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Foreword

Successful and innovative partnership working to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

Welcome to our East Sussex Safer Communities Business Plan for 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Community Safety remains one of the top priorities for the people of East Sussex. The Safer Communities Partnership is the key strategic partnership in overseeing the plans to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. Our partnership involves a range of agencies that are committed to ensuring East Sussex remains a safe place for residents and visitors.

We recognise that the long term benefits of community safety development work are not possible without the engagement of local people who are experts in the social problems and needs of their own communities. We will therefore continue to listen to and work with the community, and further develop relationships with volunteers and the voluntary sector within East Sussex.

During 2016/17, we will be holding two wider partnership engagement events to ensure more focused activity around our work streams, and provide more opportunities for the wider partnership to contribute to activity. It will also enable broader engagement with stakeholders including practitioners, equalities representatives, businesses and the third sector.

The partnership have identified some new areas of work for 2016/17, and we will be working with partners to develop our knowledge and intelligence, and ensure it is shared in an efficient and timely manner in order to better inform local work.

This is a three year business plan, which will be refreshed annually, and sets out how partners will work together to deliver our community safety priorities. It also highlights what we have achieved during 2015/16 and what we are planning to do to improve the services to support local people for the future.

I am looking forward to working with all our partners to deliver the community safety priorities. I welcome the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This plan will inevitably develop further as we progress, and the overall aim will be to make East Sussex an even safer place to live, work and visit.

If you have any questions on the work of the Safer Communities Partnership, please get in touch with the Safer East Sussex Team by phoning 01323 466013, emailing safecomunities@eastsussex.gov.uk or by visiting our website www.safeineastsussex.org.uk



Councillor Bill Bentley

Lead Member for Adult Social Care and
Chair of the East Sussex Safer Communities Board

About this Plan

Every year the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership undertakes a strategic assessment of community safety in order to select work streams for joint work and plan activity for the forthcoming year.

When selecting their work streams the partnership also takes into account those of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Sussex Police and District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). The assessment also assists the District and Borough CSPs in selecting their local priorities.

This plan describes the work streams for the partnership, achievements, what the community thinks and what needs to happen next. Following production of the plan, we will develop more detailed action plans, setting out how these work streams will be delivered with associated outcomes.

This plan also details both county and district and borough level community safety work streams. There are a number of shared local and county-wide areas of work, in addition to work streams which relate to specific district and borough areas. The delivery mechanisms for this business plan will be designed to ensure both local and county-wide issues and objectives are being considered, therefore maximising the use of our collective resources.

Delivery of both local and county-wide safer communities' plans constitutes the East Sussex offer to local residents. The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is therefore committed to ensuring its work connects both local and county-wide activities.

The plan also outlines how we will listen to and respond to community concerns and how we will develop relationships with volunteers and the voluntary sector.

The Resources and Performance group within the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership has responsibility for monitoring performance and delivery against this plan, and is accountable to the East Sussex Safer Communities Board.

The community safety partnership priorities are cross cutting and so we work with other partnerships and boards to ensure efficient and effective delivery of the broader Community Safety agenda.

The organisations that make up the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership are:



Executive Summary

The work streams selected by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership for 2016/17 are:

Domestic Violence & Abuse, and Stalking:

We want to increase the awareness and understanding of domestic violence, abuse and stalking by residents of East Sussex, so that victim/survivors and their friends, families and employers are able to recognise these forms of violence and abuse, do not tolerate its presence in the community and know how to seek help and support for themselves or others. We also want to improve the safety and wellbeing of the victim/survivors and to hold perpetrators to account.

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Key Lead: The Joint Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Unit for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove

Prevent and Hate Crime:

Many hate crimes are motivated by extremist ideologies and our aim is to support our communities to become more resilient to the threat posed by extremism.

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Key Lead: Safer East Sussex Team

Serious Organised Crime: vulnerable young people being exploited and victimised in connection with substance abuse and drug trafficking offences

Through effective partnership working and information sharing with statutory and voluntary agencies, we will work together to prevent young people being exploited and victimised in connection with serious organised crime.

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Key Lead: Children's Services and Sussex Police

Serious Organised Crime: the elderly and vulnerable victims of fraud and rogue trading associated with serious and organised crime

Through effective partnership working and information sharing with statutory and voluntary agencies, we will identify further opportunities to raise awareness of the risks to vulnerable victims of fraud and ensure effective preventative support is in place to address this. This will include building on existing initiatives, looking at new partnerships and models of work, targeting those who may be isolated and highlighting the wider links to serious organised crime.

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Key Lead: Safer East Sussex Team

Serious Organised Crime: businesses as victims of serious organised crime

We will work in partnership to reduce business crime, cyber-crime and fraud, and build a network of partners to help create a safe and secure county in which to live and work.

Key Lead: Safer East Sussex Team

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Road Safety:

We will work together to improve road safety across East Sussex by reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured, and reducing the incidents of anti-social driving by encouraging closer involvement of the community.

Key Lead: Sussex Safer Roads Partnership

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Rape & Sexual Violence, and Abuse

We want to increase awareness and understanding of rape, sexual violence & abuse by residents of East Sussex so that victim/survivors and their friends, families and employers are able to recognise these forms of violence & abuse, do not tolerate its presence in the community and know how to seek help and support for themselves or others. We also want to improve the safety and wellbeing of the victim/survivors and to hold perpetrators to account.

