

Joint Strategic Committee
7 October 2021
Agenda Item 5

ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision: No

Ward(s) Affected: All

Towards a Safer Adur and Worthing- Introducing the Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Strategy (2021-2024)

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 This report presents the new Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership Strategy 2021-2024 which sets out how we will work together to improve safety and feelings of safety for all who live, work and visit Adur and Worthing.

1.2 The Safer Communities Partnership is a statutory partnership who, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, must come together to tackle the local issues as identified both by data and what matters to the community. The Partnership is based on the premise that creating safe communities is not just the responsibility of criminal justice agencies, but takes a holistic response, working together not just to reduce crime but to tackle the drivers of crime and create conditions where our communities can live safe and healthy lives.

1.3 The strategy is ambitious in scope, setting out not just what the partnership will do but how they will do it. The partnership is committed to

deepening its understanding of how crime and disorder can impact people differently, in particular women and girls, black and minoritised ethnic communities and other under served groups, for example, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender or who are disabled.

1.4 The strategy also highlights:

- The importance of providing trauma informed services in the strategy. Adur and Worthing Councils have already embarked on this journey, training managers and front line staff in trauma informed approaches. The strategy builds on this and aims to create a community of practice alongside stakeholders so more people facing multiple disadvantages can access and benefit from services.
- The importance of asset based working, empowering the community to use their own knowledge and resources to find the solutions that local communities need and want. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has contributed to an increase in the conditions that can increase harm to communities, but has also shown the strength and compassion that we can harness to help build safer communities.
- Social inequality as a key driver of crime and disorder. Increasing safety and reducing crime goes hand in hand ensuring people have equitable access to the resources that provide the building blocks they need to thrive; good health, decent stable housing, financial stability and community connection.

1.5 Adur and Worthing Councils have a dual role in the Safer Communities Partnership, as lead partner in facilitating and monitoring partnership activity but also through maximising opportunities to embed community safety priorities through service delivery, contracts and commissioned projects. Through relationships and interactions with the community, the councils are also ideally placed to identify opportunities to take an early intervention approach in preventing harm.

1.6 This strategy sets out six priorities that have been shaped through data analysis, and engagement with stakeholders and communities:

- **To reducing the harm caused by serious, organised and acquisitive crime**
- **To Increase safety for vulnerable adults and children**
- **To improve pathways out of offending and reoffending**
- **To increase community cohesion and reduce ASB & hate crime**
- **To reduce public place violent crime with a particular focus on youth safety**
- **To tackle social inequality and the drivers of crime**

1.7 Whilst the lead for many of the work streams arising from these priorities will sit with partner agencies, Adur and Worthing Councils must ensure they

are embedded across all councils services if we are to play our part in the systems change required to ensure safer lives for our communities.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members of the JSC are asked to: Consider and endorse this strategy and recommend it to both Councils for approval.

3. Context

- 3.1 Feeling safe in our homes and in our community is a key aspect of wellbeing. Through our work in the Safer Communities Team in particular, we have seen how being a victim or perpetrator of crime can impact individuals. It can impact mental health and wellbeing, the ability to participate in education, enjoy positive relationships and be economically active. For communities, it can affect time spent enjoying local amenities, can impact businesses and place pressure on the front line services who have to deal with the consequences of crime and disorder. By creating safer communities, we contribute to the conditions that help people to thrive in all aspects of their lives.
- 3.2 Creating safer communities is not just a case of arresting perpetrators, it takes a co-ordinated, multi agency response across statutory and voluntary sector partners to effect real change. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed this premise on a statutory footing, requiring all areas to create partnerships to work together to reduce local issues of crime and disorder. The Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership comprises Sussex Police, The National Probation Service, The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, West Sussex County Council and Adur & Worthing Councils. In addition to these statutory partners, our Community and Voluntary Infrastructure partner, Community Works, is a co-opted member of our partnership.
- 3.3 The partnership is required to set out how it will tackle local issues of crime and disorder through setting strategic priorities every 3 years. Priorities are determined both through data as set out in the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) and through talking to communities to find out what they need to make them feel safe and what matters most to them. The partnership addresses the strategic priorities through setting an annual action plan, monitored and reviewed at quarterly meetings. This strategy sets out our priorities for 2021-2024 and comes at a critical time. The pandemic has

affected our communities in a number of ways .It has placed pressure on individuals and families, with an increase in insecure employment, financial hardship and has exacerbated vulnerabilities for large sections of society, all of which can create situations in which crime and disorder can increase.

