

Community Safety Annual Report 2021/2022, (Community Services, Kate Walker)

Synopsis of report:

To present the Annual Report on Community Safety for 2021/2022. This was also reported to the Crime and Disorder Committee in October 2022.

Recommendation(s):

None. This report is for information.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 This report provides information for The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which is the statutory partnership under The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and The Crime & Disorder Committee of Runnymede Borough Council which has responsibility for the overview and scrutiny of Community Safety matters in the Borough.
- 1.2 In a Two-Tier Authority area such as Surrey, there is a requirement to have a County-level strategy group to add value and coordinate County wide activities on common themes. This role is fulfilled by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) following a merger with the Community Safety Board (CSB) in March 2020.
- 1.3 As part of the new governance the HWBB are responsible for the development and delivery of a Community Safety Agreement (CSA). The Agreement's aim is to set out how the responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder. In December 2020 the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the partnership vision;

The Community Safety vision for Surrey is to ensure that we;
 - Protect our most vulnerable from exploitation
 - Protect our communities from harm
 - Empower communities to feel safe
- 1.4 The HWBB will develop an implementation plan, looking to work closely with the Community Safety Partnership to support and guide them. The Agreement is not a document to hold the local partnerships to account but reflects their local priorities. It is expected the local Community Safety Partnership's plans will echo the agreement but maintain their localism.
- 1.5 This report documents all aspects of the work performed within Community Safety. Much of what the service deals with must remain confidential as it involves Police operations and actions by other enforcement agencies. However, all partners are working together to address local problems and share information in accordance with the agreed County wide multi-agency information sharing protocol (ISP).
- 1.6 The partnership has four main areas of activity. These include addressing problems caused by identifiable individuals; addressing problems which occur at identified locations, support for ongoing projects and diversionary activities and support for new projects which are likely to benefit community cohesion.

2. Funding

- 2.1 Runnymede Borough Council continued to contribute £2,900 to the Community Safety Partnership for use of Joint Action Group (JAG) priorities, including the data package for one deployable CCTV camera, located within a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) area, and purchase of additional PSPO signage for both the Addlestone and Englefield Green PSPOs.
- 2.2 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) provided funding of £1,500 (alongside £1,000 carried forward from the last financial year) towards items for the Runnymede Junior Citizen event.
- 2.3 The Runnymede Community First Panel within Runnymede Borough Council provided funding of £2,500 towards items for Junior Citizen.
- 2.4 The combined total of £5,000 for Junior Citizen was used to purchase items to make up a goodie bag for each of the children who attended the event rather than a handbook. These items included drawstring bags, badges, stickers, and pencils.
- 2.5 These items were provided alongside agency leaflets and handbooks purchased previously through Child Safety Media. These books remained from last year's cancelled event (due to COVID-19) and surplus books from previous events.

3. Community Safety Partnership

- 3.1 Surrey's shared community safety priorities have been incorporated into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as follows:
 - Domestic Abuse (Priority One: Helping People Live Healthy Lives)
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse (Priority One: Helping People Live Healthy Lives)
 - Prevent (Priority Three: Supporting People in Surrey to Fulfil their Potential)
 - Serious Youth Violence (Priority Three: Supporting People in Surrey to Fulfil their Potential)
 - ASB Strategy Group (Priority Three: Supporting People in Surrey to Fulfil their Potential)
 - Tackling High Harm Crime will be delivered by the Serious and Organised Crime Partnership
- 3.2 The Runnymede Community Safety Partnership (CSP) supports these priorities and also set local priorities to ensure that the issues affecting the local area are at the forefront of the partnership's delivery plan. There are three overarching priorities for the Runnymede CSP which are:
 1. To reduce crime and antisocial behaviour by tackling offenders, reduce reoffending and to support vulnerable victims and area.
 2. To protect the most vulnerable individuals from high harm and abuse.
 3. To maintain public confidence by making residents feel safe and secure

4. Prevent

- 4.1 Surrey County Council acts as the strategic lead on Prevent delivery within Surrey although local authorities and their partners must still have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into extremism. Channel Panel meetings are held

monthly, and the Prevent Executive Group (PEG) meetings are held quarterly, with Runnymede having representation at each as required.

- 4.2 The Channel process sits within the Pre-Criminal space prior to any illegal activity taking place so is predominantly a safeguarding mechanism which supports individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation. The multi-agency panel is arranged and chaired by Surrey County Council with relevant agencies invited to attend on an individual case basis. Therefore, Runnymede Borough Council only has representation at the Channel Panel if it is discussing an individual from the Borough.
- 4.3 During 2021/22 there were 6 Prevent referrals from Runnymede with 4 cases signposted to support services with 2 cases progressing to Channel Panel with support provided.
- 4.4 A refresh of the Council Prevent strategy was commenced with training for Council staff to be arranged at a later date once the strategy has been finalised.

