



## **Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2024-2027**

### **Aims**

The Safer Woking Partnership has the following aims:

- To identify, protect and support the most vulnerable people and areas in our communities, and tackle offenders who are involved in criminal and/or antisocial behaviour.
- To promote crime prevention to maintain the low levels of crime and disorder.
- To promote reassurance:
  - to involve the public and work with all communities to reduce the fear of crime and provide people with a sense of safety and reassurance
  - to improve education/knowledge for the public to support their own feelings of safety.

The partnership will:

- Work jointly with other statutory and voluntary agencies.
- Build capacity within the neighbourhoods and communities to enable them to contribute to the delivery of the aims of this plan.

### **Key priorities for the Safer Woking Partnership**

The priorities that were identified through a local assessment and agreement are set out in the Priorities and Action Plan document. They were identified by an analysis of key data sets, a review of national and regional targets and draw on the knowledge and experience of local partnership officers. In addition to information provided by statutory partners consultation with local residents was undertaken through the Woking Borough Council Engagement platform.

For each priority issue, we will use the following methods to address them:

1. Established partnership delivery mechanism, including:
  - JAG: The Joint Action Group (JAG) is a multi agency problem solving group which deals with problem locations in the borough and meets every six or seven weeks. They consider issues including antisocial behaviour, rough sleeping and arson.
  - SOC JAG: This is a meeting that discusses problem areas related to Serious Organised Crime (SOC), such as County Lines, cuckooing, modern slavery and human trafficking. It meets every six or seven weeks before JAG.
  - CHaRMM: The Community Harm and Risk Management meeting (CHaRMM) is a multi agency problem solving group which supports victims and deals with problem individuals or families in the borough and meets on a monthly basis.

- PPYP - Prioritising Prevention for Young People. This is a multi-agency approach to being pro-active regarding young people in Surrey that need help and support.
- PPOMP: Priority and other Prolific Offenders Management Panel meets monthly, works with prolific offenders and fast tracks them through the Criminal Justice System.
- MAPPA: Multi Agency Public Protection Agreement meets monthly and monitors dangerous individuals, including sex offenders.
- MARAC: Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference where high-risk domestic abuse cases are assessed and appropriate actions agreed on a monthly basis.
- RMM: Risk Management Meeting meets weekly to monitor and risk assess missing and exploited children.
- Surrey Youth Offending Family Support - To work with Targeted Youth Support/Surrey Youth Offending Service in successfully managing the transition of young adult offenders into the adult Probation system.
- MASH: The Surrey Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the initial point of contact that aims to improve the safeguarding response for children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect through better information sharing and high-quality and timely responses.
- MEAM – Surrey Probation are linking in with Surrey Adult Matters – our local version of the making every adult matter. This is a wraparound support service for those people with multiple disadvantages, not just for those with criminal convictions; but here there is often a significant overlap.
- Domestic Abuse Management Board meets quarterly and oversees county wide domestic abuse work, including any campaigns.
- Licensing Tasking Meeting: This group meets monthly and provides Surrey Police, Surrey County Council Trading Standards and Woking Borough Council the opportunity to discuss any concerns regarding licensed premises, agree actions and is used as the primary source for arranging joint agency enforcement work.
- The Family Support Programme is a programme of intensive support offered to the most vulnerable and/or chaotic families in the Borough to help them achieve positive changes in their lives.
- Surrey Family Safeguarding team – Probation specialist domestic abuse workers will work alongside mental health and substance misuse workers in this team. To engage in work with these three key issues of mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse including with families who are not in the criminal justice system.
- Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) run by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, which is aimed at addressing anti social behaviour, youth crime, low self esteem and low motivation for those aged 14-17.
- Firewise Scheme run by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service which offers counselling for juvenile fire setters.
- Voluntary organisation networks, including Woking Neighbourhood Watch, Residents Associations and Woking Street Angels.

## **2. Mainstream agency work**

Where the issue identified is the core responsibility of one of the partner agencies this will be dealt with through those particular agencies business processes. This includes the local authority's plans, relevant ICB plans, the Surrey Fire and Rescue Local Station Plan for Woking and the Local Policing Plan.

## **3. Support to victims**

To ensure that victims are at the heart of every investigation and that the Victim Code is applied in every case to promote confidence in crime reporting and every police response.

Promote and encourage the use of the Anti Social Behaviour Case Review (formerly known as the Community Trigger) where victims of anti social behaviour indicate they are not happy with any previous attempts to resolve the ASB. Ensure that opportunities are taken to raise awareness of this process through websites, events and campaigns such as ASB week.

