuals and communities have the ability to resist all forms of terrorism and violent extremist activity likely to lead to terrorism.

The Channel process uses existing partnership working between the police, local authorities, statutory partners, and the local community to support those who are vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism by:

- identifying individuals and groups at risk of being recruited by violent extremists and referring them to a multi-agency panel;
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk through multi-agency panels, chaired by the local authority (WSCC and CBC); and
- considering how best to safeguard an individual through a support package tailored to their needs. This may include referring cases to intervention providers to develop the most appropriate support package to protect the individual at risk.

Each referral is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the panel until it is considered that the risks have been reduced.

Current picture for West Sussex

Partners have identified a number of risks in West Sussex, which are in common with many other areas across the country. This is not an exhaustive list and not in any particular order, and as national and international events fluctuate, the picture and levels of risk may change:

- Animal Rights extremism – aspects of this type of protest have previously included violence and it is likely to still attract support.
- Extreme Right Wing – the ‘traditional’ British National Party and English Defence League activity is still evident. However, over recent years, new groups have emerged including Britain First and National Action. The proscription of National Action in December 2016 has limited the activity of that particular group but is likely to result in existing members/sympathisers forming splinter groups under different names.
- Islamic extremism – with the conflict and humanitarian suffering in Syria and Daesh attempting to establish a Caliphate, British individuals may travel or be attracted to travelling to these countries. However, as the territory Daesh hold reduces, their members may seek to return to their country of origin, some with the aim of carrying out terrorist acts. Equally, Daesh continues to encourage its supporters across the world to carry out lone actor terror attacks.
- Single Issue Extremism – there is no definitive single issue currently, but this category can include environmental, planning, even arms and food production issues.
Serious and Organised Crime

The Safer West Sussex Partnership has made a commitment to seeing a reduction in levels of Serious and Organised Crime in our county.

Serious crime is defined by section 93(4) Police Act 1997 as crime that involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conducted by a large number of persons in pursuit of common purpose, or crime for which a person aged 21 or over on first conviction could expect to be imprisoned for three or more years.

According to the National Crime Agency’s (NCA) Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (2017) nearly 50,000 people are known to be involved in SOC in the UK, operating in over 6,000 groups with significant social and economic costs estimated at £24 billion each year to the overall economy.

Although Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) is often thought of in a regional, national or international context its impact is most felt by local communities. It harms individuals, families and local businesses alike with rippling implications for even the smallest and most rural communities.

One key threat we will work in partnership to disrupt in 2018/19 is ‘County Lines’. As in other areas of the South East, drug lines from the Metropolitan Police area impact on the county. In the establishment of these county lines organised crime gangs prey on local vulnerable members of our communities who are often coerced into allowing their properties to be used as a base for drug dealing. This is referred to as ‘Cuckooing’.

Working closely with our partners in local authorities, social services and the emergency services, we aim to achieve better knowledge sharing and suitable resourcing to disrupt and prevent the work of organised crime gangs and provide safeguarding to exploited young people used as couriers, vulnerable adults and innocent victims that have been exploited.

An organised crime group’s activities can cover different serious crime types. We recognise that their activities will impact across all of our identified priorities and include;

- Child Exploitation.
- Organised Immigration Crime.
- Cyber-Crime.
- Firearms.
- Money Laundering.
- Drugs.
- Economic Crime.
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (including for labour and sexual exploitation purposes).
- Organised Acquisitive Crime.

We will continue to work in line with the Governments Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2013 for tackling organised crime.
The national strategy uses the framework that has been developed for national counter-terrorist work and has four thematic pillars, often referred to as the 4Ps:

- **Pursue**: prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in Serious and Organised Crime.
- **Prevent**: preventing people from engaging in this activity.
- **Protect**: increasing protection against Serious and Organised Crime.
- **Prepare**: reducing the impact of this criminality where it takes place.

In March 2017, the previous Home Secretary Amber Rudd MP, announced a review of the Government’s Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. This aims to generate an expanded, “whole-of-government approach” to tackling SOC, resulting in a new strategy anticipated to be published in the spring of 2018.

It is thought that this strategy will strengthen the emphasis on partnership working and local delivery and will reinforce the need for closer collaboration across law enforcement, public, private and third sectors with local, multi-agency partnerships being a key to reducing the threat, risk and harm from serious and organised crime.

**Local SOC multi-agency partnerships in West Sussex**

In response the Safer West Sussex Partnership has developed a local response to tackling and disrupting SOC across the county in 2017. Three SOC multi-agency partnership groups have been formed aligned to the three policing hubs across West Sussex.

Agencies represented include Sussex Police, the South East Regional and Organised Crime Unit, Immigration Enforcement and the Gangmaster & Labour Abuse Authority, but the groups also have access to a wealth of powers available to councils and partners that can disrupt the activity of organised crime groups.

As an example within a Local Authority Trading Standards, Fire and Rescue Service, Planning, Licensing, Environmental Health, Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding powers can all minimise the harm of organised crime groups on local people and communities.

The work of the multi-agency SOC groups is informed by the West Sussex Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile, produced in collaboration with partners in 2017, which represents a snapshot in time of the threat, risk and harm from Serious Organised Crime and Organised Crime Groups in West Sussex including current and emerging trends. The profile was compiled in consultation with police and partners, utilising data and information from a number of agencies.

The three groups will develop and deliver their respective 4Ps Action Plans, prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised crime (**Pursue**); preventing people from engaging in this activity (**Prevent**); increasing protection against serious and organised crime (**Protect**); and reducing the impact of this criminality where it takes place (**Prepare**) with a dedicated focus on disrupting the threat of ‘County Lines’ and ‘Cuckooing’.
References and Bibliography:

Alcohol Concern (November 2016) An Audit of the Focus of Alcohol Related Harm in Joint Strategic Need Assessments, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies and CCG Commissioning Plans


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