Key Lead: The Joint Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Unit for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove

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Street Communities

We will increase partnership working to help bring together local services that are in place to meet the needs of the street community. This will help to identify and address the concerns associated with street communities, including crime, anti-social behaviour, homelessness and substance misuse.

Key Lead: Safer East Sussex Team/ Housing and Health Sub-group under East Sussex Better Together

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Anti-Social Behaviour

There are no identified work streams at a county level for 2016/17. Work in relation to this area will therefore be undertaken at a district and borough level.

Key Leads: Districts and Borough Community Safety Partnerships

The priorities selected by the District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships can be found between pages 29 and 38.

Engagement and Communication

Central to planning community safety activity in East Sussex is how we engage and listen to the concerns of our communities.

The East Sussex Reputation Tracker Survey, which is carried out twice a year, gathers information from a cross section of approximately 1,000 residents to find out about their perceptions on key issues. This year, the community safety questions will focus on scams and frauds. This will hopefully give us a better insight as to how residents are contacted, if they report these crimes and if not, reasons why they don't. This information will assist us in planning and informing our preventative work with partners in this area.



We are also looking to develop a wider programme of engagement with marginalised groups on a number of community safety issues. This work will be informed by Building Cohesive Communities as outlined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015.



The new model of partnership working incorporates two wider partnership engagement events a year, one prior to the Strategic Assessment of Community Safety to engage partners in the process, and one after to enable action planning. This new model will ensure more focused activity around our work streams, and provide more opportunities for the wider partnership to contribute to activity. It will also enable broader engagement with stakeholders including practitioners, equalities

representatives, businesses and the third sector.

Communications play a crucial role in building public confidence in the work all partnership agencies carry out, and we use various avenues of communication to ensure community safety messages are widely received. We have reviewed our current communications, and the majority of people who responded to the survey feel the content is relevant and accessible.

A monthly e-bulletin provides a snapshot of recent work that has been undertaken in the partnership and our bi-monthly newsletter features an in-depth focus on one of our priority areas. This includes looking at initiatives across the districts and boroughs which are in place to deal with community safety concerns.



Our Twitter account continues to grow, increasing from 100 to over 1,000 followers in the last year.

Our website has recently been updated and we are developing ways of ensuring the community can have their say on what's important to them.



It is our intention during 2016/17 to continue to increase the communication on the work the partnership does. This includes developing our Facebook page so that we can better engage with the public.

Developing Relationships with Volunteers and Working with the Voluntary Sector

The long term benefits of community safety development work are not possible without the engagement of local people who are experts in the social problems and needs of their own communities.

The Safe Place Scheme has been rolled out by three voluntary councils in East Sussex; HVA, RVA and 3VA. People with learning disabilities often face prejudice and social barriers throughout their lives and these schemes have been launched to help people with learning difficulties to find safety if they are feeling vulnerable.



We have been working in partnership with Sussex Community Development Association to deliver resilience and confidence workshops around hate crime reporting to marginalised groups in our communities

Our Police Hate Crime Co-ordinator started a programme of awareness and report taking sessions for all Citizen Advice Offices in East Sussex earlier this year. Eastbourne Citizen Advice was the first office hate crime third party reporting centre launched and went live in October 2015.



With the assistance of our Community Development Officer, several recovery orientated projects have been developed in the county. East Sussex Recovery Alliance (ESRA), Active in Recovery (AiR) and Reformed Eastbourne Services (RES) have developed as peer led community groups, by people in recovery to encourage the recovery of others.

These recovery groups now employ members of staff, and all paid individuals have made the journey from service user to volunteer into and onto paid work. However, they continue to be supported by volunteers hoping to make a similar journey, and to assist with this, all volunteers are given the opportunity to take part in training and to gain qualifications depending on the needs of each organisation.



A social enterprise in Eastbourne, Café North, has also been developed by all involved with recovery across the town and the county. A team of volunteers in recovery will be supported to run this as a business giving them current work experience and the chance to gain accredited training.

A had struggled with a substance misuse disorder, and in December 2009, engaged with Action for Change as a volunteer, participated in SMART recovery and enrolled in a college course. In 2012, A fled domestic violence and relocated to a new town here they became involved in a range of recovery activities and began to facilitate groups on a voluntary basis. A has taken part in a wide variety of training and now has a paid managerial role in the field, using the experience gained to support others in their recovery.

Throughout 2016/17 we will be making positive relationships with the voluntary sector. Some examples that we will be developing include:

- Assistance from the voluntary sector in continuing to roll out Safe Place Scheme across East Sussex.
- Working with a volunteer to support some of the social media messages and approaches regarding community safety.
- Developing opportunities with the Prince's Trust for them to be actively involved in our priority areas of work.
- Looking to develop work with volunteers to assist in educating elderly community groups in relation to common scams, identity theft and staying safe online.

Domestic Violence & Abuse, and Stalking

To increase the awareness and understanding of domestic violence, abuse and stalking by residents of East Sussex, so that victim/survivors and their friends, families and employers are able to recognise these forms of violence & abuse, do not tolerate its presence in the community and know how to seek help and support for themselves or others. To improve the safety and wellbeing of the victim/survivor and to hold perpetrators to account.