Promote the use of the online reporting of anti social behaviour via Woking Borough Council's website by using existing networks such as Neighbourhood Watch and social media.

Women - To continue to support the work of the Women's Support Centre Surrey. To support positive engagement in community sentences.

## **Background**

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act gave local agencies shared responsibility for developing and introducing strategies to reduce crime and disorder in their area. The agencies come together as the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), known locally as the Safer Woking Partnership. Statutory members include:

- Surrey Police
- Woking Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group

## **Data collection**

Annually the CSP conducts an assessment of crime and disorder and consults with the community regarding areas of concern. Following the assessment emerging partnership priorities and action plans are agreed. They are identified by an analysis of key data sets, a review of national and regional targets and draw on the knowledge and experience of local partnership officers.

The data, which forms the basis of this analysis, has been drawn from a variety of sources and partner agencies across Woking and the broader Surrey area. These include:

- County Council data and intelligence
- Borough Council data and intelligence
- Police crime and incident data, intelligence and tactical assessment
- Health data

## **Safer Woking Partnership**

Locally the Community Safety Partnership is called the Safer Woking Partnership. The group consists of members of the statutory agencies plus additional representatives, such as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This group reviews actions and monitors progress over the year against the plan. Currently the meeting arrangements are under review.

## Health and Wellbeing Board

A merger of the Community Safety Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board was agreed in March 2020 with the aspiration of identifying and designing longer-term, innovative initiatives that address the needs of vulnerable people and those living in deprived communities and/or families.

As part of their governance, the Health and Wellbeing Board is 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.

## Surrey Community Safety Agreement

Two tier authorities such as Surrey are required, under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006), to have a County Community Safety Agreement (CSA). It sets out how responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities to reduce crime and disorder.

There is also a requirement on two tier authorities to have a County Strategy Group. Following a merger of the Community Safety Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) in March 2020, the HWBB now performs this function.

## Community Safety Priorities

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

The Board refreshed the strategy in early 2022 in response to COVID-19, to ensure it had a greater focus on reducing health inequalities so no-one is left behind. In the refreshed Strategy there is also a commitment to the following principles for working with communities and an acknowledgement that applying these will be crucial to their success:

- Community capacity building: Building trust and relationships
- Co-designing: Deciding together
- Co-producing: Delivering together
- Community led action: Communities leading, with support when they need it.

Delivering the Strategy continues to play a crucial role in achieving the 'Community Vision for Surrey in 2030'. The Health and Wellbeing Board aims to work closely with Community Safety Partnerships 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 Partnerships' plans will echo the agreement but maintain their localism.

[Read more about community safety in Surrey.](#)

## **Communication**

The partnership needs to ensure that local residents feel well informed about the steps being taken to deal with the priority issues. This will be done via media coverage (local paper, the Woking Magazine, local radio), awareness campaigns such as Domestic Abuse Awareness Week (June), through existing Woking Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Associations communication, emails, newsletters and social media etc.

## **Serious Violence Duty**

The Serious Violence Duty started in January 2023. This Duty places a requirement for the named specified authorities to focus their activities on working together to reduce serious violence. It is required that we do this by sharing information, intelligence and data to build a strategic assessment and then develop a strategy to implement a preventative programme.

[Read the full guidance on Serious Violence Duty.](#)

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

The term 'violence against women and girls' (VAWG) refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls.

Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, so-called 'honour'-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and 'honour' killings), as well as many others, including offences committed online.

VAWG in Surrey will protect woman and girls through 4 key priorities:

- Objective One - Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
- Objective Two - Supporting Victims & Survivors
- Objective Three - Partnership Working
- Objective Four - Perpetrators are held to account.

## **Child exploitation**

Types of Child Exploitation include: Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants; For the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator; through violence or the threat of violence.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of abuse which involves children under 18, male and female, of different ethnic origins and of different ages, receiving something, usually food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts and/or money, in exchange for sexual activity. It can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example, being persuaded to post images on the internet or mobile phone without immediate payment or reward.

Child Sexual Exploitation involves children bring groomed into a relationship where they are forced or coerced into sexual activity in return for something and it can occur on the internet without the child's immediate recognition or gain. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young

person's limited availability of choice as a result of their social, economic and emotional vulnerability. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.

Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board has produced Child Sexual Exploitation leaflets for children signposting them to [Surrey County Council's service](#) for support and advice and there are posters for children and parents.