5. Domestic Abuse

- 5.1 The RCSP continued to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and support services available to victims along with mitigating further risk of harm to victims and families.
- 5.2 Runnymede joined forces with Elmbridge, Spelthorne, and Epsom & Ewell CSPs, as well as the North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service and Surrey Police to provide 2 "Ask Me" webinars, in September 2021 and March 2022.
- 5.3 The Domestic Abuse Outreach service continued to be provided by YourSanctuary who received 584 referrals for the Runnymede area during 2020/21. Due to ongoing COVID-19 measures, the Recovery Toolkit was not able to be run. 230 survivors accessed one-to-one support, 12 survivors attended the Freedom Programme and 31 survivors accessed the Specialist Male Service.
- 5.4 High risk cases are now discussed at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Centre (MARAC) meetings on a bi-weekly basis, having increased in frequency from monthly meetings. MARAC is where agencies share information to increase the safety of victims and agree a risk management plan. There were 90 cases discussed for Runnymede residents during 2021/22.
- 5.5 Surrey Police issued 7 Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) in Runnymede to perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to provide instant protection to victims in the aftermath of a Domestic Abuse incident. 19 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) were granted which prohibit the perpetrator from returning to the property and having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. This period allows the victim the opportunity to consider their options and get the support they need.
- 5.6 Domestic Abuse has also been included within the criteria for support under the Surrey Adults Matter (SAM) scheme following the expansion of trauma informed outreach support through Bridge the Gap via the Changing Futures funding.

6. Child Exploitation

- 6.1 Surrey County Council's Children's Safeguarding Board is the lead agency for Child Exploitation across the District and Boroughs. The role of the RCSP is to support the weekly Risk Management Meetings (RMMs) by tackling and preventing Child Exploitation.

6.2 In 2021/22, 21 referrals were made to RMM with 19 of which were rated as minimal risk or have since moved away from the area.

6.3 The RCSP is involved with local mapping meeting (which replaced MOLT [Mapping Offenders, Locations and Trends] meetings which were found to lack tangible outcomes). Mapping meetings are designed to look at how the partnership can disrupt exploitation and support children away from perpetrators.

7. Serious Organised Crime

7.1 Surrey Police and the RCSP work in partnership to address Serious Organised Crime (SOC) within the Borough. A local SOC profile has been produced by Surrey Police with intelligence provided from agencies. SOC and Organised Crime Groups (OCG) updates are provided to partners at the Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings. This is an opportunity for partners to be briefed on what the Borough profile looks like, what intelligence gaps there are and for them to participate in developing intelligence around these gaps. Whilst there were no OCGs currently based in Runnymede, OCG activity does come into the Borough.

7.2 Surrey Police, together with other forces, supported a national anti-knife crime campaign, Operation Sceptre, in May 2022, which aimed to reduce the number of people carrying a weapon. Whilst knife crime remains low in Surrey, much of what does take place is related to drugs and gang activity - some of which spills over the border from London.

7.3 Numerous activities were undertaken to educate people around the consequences of carrying a knife and to enforce criminal legislation. Some of these activities included:

- Walk around local parks looking in areas for any potential knives or weapons.
- Community engagement with members of the public walking through the parks
- Police visits to previous offenders and persons who may become offenders based on current intelligence to provide education and support.
- Test purchasing completed support of the Police Cadets who were sent into various shops to try to buy knives and see if they were challenged. This was completed across Egham and Addlestone. All shops visited challenged the Cadets, requesting a reason and ID
- Promoting of an amnesty knife bin located in Staines Police Station.
- Youths spoken to about knife crime, and provided leaflets from Fearless, a Charity tackling youth crime.

7.4 County Line drug dealing is also a priority for the force, recognising the harm it causes to communities and violence that follows County Lines. Runnymede SNT work alongside colleagues within our intelligence and proactive teams to identify and disrupt County Lines throughout the year. In 2021/22, 8 County Lines were identified for intelligence gathering via SOC/JAG meetings and a Members workshop on the matter was provided in March.

7.5 Catalyst continued to provide the cuckooing project. Due to limited resources, this service is only available to drug related cuckooing and supports vulnerable residents from drug dealers taking over their homes.

7.6 Catalyst received 9 referrals for the cuckooing project. Of these, 2 were deemed to be victims of cuckooing with 4 engaging with support offered.

8. Domestic Burglary

8.1 Domestic Burglary remained a priority for Surrey Police with Operation Spearhead carried out at a Force and Divisional level to try and reduce Burglaries.

8.2 Locally, Runnymede Beat along with the Council distributed wheelie bin eye stickers around the Chertsey Meads area to assist in deterring burglaries as part of Operation Bluebottle.