Why it is a priority

- Domestic violence & abuse can have a significant impact, which can include physical injury, as well as the impact on mental and emotional wellbeing, employment and education, social capital, health, behaviours and homelessness. There can also be longer-term impacts such as poor school achievement, reduced economic prospects, behavioural problems, substance abuse, poor mental, sexual or physical health, and the risk of further violence. Tragically, in some cases domestic violence & abuse can result in death, where someone dies at the hands of their perpetrator. Although our understanding of stalking is less developed it is increasingly an area of focus.
- Domestic abuse & violence and stalking affect all communities regardless of economic background, education, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, ethnicity, faith or ability. There are gender differences in the scale, incidence and effects of domestic violence & abuse: the majority of those affected are women. However, it is important to work with men and boys, including both those who use violence and abuse, but also men and boys who are victims of violence and abuse to ensure there is support available, proportionate to need. We also know that some communities will be affected by domestic violence & abuse in different ways (including their confidence or ability to seek help and support), including for example people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and people who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual or who are Trans, older people and those living in rural areas.
- Domestic violence & abuse remain under reported. Increasing reporting of domestic violence & abuse has been highlighted as a key priority in the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan 2013/2017 and it is also a priority for many of the District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships. More people are coming forward, with an increase in reports seen locally, as well as an increase in the number of high risk cases referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in East Sussex. Whilst increased reporting is positive, this presents a challenge to the partnership because it means there is an increase in demand from the victim/survivor and others who are affected for help and support from both the statutory and voluntary sectors, including specialist domestic violence & abuse services.



- Ensuring that front-line practitioners have the confidence and skills to identify risk and need, as well as being able to appropriately respond to disclosures is essential if the partnership is seeking to enable East Sussex residents to have abuse free relationships and to ensure survivor safety and well-being.

Achievements so far...

The Joint Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) unit for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove was launched in September 2015. The aim of the unit is to enable the two authorities to more effectively co-ordinate activity, therefore maximising impact and achieving the best use of resources.

Funding from the office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner has been utilised to develop specialist services to support young victims of domestic abuse and violence. A model of work for a Children's Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (CIDVA) and also a Young Person's Domestic Violence Advisor (YDVA) has been agreed and work is ongoing to align this to the work of Children's Services.



The Joint Unit has led on the procurement of a new Specialist Domestic and Sexual Abuse Service across East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. 'The Portal' will be delivered by RISE along with CRI and Survivor's Network. The focus has been to re-design local provision to make sure people receive the best help, in the right way, when they need it, while also ensuring the most effective use of resources. The key offer of the service will be a single point of access to make it easier for people to get help and support

What the community thinks

"Despite real gains in LGBT human rights in recent years, we still experience inequalities. The local council and NHS are working hard to make things fairer and more equal for LGBT people but they need to know from us how best to do this and where there is room for improvement and development."

LGBT Switchboard, Health and Inclusion Project 2015

"An excellent opportunity for partnership working which will help to streamline services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse."

The Portal Specialist Service Stakeholder event 2015

"It's not obvious abuse, it's not violence particularly, it's kind of sometimes quite manipulative and that...because you have to receive care you are quite passive and people can abuse that very easily."

Disability and Domestic Abuse. Risk, Impact and Response. PHE 2015

Over the next 12 months, we will...

- Respond to the increase in reporting, in particular by ensuring professionals are able to 'ask and act' about domestic violence, abuse and stalking and by managing the impact on specialist services.
- Work with health partners to identify opportunities to intervene earlier, including how to best support pregnant women.
- Increase our knowledge regarding stalking and identify specific actions to enable identification and reporting. In particular, we will support opportunities to challenge the devastating nature of stalking and find ways to improve help and support available, such as the Talking Stalking event that was organised by Veritas Justice CIC as part of the 16 Days of Action Campaign.

Prevent and Hate Crime

Many hate crimes are motivated by extremist ideologies and our aim is to support our communities to become more resilient to the threat posed by extremism.

Why it is a priority

- Many hate crimes are motivated by extremist ideologies and linking the Hate and Prevent Agendas is echoed in the Government's Extremism Strategy which was introduced in 2015. The overriding purpose of this strategy is to protect people from the harm caused by extremism. To achieve this, we will work in partnership with all those dedicated to tackling extremists and build on the work being delivered through the new statutory Prevent Duty.
- The East Sussex Prevent Board assesses the countywide risk of people being drawn into terrorism and coordinates Prevent activity according to section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Board was established last summer and ensures specified authorities comply with their duty to agree risk and coordinate Prevent activity within a local multi-agency group.
- Although the number of recorded cases of hate crime across Sussex has risen by more than a third over the last year, there are still many community groups unwilling to report these types of crimes to the police. Therefore, more research is needed understand why hate crime/incidents have increased so much.

Achievements so far...

Prevent E-Learning Course. This module has been designed to give a basic understanding of Prevent and an awareness of how staff and organisations can safeguard vulnerable individuals. It is available on the new East Sussex Learning Portal and is available to all ESCC staff, partner organisations and the voluntary sector in East Sussex.