There are weekly Risk Management Meetings to discuss those children that have been identified at risk and to ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are put in place to protect the child.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a hidden crime, victims are often too afraid to come forward and do not always see themselves as a victim of crime. Therefore, it is essential that partners work together to try and prevent this abuse.

The Partnership needs to educate everyone, professionals and members of the public, on what Child Exploitation is, the risk indicators and warning signs in order to protect children by spotting it and reporting it. Children and young people also need educating to ensure they know what a healthy relationship looks like and what exploitative behaviour looks like.

## **Hate Crime**

Hate crimes are crimes committed against someone because of their disability, gender-identity, religion or belief or sexual orientation. It covers a wide range of crime types and often is committed against vulnerable members of the community who for a wide variety of reasons do not report them. The partnership will look to scope what type of incidents take place in the Borough, working with organisations and voluntary groups that support victims of hate crime to do this. The partners will also look to educate everyone about hate crime to highlight the issues, build up confidence in the community to report incidents of hate crime, look at how to reduce incidents and support victims.

## **Serious Organised Crime**

Serious Organised Crime (SOC) costs the UK at least £37 billion per year, comprising of about 70,000 people (LGA webinar Feb 2022). SOC overlaps with many other issues, because it largely describes a mode of operating, rather than a particular offence. For example, OCGs can be actively engaged with facilitating modern slavery or CCE.

OCGs in Surrey are mainly associated with drugs criminality, specifically drugs supply, but are also engaged in the following:

- counterfeit goods
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- cyber-crime (ransomware, software support scams, phishing)
- large scale high volume fraud/financial crimes
- modern slavery (car washes, nail bars, construction workers, farm workers, restaurant staff)
- organised acquisitive crime
- organised illegal immigration
- trafficking people and firearms

Communities vulnerable to SOC may include (but are not limited to):

- looked after children and children at risk of CCE

- new communities
- prolific drug and alcohol users
- vulnerable and elderly adults

## **Preventing Violent Extremism**

The Government's Prevent strategy aims to challenge the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it, protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist-related activity and to support sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

Surrey Police has a team of Prevent Officers who work with the public and partner agencies to prevent terrorism and violent extremism from taking root in our communities. These officers aim to safeguard individuals and institutions from all forms of terrorist ideology and work closely with partner agencies such as local authorities, schools, universities and health institutions, to ensure communities in Surrey are well placed to report and respond to terrorist related concerns.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires all partners to consider local implementation and each agency develops its own annual action plan.

## **Substance misuse: Drugs and Alcohol**

Addressing the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse on individuals, families and communities remains a priority for Woking. We will be supporting the objectives of the County's Drugs and Alcohol strategies with a particular focus on:

- Prevention and education;
- Early identification and referrals into specialist treatment services;
- Safer communities;
- Support to local treatment providers in enabling and sustaining recovery among clients.

Locally work in Woking is ongoing through the JAG, SOC JAG and CHaRMM where appropriate.

## **Delivery and Review Mechanism**

The Safer Woking Partnership has established delivery mechanisms through a series of multi agency problem solving groups, such as CHaRMM and JAG (as detailed on page 2). Delivery is monitored through regular meetings, as set out on page 2, and will be reported to the Safer Woking Partnership.

## **New legislation, policy and guidance**

Over the last few years there has been a significant amount of new legislation, policy and guidance which all impacts on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

## **Funding**

Previously there was a small amount of funding provided by some of the local partners into a joint fund to support the priorities contained within this plan. Unfortunately this is now longer available so work is supported by core funding from the various partner organisations or funding bids are made, for example to the Police and Crime Commissioner's grant scheme.

## **Police and Crime Commissioner**

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were introduced in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. They are responsible for overseeing the work of the Police, holding the Chief Constable to account, setting the budget and helping to tackle the crime issues. The PCC has responsibility for reducing crime and disorder and the PCC office works with CSPs and criminal justice partners to achieve their objectives. The PCC is able to call CSP chairmen to meetings, request reports and commission services.

The legislation provides a scrutiny system in the form of a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to look at how the PCC exercises their statutory functions and effectiveness. The panel is made up of councillors from each of the 11 local district and borough councillors (one from each), a county councillor and two independent co-opted individuals.

The PCC has also made available funding to commission services that improve community safety in Surrey. Local organisations, community and voluntary groups can apply for grants which meet the PCCs priorities.

[Read more information on the role and work of the PCC.](#)

The current PCC is Lisa Townsend. [Read the Surrey Police and Crime Plan and priorities.](#)

Elections take place every four years. The last election took place in May 2024.