- 3.4 As District and Borough Councils, we have a dual role in delivering the partnership's strategic ambitions. Adur and Worthing Councils are the lead partner responsible for coordinating and monitoring partnership activity but beyond this, the council has a key role in embedding community safety through multiple services and relationships. The councils' Communities and Wellbeing Team may lead this work, but this strategy clearly sets out the opportunities for community safety to become everybody's business. This strategy is clear that everything from how our places are planned, shaped and used to the delivery of our housing strategy can contribute to people being able to live healthy, safe lives.
- 3.5 We are also uniquely placed to gather the insights and intelligence that enable us to spot threats to safety, whether it is through providing our front line staff such as cleansing teams and park rangers with the skills to spot harm or through the thousands of conversations we have with our community in the course of our business. We hold a range of relationships with partners, funders and businesses, that provide opportunities to shape the services and initiatives that can enhance safety whilst achieving core aims. If we are to make the most of these opportunities, we must commit to embed this work across the councils.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 The partnership strategy sets out 6 priorities for increasing safety and reducing crime and disorder:

4.1.1 Reducing the harm caused by serious, organised and acquisitive crime. This priority will address: Cyber Crime, Online child exploitation and abuse, Immigration crime, fraud and economic crime, drug trafficking and Modern Slavery.

4.1.2 Increasing Safety for vulnerable adults and children. This priority focuses on high harm, under reported crimes- Domestic abuse, Child Exploitation, Stalking and Harassment, Contextual Safeguarding, Sexual Violence, Harmful Practices (FGM) and Cuckoo-ing.

4.1.3 Improve pathways out of offending and reoffending- This priority focuses on preventing young people and adults from entering or re-entering the criminal justice system and will cover supporting people to access the support they need to change behaviour, recover from problematic substance use etc. This includes improving access to stable housing, training, employment, mentoring, peer support and encouraging positive activities.

4.1.4 Increase community cohesion and reduce Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) & hate crime - This priority will address the causes and symptoms of intolerance and hate and will cover anti social behaviour, hate crime, radicalisation and harmful ideologies. It will also focus on reducing these by increasing community cohesion and supporting people to feel connected to their community and each other.

4.1.5 Reduce public place violent crime with a particular focus on youth safety - This priority addresses a range of areas, including the significant increase in the number of young people affected by youth violence, both as perpetrators, victims and children who worry about becoming victims.

4.1.6 Tackle social inequality and the drivers of crime. This priority highlights the link between having access to resources to thrive and reducing the likelihood of being impacted by crime or anti-social behaviour.

- 4.2 These priorities have been shaped through data analysis, conversations with stakeholders and communities. This has enabled us to state what we will do but equally important is the approach we will take. It is clear that different people are impacted by crime and disorder in different ways, with some people more able than others to feel safe in their home and community. The strategy sets out the partnership's intention to better understand different experiences of safety, whether this is the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime, confidence in reporting, or fair access to justice.
- 4.3 Next steps: The priorities will be addressed via three annual delivery plans. The majority of the priorities will be addressed through partners' core business, therefore the delivery plans will focus on the programmes and interventions that address gaps and where targeted joint action will increase collective impact. The first delivery plan will be developed by the Safer Community Executive partners between October and November 2021.
- 4.4 Members of the Joint Strategic Committee are asked to consider and approve this strategy.

5. Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 This strategy has been developed using the Strategic Intelligence Assessment, created by the Partnership Analyst at West Sussex County Council. This data has been provided by Sussex Police analysts and other stakeholders.
- 5.2 This strategy has been developed in consultation with key partners including:

Members, staff across the Councils. This has enabled us to think beyond the data and capture emerging issues, anecdotal evidence and understand the intersection of community safety issues with other services.

- 5.3 Consultation with the community is still live. To date we have had 123 Responses. People were asked to state three priorities. Addressing anti social behaviour is the top priority (69%), followed by burglary and acquisitive crime (52%), County lines and drug supply (44%), Fraud and scams (42%), Drug and alcohol misuse (40%), Child Exploitation (29%), Domestic abuse (17%) and Hate Crime (15%). Results so far show that over 80% of respondents are over 55 years of age. The next phase of engagement will be addressing the gap between the responses of this age group and that of the children and young people, ie, working age adults.
- 5.4 Capturing children and young people's views of being safe has been a key focus of the engagement. This has been achieved through working alongside the National Citizens Service, The Sid Youth, Sussex Clubs for Young People and through hosting work experience with Shoreham Academy. In particular, we have focused on how children feel when using our public spaces and how that differs between boys and girls (Appendix 1)
- 5.5 The consultation process is still ongoing and a key commitment in the strategy is to capture the voices of those who are less often heard. Working alongside our community and voluntary sector partners we will be proactive in developing the communication and engagement approaches that allow diversity of experience and needs to be heard.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Safer Communities Partnership is grant funded by the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner. The partner organisations will deliver the strategic partnership priorities as part of their core business and through linking to their own organisational strategic and operational plans.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides the Council with the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.
- 7.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 , requires all areas to create partnerships to work together to reduce local issues of crime and disorder.