**STOP
HATE
CRIME**

A countywide Prevent Plan has been drawn up by the Prevent Board. This action plan has been developed by the board to effectively manage local risk, threat and vulnerability. A number of training and communication resources have been designed for the board to support the compliance with the new statutory Prevent Duty.

An ASB & Hate Showcase Event was held in October, which brought practitioners together to share good practice and encourage the use of the new ASB tools and powers. It was opened by the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner and over 60 practitioners from various organisations attended this event which provided them with an opportunity to see how housing partners and local policing teams have successfully used new legislation and to gain further knowledge and information on how to better support victims of ASB and Hate.

What the community thinks

Across Sussex, we heard that racism and Islamophobia is a key concern for some young people, especially in the context of current global issues such as migration and the rise of ISIS. Young people feel there is a prevailing attitude that 'Muslims are terrorists', which causes more hate and they say there is not enough understanding of the Muslim community (Sussex Youth Commission Final report September 2015)

We were delighted to be part of the development of the Safe Place Scheme to enable people with learning disabilities to have a trusted safe place to go when needed and would like to thank all those who have agreed to take part in this valuable community project."

Jan Cutting, Head of Projects and Services for Rother Voluntary Action

"We found the [Prevent] training at Western Road so helpful that we are thinking about setting up training for teaching assistants, office staff and midday supervisors."

Head teacher of Southover School

Over the next 12 months we will...

- Have a gender-sensitive approach, empowering women to fight radicalisation, especially as they have an important role in the family. We will include a wider programme of engagement with marginalised groups on a number of community safety issues not just Prevent, for example, hate crime, Female Genital Mutilation, domestic abuse and online safety.
- Make young people more resilient to the risks of radicalisation online and provide schools and teachers with more support and resources to address the risk posed by online radicalisation at an operational level.
- Embed the Channel process within existing local authority safeguarding pathways and ensure we combine low level interventions as a support package for those who need it.
- All CAB Offices in East Sussex will be trained up as Third Party Reporting Centres and the Local Authority's Customer Service Teams will also be encouraged and supported to become Third Party Reporting Centres.
- There will be further development and delivery of Hate Crime Awareness in Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as further and higher education establishments across the County.

Serious Organised Crime

Vulnerable young people being exploited and victimised in connection with substance abuse and drug trafficking offences

Through effective partnership working and information sharing with statutory and voluntary agencies, we will work together to prevent young people being exploited and victimised in connection with serious organised crime.

Why it is a priority

- Deterring young people from becoming involved in serious and organised crime is a key priority of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.
- The Gang and Youth Violence team within the Home Office identified a growing body of intelligence, emerging in particular from London and the South East, that vulnerable young people are being exploited in order to facilitate the running of street level drug dealing. A major concern is the issue of safeguarding, as many gangs form a secure base in the homes of vulnerable people and force assistance by using violence or exploiting an addiction to drugs. Similarly, the exploitation of young people is a common factor, with groups often recruiting children to work as runners. (NCA Intelligence Assessment County Lines, Gangs, and Safeguarding Report August 2016).
- There is a clear tendency to criminalise children and young people, and regard repeated missing episodes as evidence of lower risk rather than a need for safeguarding. Similar to the findings of investigations into CSE, professionals made distinctions between those who were 'genuinely' exploited and those who were perceived as making a 'choice' to engage in criminal behaviours. Missing episodes can be a key warning sign and an opportunity for early intervention. In order to capitalise on this opportunity, those working with missing children and young people, particularly those taking missing reports and carrying out return interviews, need to be trained to identify involvement in organised crime and gangs. (Running the Risks: The links between gang involvement and young people going missing July 2015 Catch 22).



Achievements so far...

The Sussex Police Serious Organised Crime Profile 2015 is a first step towards increasing knowledge and joint working around organised crime. A number of recommendations to enhance partnership working identified further opportunities for law enforcement and partners to engage in preventative work in relation to organised crime, particularly where young people might be vulnerable to being drawn into organised theft or supporting the trafficking and supply of controlled drugs.



Over the next 12 months we will...

- Undertake further research and scoping to ensure we do not duplicate any work. Areas of investigation include missing young people; young people currently being supported by the youth offending team, targeted youth support and family key work teams. The outcome of the Home Office Ending Gang and Youth Violence Peer Review will assist with this and provide us with some multi-agency recommendations moving forwards.
- Work with partners to understand more about the following areas:
 - Why young people get involved in serious and organised crime
 - How organised criminals operate
- We will also work with partners to identify and develop ways in which we can:
 - Spot risks and identify when young people need support
 - Help young people at risk to access the support they need

The elderly and vulnerable victims of fraud and rogue trading associated with serious organised crime

Through effective partnership working and information sharing with statutory and voluntary agencies, we will raise awareness of the risks to vulnerable victims of fraud and ensure effective preventative support is in place to address this.

Why it is a priority

- Fraud (in relation to SOC) is estimated to cost society £8.9 billion per year and much of this fraud is targeting vulnerable elderly victims. Telephone-related fraud has been one of the most prominent methods recently; victims were contacted by persons posing as police officers or bank officials who persuade victims to withdraw cash and deliver that cash to a courier or directly to the offenders.
- Following the seizure of a document containing 100,000 names of those susceptible to scam mail, approximately 1500 were identified as living in Sussex, and specifically 42% were from East Sussex. This is only one known list and may be the tip of the iceberg.
- Fraud and other forms of acquisitive crime can cause significant emotional and physical harm, particularly in the case of vulnerable adults. Victims can suffer from anxiety, stress, fear, depression and even premature death.