8.3 Crime prevention advice on scams, distraction burglaries and general advice for securing homes and outbuildings continue to be provided through regular social media posts and 'In The Know' updates.

8.4 Reassurance visits were conducted to burglary victims and free Design Out Crime Officer visits were offered

9. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

9.1 In Runnymede there are various avenues available to report antisocial behaviour (ASB). Most reports received by Community Safety are made via the online reporting system accessible on the Council's website. This facility is available to all residents and the reports are forwarded to the relevant departments to be addressed. In most cases, these reports are also automatically shared with Surrey Police.

9.2 The number of reported ASB incidents to Runnymede Borough Council during 2021/22 increased by 12% (n282 reports) with the total number of reported ASB incidents concluding at 2603 compared to 2321 for 2020/21. The top 3 reported types of ASB were fly-tipping, noise, and litter/rubbish (including glass).

9.3 Surrey Police saw a decrease in ASB reports of 37% (n1035 reports) with the total number of reported ASB incidents concluding at 1791 compared to 2826 for 2020/21. This decrease in reports is mostly attributed to COVID-19, as any breach of COVID regulations in the previous year had been recorded under the category of ASB.

9.4 The RCSP supported ASB Awareness Week by undertaking activities throughout the week. Each day a different department within the Council undertook joint patrols with Surrey Police. Participants included Community Safety, Housing, Environmental Health, Parking and Green Space.

9.5 Alongside these patrols, CrimeStoppers sited their Ad Van in the car park of Tesco Addlestone, the Council and Police signed up to the ASB Pledge, an ASB tools and powers workshop was provided for elected Members, and a drop-in session with the Community Safety Coordinator was held.

9.6 The Support Coaching service hosted by Mediation Surrey continued to be provided at no cost to all Surrey residents experiencing ASB and serious difficulties with their neighbours. The service is free of charge for residents due to funding by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

9.7 Across the community safety partnership, enforcement tools from the ASB, Crime and Police Act, and some additional enforcement tools, have been collated with details of all issued included in Appendix 'A.'

10. Community Harm and Risk Management Meeting (CHARMM)

- 10.1 Individuals experiencing or causing harm through antisocial behaviour or crime can be referred to the CHaRMM for multiagency risk management and problem solving to reduce the negative impact.
- 10.1 The meeting is attended by core members across the agencies made up from the Council, Police, Registered Social Landlords, Mental health services, Drug and Alcohol services, Youth services as well as Children's and Adults Social care. Additionally, family support workers, probation, schools, and other support services may be invited to attend on a case-by-case basis. The members consider what actions need to be taken to address the negative behaviours with supportive interventions and progress to enforcement action if necessary. In some cases, due to the high risk of harm, enforcement action will be taken without any supportive interventions being offered, however these are to be considered alongside the enforcement tools.
- 10.2 CHaRMM continues to be managed through Ecins which is a secure information sharing and case management platform which continues to evolve allowing users greater functionality. Ecins can be used to share information and case updates in a secure and timely manner for progression of multiagency cases. Each case has a designated owner who can grant or restrict permissions to ensure that only the appropriate professionals have access to the case.
- 10.3 There were 25 referrals made to CHaRMM in 2021/22 with quarterly updates provided to the RCSP. The Runnymede CHaRMM continued to follow the Countywide CHaRMM framework, which also went under review for a refresh. During 2021/22, Police continued to Chair the meeting with Runnymede Borough Council providing a Co-Chair/Administration function.

11. Joint Action Group (JAG)

- 11.1 Areas experiencing problems or specific crime types causing concern can be referred to the JAG for multiagency risk management and problem solving to reduce the negative impact being experienced by the community.
- 11.2 Activities undertaken by the JAG are reported quarterly to the CSP and the group holds a deployable CCTV unit. This was purchased by the CSP in 2018 to aid tackling ASB and crime. The unit is attached to a streetlamp and records live images, linked into Safer Runnymede. As the unit is not static, it can be redeployed to current hotspot locations. However, there are limitations in where it can be used across the borough due to the requirement of a suitably sized streetlamp for weightbearing.
- 11.2 The re-deployable CCTV unit will only be placed in locations where the JAG members have agreed it is required or would be beneficial and in line with the agreed guidelines of use.
- 11.3 Surrey Towers, a location open to the JAG has a Day of Action (DOA). This was held in the grounds and consisted of representatives from the Council's Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Health teams, Police, SFRS and CrimeStoppers. Following a fatal incident at Heathervale Way, joint reassurance patrols and home visits were conducted to all households by Police and the Council's Housing and Community Safety teams.