Background Papers

JSC Report - Keeping the Communities of Adur & Worthing Safe - 10 July 2018

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

This proposal impacts positively on the economic development of our places and the economic participation of our communities. Creating safe communities supports people to contribute to a buoyant local economy through employment and through expenditure with local business, social and leisure amenities. By creating safe spaces, we present opportunities for businesses to invest, promote tourism and support social mobility.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

This proposal impacts positively on our communities and also with those specific groups of people more likely to experience health inequalities. The move toward a more place based approach working with the strengths and assets that are already working well in communities will enable us to co design and co create activities with communities to support good physical and mental wellbeing and use our natural environment to promote good health and wellbeing in our places.

2.2 Equality Issues

An (EIA) was undertaken and the information gathered through this process will be used to inform the delivery of the strategy. The EIA will guide our ongoing communication and engagement with under served members of our community and those with protected characteristics. The strategy has stated the partnership's intent to take a tailored approach to understanding how experiences of safety, crime and disorder can impact people differently according to ethnicity, gender, faith, socio economic status, sexual orientation.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

The purpose of the report is to ensure community safety is embedded across Adur and Worthing Councils services. The strategy reinforces the need to consider the impact of crime and disorder through the delivery, development and evaluation of all council and council commissioned, contracts and services.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

This strategy links to the wider ambitions of Adur and Worthing Councils to create the open spaces that are safer and used by a larger proportion of our community

4. Governance

This proposal supports our ambitions to create thriving communities.

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Young Person's Safety Questionnaire Summary

Total number of respondents	50
Female respondents	30
Male respondents	20
Age range of respondents	10-21

Community Spaces: The Positives

When asked if they have spent time in community open spaces that they enjoy and like, 94.7% of the boys surveyed and 73.9% of the girls surveyed said yes.

The boys specified that they liked an area due to the amount of green spaces there were, if it was available for them to use and there were activities they could participate in, e.g. skateparks, parkour and play equipment. A number of respondents commented that if it was obvious that efforts had been made to make the area an enjoyable and safe location, they were more likely to want to spend time there. This included having clean and accessible toilet facilities, a tidy area free from litter and a level of 'creativity' where there were elements of the space that made it unique.

The girls specified that the community spaces they enjoyed tended to be large open spaces where there was a sense of an active community. They commented that they valued clean and tidy open areas which were located near to shops and/or cafes for them to visit, and surrounded by residential areas where help could be sought if needed. The girls said they liked parks where there were ponds and trees, as there was the possibility of seeing local wildlife.

Community Open Spaces & Safety

52.6% of the boys said that they often spend time in community facilities and recreation areas such as parks, while only 8.3% of the girls stated the same. 33.3% of the girls and 21.1% of boys said they rarely spend time in open community spaces.

When asked how safe they feel when spending time in these places, 41.1% of the boys feel completely safe while only 8.3% of the girls feel the same. 36.8% of the boys and 41.7% of the girls feel somewhat safe while 21.1% of the boys and 37.5% of the girls feel fairly safe. None of the boys questioned stated that they 'don't feel safe at all' whilst 12.5% of the girls did. In Adur, girls generally feel safer in parks during the day but they don't feel safe at all in parks and town centres at night.

'I generally feel safe'

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Boys that said they generally felt safe commented they feel this way because:

- They are always with someone they trust,
- The parks they go to are near their houses; and
- They have older friends that know more about where they are.

Girls who said they generally feel safe whilst in community open spaces gave different reasons. They said they feel safe because:

- They can keep a distance from others and see who is around them (in the day time),
- The community spaces they spend time in are not in remote or unpopulated areas,
- They stay in groups with friends; and
- They have their mobile phone with them.

One female respondent said that she feels quite comfortable being out in the community on her own most of the time. She said this is because she is cisgendered and white and she feels that trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming peers, or those of other ethnicities are more likely to be targeted.

'I don't feel safe'

The boys who said they do not feel safe said that they feel this way because:

- They fear someone could kidnap them,
- All places can be dangerous; and
- There are sometimes dodgy people in the park and skateparks.