Achievements so far...

Work is on-going in building the partnership network in order to ensure a collaborative approach is taken to address the issues identified.

Sussex Police introduced Operation Signature to support vulnerable victims of fraud through awareness raising and prevention, which includes offering practical support to victims during home visits by Sussex Police.



We held an engagement event with partners from Trading Standards, National Scams Team, Sussex Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Adult Social Care and ESFRS to identify gaps and potential work streams going forward.

What the community thinks

A recent report by Age UK highlights the under-reporting of fraud as being a major problem and self-blame and embarrassment on the part of victims are significant factors to this.

In residential surveys and findings from the 'Big Conversation' carried out by Neighbourhood Watch and the Elders Commission, nuisance calls and scams came out top of the concerns for both.

Feedback received by Sussex Police on the 'Little book of Big Scams' and the film 'Scam the secret crime' has been overwhelming positive.

Over the next 12 months we will...

- We will explore ways of raising awareness of what the most current risks are, as well as looking at support mechanisms that are in place for vulnerable victims, drawing on and developing links with statutory and voluntary services.
- Continued development of a network of statutory and voluntary sector agencies which have a role to play in tackling vulnerable and elderly victims of fraud and rogue trading, to include improved information and communication flows between the different agencies.
- Identify what training exists for frontline staff and other partners to ensure people are aware of what the signs are to look for, and look to develop this further if necessary.

Businesses as victims of serious organised crime

We will work in partnership to reduce business crime, cyber-crime and fraud, and develop a network of partners to help create a safe and secure county in which to live and work.

Why it is a priority

- Typical examples of business crime include shoplifting and criminal damage affecting businesses property or premises. However, there are newer, emerging threats impacting on the business community such as cyber enabled crime and fraud. It is therefore vital that we work together to understand more about these threats and create viable prevention activities to counter the threat to local businesses.
- In 2008, the British Chamber of Commerce estimated the annual cost of business crime to be around £12.6bn across the UK per annum, with a recent report estimating that cyber-crime alone costs UK businesses £2.8bn each year.
- According to recorded crime figures from Sussex Police, business crime accounted for 17.5% of total crimes across East Sussex in 2015. This equates to 4,801 crimes against businesses throughout the county. However, we are aware that business crime remains under-reported and so the actual number is likely to be far higher.

£12.6
billion

Achievements so far...

The Home Office has provided funding to enable a Business Wardens pilot scheme to be conducted in two areas of Sussex. One of the pilot areas is Eastbourne. The wardens will be able to efficiently report crimes directly to Sussex Police, gather evidence and provide crime prevention advice.



Sussex Police have launched a Business Crime Strategy 2014 -16, the first of its kind for Sussex. The strategy was written in consultation with all relevant partnership agencies and aims to improve confidence prevent crime and reduce the harm caused to businesses

Over the next 12 months we will...

- Hold a workshop with partners who have a role to play in tackling business crime to jointly understand the issues relating to fraud and cybercrime and to develop activity to address these.
- Work with partners to develop our knowledge and intelligence relating to business crime, and ensure it is shared in an efficient and timely manner in order to better inform local work.
- While Hastings and Eastbourne already have established Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, we will work together to develop a county-wide BCRP so that coverage for retail crime can also be provided in Lewes, Wealden and Rother.

Road Safety

To improve road safety across East Sussex by reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured, and reducing the incidents of anti-social driving by encouraging closer involvement of the community.

Why it is a priority

- Anti-social driving continues to be a problem across the county with speeding as a common theme; this includes driving in excess of the speed limit as well as inappropriate speed for the conditions. Many communities complain about inconsiderate parking and dangerous parking outside schools, and careless driving including the use of mobile phones.
- The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on East Sussex's roads fell between 2010 and 2012. While numbers climbed during 2013 and 2014, provisional data for the 11 months to November 2015 shows that the number of KSI casualties in East Sussex is expected to be lower than that for 2014.
- The groups considered to be the highest risk of being involved in KSI collisions are occupational drivers, non-motorised road users (pedestrians, pedal cyclists and mobility scooters), powered two wheelers and young people (16 to 24).

Achievements so far...

Safe Drive Stay Alive was a multi-agency event organised by ESFRS where young people get to hear from emergency service staff and people who have lost loved ones in collisions involving young people. This heard hitting show aims to encourage young people to make informed choices whether they are a driver or passenger.



Brake Road Safety week was 23 to 29 November 2015 and was supported across the county with a variety of activities to promote road safety with the focus on older drivers and young drivers.



Biker Down is a series of three sessions lasting 3 hours designed to inform Bikers of what to do if they come across or witness a collision involving motor cyclists. In 2015 we delivered 13 sessions to 206 people across the county.

What the community thinks

“This is an excellent website – I shall use it more often. We often have cars racing along a straight stretch of road near our house which has a 20mph limit. I’ll use this in future! Jolly good!”
Feedback from Operation Crackdown

“I always include footage in my reports to show the poor driving I describe, it would be nice to know that the offender is also given the opportunity to see what their driving looks like from another point of view.” Feedback from Operation Crackdown

“My employers, Stagecoach, are encouraging us to use this service when we feel we have seen anti-social driving towards us or others members of the public. We have leaflets at our depot and stickers placed in our drivers’ cabs with the contact details.” Feedback from Operation Crackdown

Over the next 12 months we will...

