

ANNUAL REPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

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Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 - CSP Action Plan 2025-27

Summary

This report updates the Committee on the work of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note and comment on the work of the Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership (CSP).**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, this Council is required to allocate the scrutiny of the local Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to one of their committees so as to provide public accountability of the CSP.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established the principle of partnerships working on a formal basis and through several legislative adjustments, this is now achieved in this borough through the CSP.
- 2.2 In July 2020 the council's Environment and Safer Communities Committee decided to establish a new Epsom and Ewell CSP having determined that participation in previous East Surrey CSP did not adequately serve the needs of the borough's residents. The new partnership held its first meeting in August 2020 and meets four times a year. The CSP membership is composed of representatives from each of the following:

- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (Chair)

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- Chair of the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee
- Elected Member from Surrey County Council
- Surrey Police Safer Neighbourhood team
- Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
- Surrey Fire and Rescue
- Surrey County Council Community Safety team
- Town & Country Housing (formerly Rosebery Housing Association)
- Probation Service
- Epsom Business Improvement District

3 CSP responsibilities

3.1 The CSP is legally required to set priorities for the partnership. The priorities for the two years 2022/24 were:

- Focus on the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm
- Serious Organised Crime and PREVENT
- Identify and tackling crime and antisocial behaviour
- Improve community engagement

3.2 The 2025/27 priorities have to consider new duties placed on CSPs. In 2022 the Home Office brought forward new legislation to tackle serious violence and introduced the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) across England and Wales in January 2023. The SVD requires specified authorities within local government, including county and district and borough councils and CSPs, to work together to share data, intelligence, and knowledge to understand and address root causes of serious violence. CSPs have an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence, including escalating local serious violence strategically where necessary.

3.3 In Autumn of 2024, following an analysis of relevant data and in consultation with all relevant CSP partners, the new CSP agreed priorities for 2025/27 are:

- Focus on the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm
- Serious Organised Crime and PREVENT

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- Identify and tackling crime and antisocial behaviour
 - Reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders
- 3.4 Much of the work of the partnership continues to be delivered via two multiagency approaches. First is the regular Community Harm and Risk Management Meetings (CHaRMM) where multiagency partners focus on an individual of concern. Secondly, the Joint Action Groups (JAGs) is where multiagency partners focus on geographical areas of concern or occasionally specific activity types of concern and work to agree concerted multiagency actions to manage the area or activity of concern.
- 3.5 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 places a duty on CSPs to carry out a domestic homicide review (DHR) when a person who is aged 16 or over is killed by a relative, household member or an intimate partner (or former partner). The duty also applies in cases of suicide where domestic abuse may have been a cause.
- 3.6 Last year the CSP oversaw the investigation and reporting into one DHR (now published), unfortunately with a further DHR being initiated which is expected to conclude later this year.
- 3.7 Every DHR (now known as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews – DARDR), represents a tragic set of circumstances, with the review serving to highlight any actions and learning that can be gained from such sad events. Over the last year, the CSP has had a particular focus on ensuring those responsible for identified actions are held to account.
- 3.8 The CSP welcomes the continuing work of the Surrey Wide DARDR Co-ordinator, who supports all CSPs across Surrey in appointing a DARDR independent chair and panel and who seeks to identify trends and co-ordinate learning resulting from DHRs across Surrey.
- 3.9 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced specific measures, which are the responsibility of responsible agencies, including the CSP, designed to give victims and communities a say in the way that complaints of antisocial behaviour are dealt with. This includes the anti-social behaviour case review, formerly known as the community trigger, which gives victims of persistent antisocial behaviour reported to any of the main responsible agencies (such as the council, police, housing provider) the right to request a multi-agency case review where a local threshold is met.
- 3.10 Details about ASB Case Reviews are published on the council website: www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/communities-health-and-wellbeing/epsom-and-ewell-community-safety.

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4 The CSP Action Plan

- 4.1 The CSP publishes the Community Safety Action Plan for the period 2025– 2027. This is available on the Council’s website and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The action plan outlines the actions the partnership will take to deliver on each of the priorities. Each action clearly identifies the lead agency within the CSP as well as the objective, measure, and timescale for each objective.

5 Scrutiny of the CSP

- 5.1 The power to scrutinise the CSP is granted through a number of pieces of legislation including the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 5.2 The Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009 has granted local authorities new powers for the scrutiny of crime and disorder. These regulations require that every local authority has in place a committee with power to review and scrutinise and make reports or recommendations regarding the functioning the responsible authorities that comprise the CSP.
- 5.3 This Committee has been designated the power to perform the review and scrutiny of the work of the CSP further to its Terms of Reference as set out within the Council’s Constitution.
- 5.4 There have been four meetings of the CSP in 2024: 13th March, 5th July, 11th September and 11th December 2024. CHaRMMs occur regularly on a 4-weekly cycle throughout the year. There have been six JAG meetings in 2024: 11th January, 5th March, 30 April, 25 June, 21 August and 15 October.

6 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

6.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1.1 The CSP priorities include a focus on the most vulnerable or those at risk of harm. As such the work of the CSP is considered to have a positive impact on equalities within the borough.

6.2 Crime & Disorder

- 6.2.1 The work of the CSP inherently seeks to reduce crime and disorder through partnership working.

6.3 Safeguarding

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6.3.1 Safeguarding is closely tied to crime and disorder in the context of the CSP. Various types of exploitation often involve vulnerable adults and children.

6.4 Dependencies

6.4.1 The success of the CSP depends on contributions from all partners, including statutory and non-statutory partners and the challenge remains to be able to demonstrate relevance of the CSP to all partners involved.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 The Council has retained a community safety reserve of £65,546. This is held principally to fund current and future Domestic Homicide Reviews. The day to day running of the CSP part of the role of the council's Community Safety and Enforcement Officer with support from their team manager. The CSP is chaired by the council's Head of Housing and Community.

7.2 There are no additional funding requirements as a result of this report.

7.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** No further comments to the report.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 Under section 19 (1) of Police and Justice Act 2006 every council must ensure that it has a committee (the "crime and disorder committee") with power (a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and (b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

8.2 Under section 6(1) of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the responsible authorities for a local government area must formulate and implement: (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area, (c.) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area, and (d) a strategy for (i) preventing people from being involved in serious violence in the area, and (ii) reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

8.3 In exercising these functions each of the responsible authorities for a local government area must have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan which comprises or includes that local government area.

8.4 Data sharing is facilitated by the Surrey Information Sharing Protocol enabling the sharing of information where necessary for the prevention or detecting of crime.

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8.5 **Legal Officer's comments:** No further comments, any relevant comments are contained within the body of this report.

9 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

9.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Safe and Well

9.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

9.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** Crime can often have a negative impact on the local environment, including littering, fly tipping as well as general environmental degradation. Reducing crime is considered to have a positive impact on climate and environment.

9.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** : It is considered that the CSP will enhance community safety for reasons set out in this report.

9.5 **Partnerships:** The local CSP is a statutory arrangement and operates in addition to, and complimentary to, the day to day working arrangement established between all partners.