In contrast, the girls who said they do not feel safe feel this way due to:

- Feeling isolated and/or alone,
- Community spaces where their friends want to spend time aren't in areas they know that well,
- Not trusting the people they may encounter in these spaces,
- Gangs; and
- Having had previous bad and/or scary experiences whilst in community spaces.

Worryingly,, 31.6% of boys and 45.8% of girls said they had experienced hostility in a local park, and therefore wanted to avoid going there in the future.

'No Go' Areas

Around 90% of the Worthing based participants, both boys and girls, said that they spend their free time in parks with friends and family, playing football or at the beach. When asked if there were any 'no go' areas, 68.4% of the boys said no. The 31.6% that answered yes specified that their main 'no go' area is the town centre when they are by themselves. In contrast, girls in Adur, said they would definitely avoid alleyways and poorly lit areas,

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especially if there isn't CCTV. They would also avoid any remote areas where there isn't much of a public presence or where there are groups of men, especially men who may be under the influence of alcohol.

Social Media

The young people surveyed gave varying responses to whether social media had any impact on their perception of safety whilst in the community. Some respondents said they use social media to check whether they should go to a certain place. Others said social media was their main form of contacting someone if they needed to. Many of the female respondents said that social media often contributes to them feeling less safe in the community and cited the recent kidnap and murder of Sarah Everard as an example. The girls said that instances such as these make them rethink whether they want to walk outside on their own, regardless of the time of day.

What Young People Would Like

Many of the male respondents said that more 'fun' spaces aimed at teenagers aged 15 upwards would make them more likely to spend time in community spaces, and feel safe in them. Some of the ideas they cited were a greater number of football pitches and parkour training bars. They also cited that additional toilet facilities and CCTV would be beneficial. The female respondents said that they would like to see free sporting events, events aimed at teenagers, 'men free zones', a greater Police presence, taxi ranks near to parks, places to sit with friends without hostile and obstructive architecture, and clean public toilets.

Girls Safety

When asked if girls think public facilities and recreation areas e.g. parks including the services and programs they offer, are respectful and inclusive, especially towards young women and girls, 37.5% said yes, 41.7% said a little and 12.5% voted no.

The ones who answered that these spaces were not inclusive said that play areas need updating. The examples they gave were that in these areas, there are sometimes no seating areas, the space is designed for sports and nothing else, and the grass is not often cut. The girls also commented that better lighting in these spaces would make them feel more included and comfortable.

When asked how safe and comfortable girls in Adur feel while exercising in public, the average score was 3.8 out of 10 (1=not safe, 10=very safe). When asked what would make them feel more safe and comfortable exercising in public they said more targeted and private areas so that they didn't feel 'watched' or objectified, particularly by adult men.

Both Worthing and Adur girls said that if they could make changes to public spaces, community facilities, parks and recreation areas in order to make them more welcoming and safe for young women, they would want to see:

- Greater visibility,
- Additional lighting,
- CCTV cameras

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- Better seating areas e.g. curved benches with low partitions and natural foilage (seating with safety and visibility in mind)
- More exercise equipment, e.g. outdoor gyms,
- Running tracks,
- More community events aimed at both adults and young people,
- Clean toilets with adequate sanitary bins,
- Greater Police and/or security presence,
- Fewer street drinkers,
- Reduced anti-social behaviour,
- Activities for all residents; and
- Open air theatre/cinema events.

In addition to the above suggestions, the girls said that they would like public spaces such as parks to have a ‘zero tolerance’ policy in relation to assault and harassment which would require Police buy-in to these locations. 43.3% said that the existing lighting in community open spaces is not adequate and 50% said that the current level of security, including CCTV cameras, is also inadequate. The girls were very focused on the safety of themselves and their female peers and suggested that a local ‘safety point’ would be really beneficial as young people would be able to have a safe space where they could go if they were in an uncomfortable situation, particularly at night. They also commented that an increased awareness of community groups who use particular open spaces would be helpful, partly to know when there would be some level of adult oversight in the area, but also so that young people could get involved with existing groups if they wanted to.

The respondents said that if there were allotted times where only females could use specific areas of a park, they would feel able to exercise, play sports with their friends, wear whatever they wanted without worrying and be able to ‘properly relax’. It would allow them to not have to adjust their behaviour and they would be able to go out of an evening and feel safe.

Conclusion

Generally boys and girls view their community spaces very differently. Whilst boys seem to enjoy spending time in parks and other similar locations, and generally feel safe whilst there, girls seem to feel more uncomfortable in these environments and more aware of their own personal safety. Boys generally seem to feel more unsafe where there is the potential - whether real or perceived - of violence and the risk of becoming involved in violence. Girls seem to feel more unsafe when they are on their own, out at night, or in an area highly populated by men where they could be victim to verbal or sexual harassment.