- Ensure closer links with Sussex Safer Roads Partnership with the support of dedicated Road Safety Officers working at a district and borough level to plan and support local road safety initiatives.
- Support East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Safer Business Driver Training courses to improve the safety of commercial drivers and reduce anti-social driving within small and medium sized businesses.
- Promote road safety campaigns and initiatives through targeted communications campaigns linking the Sussex Safer Road Partnership to local communications teams.

Rape & Sexual Violence, and Abuse

To increase the awareness and understanding of rape, sexual violence & abuse by residents of East Sussex, so that victims / survivors and their friends, families and employers are able to recognise these forms of violence and abuse, and do not tolerate its presence in the community and know how to seek help and support for themselves and others. To improve the safety and wellbeing of the victim / survivor and to hold perpetrators to account.

Why it is a priority

- Rape, sexual violence & abuse can have a significant impact, which can include physical injury, as well as the impact on mental and emotional wellbeing. It can affect all communities regardless of economic background, education, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, ethnicity, faith or ability. There are gender differences in the scale and incidence and rape, sexual violence & abuse: the majority of those affected are women. However, it is important to work with men and boys, including both those who commit sexual offences, but also men and boys who are victims to ensure there is support available, proportionate to need. We also know that some communities will be affected by rape, sexual violence & abuse in different ways (including their confidence or ability to seek help and support), including for example people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and people who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual or who are Trans, older people and those living in rural areas.
- 
- Rape, sexual violence & abuse remain under reported. However, more people are coming forward with an increase in reports seen locally The Saturn Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Survivor's Network, which provides an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service have also received an increase in referrals. Whilst increased reporting is positive, it presents a challenge to the partnership because it means there is an increase in demand from for victim/survivors and others who are affected for help and support from both the statutory and voluntary sectors, including specialist rape, sexual violence & abuse services
 - It is also likely that this increase in reporting will continue: a key driver in the next year is likely to be the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ('The Goddard Inquiry'). The partnership will need to be able to ensure that provision is made to support adults who share their experience of sexual abuse, either in terms of access to talking therapies or their experience of the criminal justice system. Ensuring that front-line practitioners have the confidence and skills to identify risk and need, as well as being able to appropriately respond to disclosures, is therefore essential if the partnership is seeking to enable East Sussex residents to have abuse free relationships and to ensure survivor safety and well-being

Achievements so far...

Funding from the office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner has been utilised to develop specialist services to support young victims of sexual abuse and violence. A model of work for a Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CISVA) and also a Young Person's Sexual Violence Advisor (YSVA) has been agreed and work is ongoing to align this to the work of Children's Services and the newly commissioned Child SARC.



The Joint Domestic, Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Unit for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove was launched in September 2015. In order to help meet increasing demand and develop specialist interventions to help victims/survivors achieve safety and longer-term support to promote their recovery, the Joint Unit has led on the procurement of a new Specialist Domestic and Sexual Abuse Service across East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. 'The Portal' will be delivered by RISE along with CRI and Survivor's Network. The key offer of the service will be a single point of access to make it easier for people to get help and support.



An HMIC report identified issues regarding the accessibility of talking therapies both to prepare for trial and to assist with recovery. Funding has been secured from NHS England to maintain provision of talking therapies to people who have experienced sexual violence as part of the ISVA/SARC care pathway until March 2016. A business case for provision beyond March 2016 is in the process of being developed.

What the community thinks

'I have only just been referred to Survivor's Network by the Saturn Centre but on the day the duty worker rang me, I requested a conversation with the forensic medic to answer some questions that had been circling in my head. They set it up that afternoon, which I was very pleased and relieved about. I have also been referred to counselling services in my local area, been e-mailed information about the drop-in groups and put on the waiting list for advocacy in case I need it as the investigation progresses. The service has been excellent. I couldn't have asked for more.' Service-User feedback – Survivor's Network.

'A lot of Trans people have the ability to recognise when an organisation is being tokenistic and when it is being genuinely inclusive.' (Sexual Abuse Caseworker) Supporting Trans Survivors of Sexual Violence: Learning From User's Experience and Perspective. Survivor's Network. 2014.

Ensuring all employees from front-line to senior levels are educated in human rights and that an 'equal opportunities' policy does not simply 'exist' to gloss the image of that organisation but that it is a constant reminder that should you meet people with a protected characteristic, they must be treated with respect and dignity.' Professional – Supporting Trans Survivors of Sexual Violence: Learning From User's Experience and Perspective. Survivor's Network. 2014.

Over the next 12 months we will...

- Respond to the increase in disclosures, in particular by ensuring professionals are able to 'ask and act' about rape, sexual violence & abuse and by managing the impact on specialist services.
- Develop a communications plan with partners to deliver targeted messages to raise awareness of consent and vulnerability linked to the night-time economy and professionals working with the 17-25 cohort, as well as making sure information on help and support is accessible to BME communities, LGB and Trans* people and older people.
- Work with the Local Children's Safeguarding Board to ensure the co-ordinated delivery of activity in relation to increasing awareness of consent and vulnerability and how to seek help and support for young people in schools and further education settings.