- 11.4 The Council's Community Safety Coordinator alongside local Police Officers and PCSOs held a stall at the Addlestone Christmas Market to offer free crime prevention goodies which included sliding door locks, property marking UV pens, personal attack alarms, high visibility and reflective bike stickers as well as pens, wrist bands, Vodafone digital parenting booklets and information on scams.

12. FLY-TIPPING

- 12.1 Environmental ASB continues to be prevalent within the Borough with 66% (n1712) of the reports received by Runnymede Borough Council being linked to issues such as abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti, litter, noise, street cleansing, and uncontrolled pets. This was an increase of 37% (n465) on overall environmentally linked reports compared to 1247 reports in 2020/21.
- 12.2 Runnymede Borough Council's Environmental Health Team continues to support the county wide Fly-Tipping Strategy and have an open dialogue with other Boroughs, as often the perpetrators offend across borders.
- 12.3 The Council works alongside Surrey Police and the Environment Agency to tackle large scale deposits of waste on both Council owned and private land as part of investigations into serious waste related offences.
- 12.4 Environmental Health continues to deploy mobile cameras and deterrent signage especially in "hot spot" areas and utilises their powers under statutory nuisances where appropriate.

13. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOS)

- 13.1 There are two Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) within the Borough which continue to be available for officers to enforce specific prohibitions. During this year, both the Addlestone and Englefield Green PSPOs were renewed for a further 3 years, subject to yearly reviews, with both enforcement areas enlarged following consultation with stakeholders, including the public.
- 13.2 The Addlestone order has 3 prohibitions which relate to groups, riding in a malicious or dangerous manner and wearing of face coverings. In light of COVID, a report linked to face coverings will be reviewed to determine whether the use of the covering was linked to the ASB or not.
- 13.3 The Englefield Green order has 4 prohibitions which relate to groups, ball games, music from vehicles and psychoactive substances.
- 13.4 No breaches were identified for either of the PSPOs in 2021/22. However, they continued to be a valuable tool in dispersing and disrupting offenders from committing acts of antisocial behaviour that impacts on the community at large.

14. Community Trigger

- 14.1 Under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 residents can request a review of an ASB case known as the 'Community Trigger' or 'ASB Case Review'.
- 14.2 8 Community Trigger requests were made during 2021/22, with 7 progressing to case reviews, 5 of which formally met the threshold for the Community Trigger review and 2 cases being reviewed informally despite not meeting the threshold.

14.3 ASB Help are a national charity who focus on victims and their rights. ASB Help and Runnymede have established a working relationship with ASB Help providing copies of their 'best practise' guide and advice when required. ASB help continued to be supportive of local Community Triggers offering to act as either independent panel member or chair for review meetings. However, this is no longer a free service and would require payment.

15. **JUNIOR CITIZEN**

15.1 Runnymede Borough Council invited year 6 pupils from schools around the Borough to take part in the annual Junior Citizen event. It was held over a two-week period in November, with each school invited to take part in a half-day session.

15.2 A total of 21 schools attended the event with 903 pupils. These were:

- ACS Egham
- Bishopsgate School
- Darley Dene School
- Holy Family Catholic School
- Hythe Community School
- Lyne School
- Manorcroft School
- New Haw Community School
- Ongar Place School
- Ottershaw C of E School
- Pycroft Grange School
- Sayes Court School
- Stepgates Community School
- St Anne's Catholic School
- St Ann's Health School
- St Cuthbert's Catholic School
- St Jude's C of E School
- St Pauls C of E
- TASIS
- Thorpe C of E School
- Thorpe Lea School

15.3 Additionally, St John's Beaumont, who were unable to attend the event, were provided with 26 goodie bags to distribute to their pupils to ensure the key safety messages were accessible.

15.4 The event was held at Thorpe Park, Chertsey who provided the venue free of charge. Tesco, Addlestone supported the event by providing lunch daily for the volunteers.

15.5 During the event, each agency delivered a 10-15 minute 'set' to the pupils to provide them with valuable life-saving skills. The event was supported by Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), St John Ambulance, UK Power Networks, Network Rail, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Fearless and Brooklands College students.

15.6 The event was delivered free of charge. As transport was not provided, schools were asked to make their own arrangements to and from the venue.

16. Respect the Water: Water Safety

- 16.1 The annual water safety event (part of the Respect the Water initiative), was held in August at Virginia Water Lake by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. The event was supported by the Crown Estate, the Council, Police, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), Surrey Search and Rescue (SurSAR), Addlestone Canoe Club and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 16.2 As part of the event a bankside rescue demonstration was held involving 3 canoeists in distress. During this demonstration, running commentary was provided with 3 types of rescues – throwline, tethered line, and hose inflation. A talk on 'Cold water shock and 'Float to live' was given alongside live casualties demonstrating the float aspect and 'have a go' sessions were provided for the public for the throwlines and water related first aid.

(For information)

Background papers

None stated.