Interestingly, both boys and girls seem to feel that community spaces would benefit from increased lighting and cameras as they feel they would provide additional protection. There is also a keen desire to see more activities in open spaces for young people to participate in, whether with peer groups or with the wider community.

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Safer Communities Strategy 2021-2024

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**NOTE this document is still being edited as partner feedback is
being collated from the Safer Communities Partnership**

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Foreword



Awaiting....

Kevin Boram
Chair, Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership

Introduction

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

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

The Adur and Worthing Safer Communities Partnership consists of:

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

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

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

This strategy comes at a critical time. The pandemic has both exacerbated and created challenges for our communities, with some people in our communities more heavily impacted than others. The future feels increasingly uncertain for many, in terms of health, finances, education and employment. As people and communities become de-stabilised, there is a risk of more people being impacted by crime and antisocial behaviour. Those who choose to prey on the vulnerable will use the increased opportunities to do so. For

those struggling to survive in difficult circumstances, there is a risk that they will be pulled towards offending or other harmful behaviours.

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

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

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

Partnership Priorities

REDUCING THE HARM CAUSED BY SERIOUS ORGANISED & ACQUISITIVE CRIME

INCREASING SAFETY FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

IMPROVE PATHWAYS OUT OF OFFENDING AND REOFFENDING

INCREASE COMMUNITY COHESION AND REDUCE ASB & HATE CRIME

REDUCE PUBLIC PLACE VIOLENT CRIME WITH A FOCUS ON YOUTH SAFETY

Tackle Social Inequality and the drivers of crime

In implementing our strategy, the partnership needs to consider not just what we do, but how we do it. Now more than ever, we have to consider how different sectors of society experience the impact of crime and disorder in different ways, recognising that being safe and feeling safe, can be influenced by both individual and community factors- our socio economic background, our health, gender, our faith or ethnicity and the resilience and strength (or lack of) in our surrounding community can all contribute to how safe we feel.

The disproportionate impact of the Covid pandemic on some sectors of our communities, has shone a light on the need to understand how different people are affected by social inequalities and lack of access to the building blocks that promote good health, wellbeing and safety.

It is the partnership's ambition, in the next three years and beyond, to deepen our understanding of these differences and move beyond a "one size fits all" approach to increasing feelings of safety and really start to work alongside our communities to develop the responses they need to be supported to feel safe and thrive in their own lives and as part of our community.

Cross Cutting Themes

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

Safety for Women and Girls

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

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

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

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

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

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

Understanding the impact of crime and disorder on black and minoritised ethnic communities

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

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

What do we know?

What do we know about Adur?

	<p>There are 64,301 people living in Adur District See pages 4-9 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion</p>		<p>26% of people have no qualifications in Adur District compared with 20% across West Sussex See pages 46-48 for more information on qualifications, pupil attainment and early years educational progress</p>
	<p>16% of children aged 0-19 are in relative low-income families in Adur District compared with 13% across West Sussex See pages 10-23 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in deprived areas, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups</p>		<p>37% people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment in Adur District compared with 40% across West Sussex See pages 49-55 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and local businesses</p>
	<p>3% of households lack central heating in Adur District compared with 2% across West Sussex See pages 24-33 for more information on dwelling types, housing tenure, affordability, overcrowding, age of dwelling and communal establishments</p>		<p>21% of households have no car in Adur District compared with 18% across West Sussex See pages 56-58 for more information on transport, distances services and digital services</p>
	<p>The overall crime rate is lower than the average across West Sussex See pages 34-35 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates</p>		<p>The % of people 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' (85.0%) is similar to the average across West Sussex (84.8%) See pages 59-66 for more information on neighbourhood satisfaction, the types of neighbourhoods locally, local participation and the environment, air pollution</p>
	<p>20% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Adur District compared with 17% across West Sussex See pages 36-45 for more information on limited long-term illness, life expectancy and mortality, general health and healthy lifestyles</p>		<p>Page 67 for information on the geographies used in this report, publication dates for new indicators and acknowledgements.</p>

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What do we know about Worthing?