Street Communities

To increase partnership working to help bring together local services that are in place to meet the needs of the street community. This will help to identify and address the concerns associated with street communities, including crime, anti-social behaviour, homelessness and substance misuse.

Why it is a priority

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reports concerning rough sleepers over the last 12 months have included issues such as abusive or aggressive behaviour, assaults, begging/busking, trespass, drunken behaviour, individuals refusing to leave a premises and urinating in public.
- For the 12 months to November 2015, 79% of all ASB reports of Street Drinkers came from Eastbourne and Hastings. Whilst this is a decrease from last year's 84% it is still significant.
- The physical and mental health needs of homeless people are well documented, and Homeless Link identified that 73% have a physical health problem, 80% a mental health problem and 35% had attended A&E in the last 12 months. This also contributes to people having greater health inequalities.

Achievements so far...

We have created a partnership action plan that seeks to address some of the key issues identified including housing, substance misuse, offending and physical and mental health.



A housing and health sub-group is now part of the Wider East Sussex Better Together Programme to highlight the needs of this cohort.



In partnership with Public Health and Homeless Link, we carried out a health needs audit of the single homeless population across East Sussex to understand more about the health inequalities experienced by the homeless population and to feed this into planning future services. We received 285 completed audits from a broad range of agencies and were also able to support some of the local services in completing the surveys with clients. We also collated staff responses to enrich the responses to the audit.

What the community thinks

The Health Needs Audit identified that 39% of respondents reported using drugs or alcohol to cope with their mental health, and 37% would like further support in relation to their mental health



Feedback from professionals working with these clients on how services could better meet the needs includes greater flexibility in working with clients who may miss appointments due to their complex needs.

Feedback from the Health Needs Audit

In the next 12 months we will...

- Continue to ensure that this cohort of people are given consideration in the East Sussex Better Together (ESBT) programme which is integrating health and social care via the housing and health work stream which should be the main platform for addressing homelessness and housing issues.
- Learning from best practice in Hastings, and to follow on from the excellent partnership work that resulted from the 'Pop-Up Hubs' we will continue to support the development of the multi-agency hub in Eastbourne that meets fortnightly to better meet the immediate needs of the street community. This will also be opened up to clients on alternate fortnights.
- Ensure the findings from the Health Needs Audit are shared with relevant partners and work will be carried out to build a local picture of costs associated with managing the cohort in relation to housing, substance misuse, offending and mental and physical health to inform discussions at a commissioning level. This work will sit within the Housing and Health sub group of ESBT.

Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The Police and Crime Plan priorities for 2016/17 include local objectives for each of the priorities listed below, and these have been set by the Police and Crime Commissioner. These are of course not an exhaustive list but do reflect the expectations of the public.

Also of note, the new Sussex Local Policing Model, is designed to meet the priorities in the Sussex Police and Crime Plan, has taken nearly six months to create and sets out local policing in terms of prevention, response and investigation, operating seamlessly across Sussex. It will enable the force to work differently, giving officers and staff the tools and skills they need.

Crime and Community Safety

- Keeping Sussex a low crime area
- Commission new and lasting initiatives to reduce re-offending
- Take account of community priorities and their contributing factors (such as alcohol and drugs)

Measure: Reduce the recorded crimes per 1,000 population.

Victim Focus

- Improve the experience that victims and witnesses have of the criminal justice system
- Enhance, develop and commission initiatives to bring justice for victims
- Effective policing, responsive to the needs of victims and the vulnerable

Measure: Support improvements to victim satisfaction in their overall experience of the criminal justice system.

Public Confidence

- Build trust in the police and the criminal justice system
- Remove proceeds of crime from criminals and reinvest that money in our communities
- Encourage the development of volunteering to make us Safer in Sussex

Measure: Increase the reporting of domestic abuse and violence, serious sexual offences, anti-social behaviour and hate crimes.

Value for Money

- Improve efficiency across the criminal justice system
- Further collaboration & partnership working
- Effective and innovative commissioning of services and procurement of assets

Measure: Working with Sussex Police and partners to meet the financial challenges ahead whilst delivering Crime & Community Safety, Victim Focus and Public Confidence objectives and identifying opportunities to improve.