	There are 110,570 people living in Worthing Borough See pages 4-9 for more information on population by age and gender, ethnicity, country of birth, language, migration, household composition and religion		21% of people have no qualifications in Worthing Borough compared with 20% across West Sussex See pages 46-48 for more information on qualifications, pupil attainment and early years educational progress
	15% of children aged 0-19 are in relative low-income families in Worthing Borough compared with 13% across West Sussex See pages 10-23 for more information on children in poverty, people out of work, people in deprived areas, disability, pensioners and other vulnerable groups		40% people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment in Worthing Borough compared with 40% across West Sussex See pages 49-55 for more information on people's jobs, job opportunities, income and local businesses
	4% of households lack central heating in Worthing Borough compared with 2% across West Sussex See pages 24-33 for more information on dwelling types, housing tenure, affordability, overcrowding, age of dwelling and communal establishments		24% of households have no car in Worthing Borough compared with 18% across West Sussex See pages 56-58 for more information on transport, distances services and digital services
	The overall crime rate is higher than the average across West Sussex See pages 34-35 for more information on recorded crime and crime rates		The % of people 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' (79.9%) is lower than the average across West Sussex (84.8%) See pages 59-66 for more information on neighbourhood satisfaction, the types of neighbourhoods locally, local participation and the environment, air pollution
	19% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Worthing Borough compared with 17% across West Sussex See pages 36-45 for more information on limited long-term illness, life expectancy and mortality, general health and healthy lifestyles		Page 67 for information on the geographies used in this report, publication dates for new indicators and acknowledgements.

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What does the Strategic Intelligence Assessment tell us about crime and disorder in Adur and Worthing?

- In Adur overall crime rate has increased by 6% in comparison to 2019, whereas in Worthing crime has decreased by 11%.
- Police data shows that 51% of all crimes in Adur; and 52% of all crimes in Worthing are violent crimes which is comparable to rates across the whole West Sussex County.
- The severity of crimes recorded continues to increase across West Sussex. Adur crime severity score is 9.3 and Worthing 12.1, which for Adur, is lower than Sussex (11.6) and both are lower than England (13.8].
- While a majority of the high-level crimes reduced, the risk for the most vulnerable adults and children have increased, including domestic abuse and drug use and exploitation
- Drug trafficking, supply and possession offences have increased significantly in both Adur and Worthing compared to previous year (Adur \uparrow 50%, Worthing \uparrow 17.2%). This increase is however attributed to increased police activity and targeted operations, which has led to a greater exposure of these offences.
- In Adur domestic abuse crimes increased by 1%, along with the number of reported incidents which increased by 5%. In Worthing, domestic abuse crimes reduced by 12%, the number of reported incidents remain static. The severity of recorded domestic crimes has increased during 2020.
- All types of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased, likely due to community tensions exacerbated by 3 national lockdowns within the last year. Youth related ASB has been a particular issue.

- Adur and Worthing combined represent 23% of all recorded crimes in 2020 across West Sussex. Worthing represents 15% and Adur 8% of all recorded crimes. Contributing factors for Worthing include a night time economy and a high level of proactive, targeted operations for drug activity.

Priority 1:

REDUCING THE HARM CAUSED BY
SERIOUS ORGANISED &
ACQUISITIVE CRIME

What do we mean by this?

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

- ❖ Cyber Crime
- ❖ Online child exploitation and abuse
- ❖ Immigration Crime
- ❖ Fraud and economic crime
- ❖ Drug Trafficking
- ❖ Modern Slavery

Why is this a priority?

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

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

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

Reported Modern Slavery cases in Adur and Worthing are relatively low but increasing. In 2020, according to Home Office data, Sussex ranked 6th in the UK for Modern Slavery Offences. Previous local cases of domestic servitude, organised begging, forced labour in

nail bars, car washes and sexual exploitation highlight the need to keep this high on everyone's agenda.

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

It is clear that Adur and Worthing needs to be part of the fight against the threat of serious and organised crime. The partnership will:

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

Priority 2:

Protect the vulnerable and improve safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults

What do we mean by this?

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

- ❖ Domestic Abuse
- ❖ Child Exploitation
- ❖ Contextual Safeguarding
- ❖ Sexual Violence
- ❖ Stalking and harassment

- ❖ Cuckoo-ing
- ❖ Harmful Practices such as FGM and so called Honour-based violence

Why is this a priority?

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

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

Children living in households where there is domestic abuse are also victims. In a recent study by West Sussex County Council it was found that 100% of the children excluded from school in Adur and Worthing in the last year, had experienced domestic abuse. The fear and anxiety that children feel when exposed to domestic abuse impacts in a multitude of ways, throughout childhood and beyond.

To reduce harm caused by domestic abuse we need to improve and increase services for perpetrators of domestic abuse who want to change their behaviour. More than 75 perpetrators have accessed support through the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner's programme, demonstrating the importance of working with both victims and perpetrator of abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 has conferred additional duties on authorities that must influence the work of the partnership including the duties owed in relation to accommodation and housing, access to justice, investment in training and early intervention within schools' relationship and sex education.

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

It is harder to spot the signs of these crimes and even some victims might not see themselves as such so a robust partnership approach is needed to raise awareness and hold perpetrators to account for the harm they cause.

Partnership Focus

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

Priority 3:

IMPROVE PATHWAYS OUT OF
OFFENDING AND REOFFENDING

What do we mean by this?

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

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

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

Why is this a priority?

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

Alcohol is a key driver of violent crime. Nationally, 40% of all violent crime (500K offences), is recorded as alcohol related. Across West Sussex approximately 24% of adults drink above the lower risk levels for alcohol consumption.¹ Street drinking and the associated anti-social behaviour is one of the most frequently cited concerns about our town centres and foreshore by residents and businesses in Adur and Worthing.

We know problematic substance use is linked to organised crime but also places huge demand on health, social care and criminal justice agencies. At an individual level, it undermines the ability of gaining and sustaining housing, employment and positive relationships. This year, there has been an increase across the country in the number of ²drug overdoses including West Sussex and in particular, Worthing, demonstrating the significant threat to life posed by Class A drug use.

Partnership Focus

- ❖ Prioritise prevention- increasing the interventions that prevent first time entry into the criminal justice system such as diversion and support.
- ❖ Work with partners to improve access to accommodation, education, training and employment opportunities.
- ❖ Support people to access the help they need to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol.
- ❖ Increase opportunities to build positive relationships through mentoring, peer support and pro-social community based activities.
- ❖ Work with those with lived experience to co-design and co-produce services and projects that are based on what people need, not what services are available

¹ <https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/assets/core/FINAL-JHWS-2019-2024.pdf>

² Public Health England August 2021

- ❖ Work together to improve support and supervision for those at high risk of offending or reoffending
- ❖ Work together to raise awareness of the impact of trauma and increase the prevalence of trauma-informed services.

Priority 4

INCREASE COMMUNITY COHESION AND REDUCE ASB & HATE CRIME

What do we mean by this?

Feeling connected to neighbours and the wider community is key to feeling safe. Without this, we see division between people and groups, whether it is through anti-social behaviour targeted against individuals and in our public spaces, or through hate crime driven by intolerance and misunderstanding between different groups in society.

Public place anti-social behaviour can make some areas feel intimidating and out of bounds, whether through groups of young people gathering in parks, or the behaviour that can arise from street drinking.

Since the pandemic, we have seen divisions grow as people develop different beliefs and values in how the spread of Covid 19 should be managed. Our departure from the European Union and the impact of international politics, also impacts on how people feel about their own lives and the people they live alongside.

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

- ❖ Anti Social Behaviour
- ❖ Hate Crime
- ❖ Radicalisation
- ❖ Harmful Ideologies

Why is this a priority?

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

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

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

In statistics provided by Sussex Police, racially-motivated incidents and crimes have increased by approximately 10% between 2018 and 2020. It is also likely that these are under-reported due to some people in the community having low confidence in the agencies and services available to them.

Hate crimes and incidents against the lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community have also risen by approximately 40% between 2018 and 2020. Again this is likely to be under-reported. A recent survey by Brighton based charity Switchboard, highlighted how the pandemic had negatively impacted the LGBTQ community, with a large number of people reporting a significant decline in mental health, isolation and increasing substance use as a coping mechanism. This emphasises the importance in improving our understanding how inequalities can widen marginalisation in our communities and feed into the ability to feel safe.

In West Sussex, almost half of all individuals identified as being at risk of radicalisation³ relate to mixed or unstable ideologies - ideologies that may change, contradict or appear unclear. The second most prevalent is ideologies connected to the extreme right wing. Males outnumber females considerably and the under 18 age group makes up 50% of all referrals to Channel, the intervention process for people at risk.

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

³ B. Knight- West Sussex Community Safety- Channel Referral Overview January- June 2021

Partnership Focus

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

Priority 5:

REDUCE PUBLIC PLACE VIOLENT CRIME WITH A FOCUS ON YOUTH SAFETY

What do we mean by this?

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

The Sussex definition of serious violent crime is:

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

Why is this a priority?

Serious violent crime reports in Adur and Worthing account for 26% of all public place violent crime in West Sussex. Worthing Central has the highest proportion of all serious, violent crime. Serious violence is a particular issue for the night time economy with 63% of

public place violent crimes taking place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning between 6pm and 6am. Violence in this context places pressure on frontline emergency services and impacts the local economy as people are deterred from spending time in locations that feel unsafe.

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

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

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

Partnership Focus

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

Priority 6:

Tackle Social Inequality and the drivers of crime

Why is this a priority?

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

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

Access to housing

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

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

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

[The Adur and Worthing Councils' Housing Strategy plan](#)

Access to Education & Employment

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

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

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

Access to Good Work

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

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

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

Access to community resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

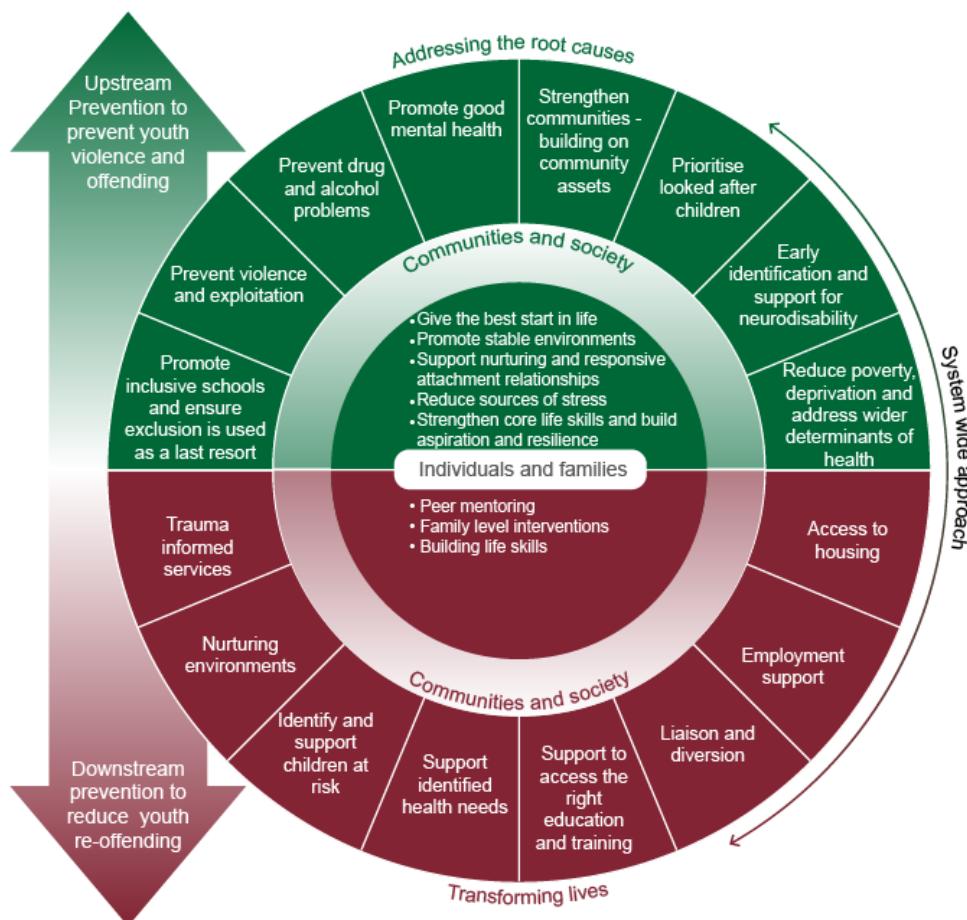
The Partnership will also help to bring diverse voices into the planning and design processes for shaping public spaces.

Our Approach

A Public Health Approach

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

A public health approach takes a long term view, seeking to reduce violence and associated crimes by tackling underlying risk factors as set out in 'Capricorn Framework':



A public health approach means evaluating what works and increasing the interventions that are evidenced to make a difference. Capturing performance data will be key to

ensuring that the partnership work is beneficial to all sectors of our community and that it is making a difference to how safe people are and feel.

Data informed

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

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

Trauma Informed

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

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

The partnership will promote a trauma informed approach through actively raising awareness of the impact of trauma and the benefits of working in a trauma informed way. It will identify and create opportunities for educating partners and stakeholders across

Adur and Worthing to understand the impact of trauma and work towards a community of practice to develop expertise across the localities.

Asset Based

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

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

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

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

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

How will we deliver the priorities of this strategy?

The three year strategy will be delivered via annual delivery plans, developed and agreed by the Safer Communities Partnership. Many of the priorities reflect the core business of specific partners, therefore the annual plan will highlight the areas where the partnership can add value through co-ordinated, targeted action.

Progress against the annual delivery plan will be reviewed at the Safer Communities Partnership Executive quarterly meetings and will consist of data analysis and community consultations. The Partnership analyst will provide an annual intelligence assessment which will inform the development of the subsequent annual plan.

The partnership will also consider emerging priorities of all partner agencies to support effective joint working and promote collective impact.

Timeline

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