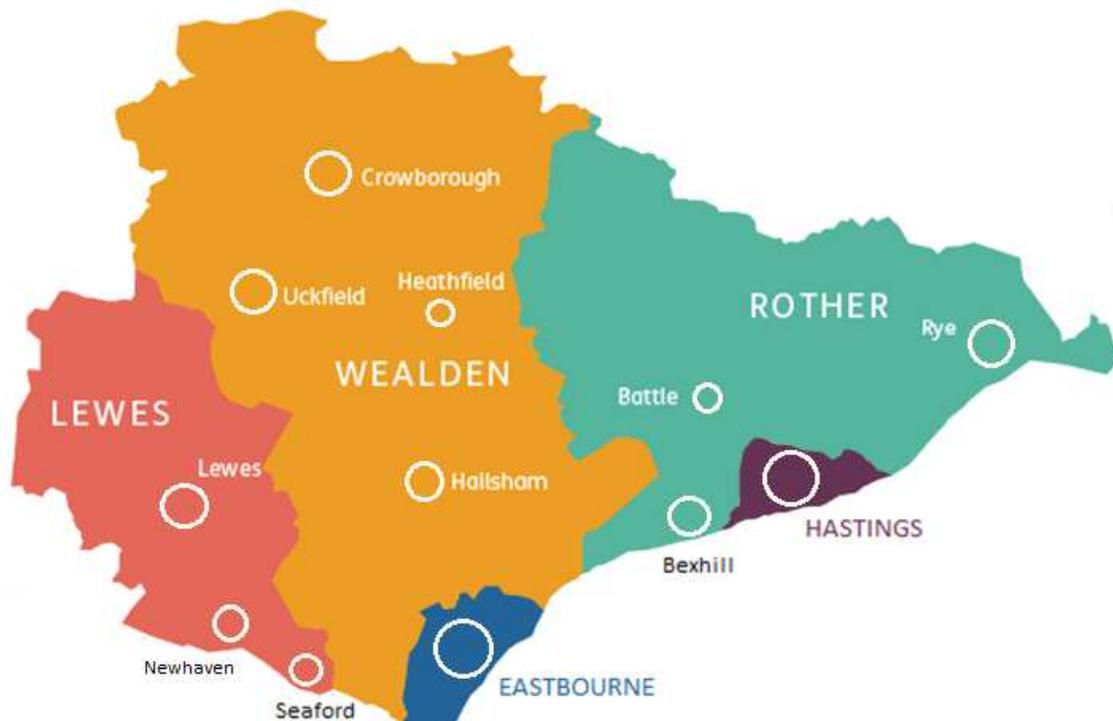
District and Borough Overviews

There are five local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in East Sussex:

- Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership
- Safer Hastings Partnership
- Lewes Community Safety Partnership
- Safer Rother Partnership
- Safer Wealden Partnership.

The Community Safety Partnerships are currently looking at reviewing their existing arrangements in line with the revised policing models.

The local partnership priorities follow, to deliver the priorities each partnership has a separate action plan.



Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership

“Our vision is to improve people’s lives in Eastbourne’s Communities by working in partnership to reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and to manage the fear of crime”.



What are the priorities and why?

- **Community Engagement and Public** – To continue to engage with the communities we serve and meet their needs in relation to community safety and public re-assurance.
- **Environmental and Anti-Social Behaviour** – Reducing graffiti, fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling contributes to an improvement in the quality of life for the residents of Eastbourne.
- **Road Safety** – Anti-social driving, including speeding, is a major concern of our communities.
- **Volume Crime** – The continued reduction of offences such as burglary, robbery and vehicle crime, makes Eastbourne a better place to live, work and visit.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime** – It is essential to give effective support to vulnerable and high risk victims of hate crime and ASB, as well as bringing offenders to justice.
- **Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder** – To reduce the negative impacts of the night-time economy on the town centre.
- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences** – To increase the reporting of such offences, provide support to victims and bring offenders to justice.
- **Prevent Strategy** – To prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable members of our communities, thereby contributing to a reduction in extremism.
- **Street Communities** – Not only do street drinkers and rough sleepers cause a major nuisance to residents and visitors, they are amongst the highest levels of victims of crime and are amongst the most vulnerable in our community.
- **Substance Misuse and New Psychoactive Substances** – Causal links to crime, anti-social behaviour and health.

What the community thinks...

Environmental ASB is a major concern of residents in our communities.

Anti-social driving including speeding is regularly reported as a concern at our Neighbourhood Panels.

Dealing in illegal drugs is a big concern of residents who live in the town centre.

Street drinkers in the town centre and on the seafront result in a large number of complaints which highlights the concerns of businesses and residents.

Achievements so far...

Since 2005 crime has reduced in Eastbourne by over

40%

Eastbourne's Prevent initiative is supporting the positive work of the World Congress of Faiths, bringing faiths together to tackle discrimination, hate crime and radicalisation.

2015 has seen the introduction of the Business Warden pilot, launching Eastbourne to the forefront of innovative partnership working.

The partnership is supporting long term initiatives to help members of the street community and was the first in East Sussex to initiate a 'Multiple and Complex Needs' group



Over the next 12 months, we will...

The Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership will continue to:

- Implement the Community Safety Partnership's 40 point action plan.
- Deliver successful Neighbourhood Management projects by engaging with and empowering communities to take action against crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Support and invest in the youth initiatives and projects to divert from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Encourage and support communities to take positive action against speeding and anti-social driving by establishing community initiatives and engaging with local schools.
- Look to redesign how we work at both an operational and strategic level – promoting efficient partnership work and encouraging greater agency involvement.
- Support voluntary organisations which can have a major impact on improving community safety and public perception, including Neighbourhood Watch and Eastbourne Street Pastors.
- Work to overcome public sector financial constraints and develop new ways of working and seeking finance to support out initiatives / priorities.

Safer Hastings Partnership

“The Safer Hastings Partnership will continue to support the most vulnerable victims of crime & antisocial behaviour and work to reduce the levels of crime and the fear of crime”.



What are the priorities and why?

- **Alcohol Related Violent Crime and Disorder** – Action should be taken to reduce the likelihood of people living, studying or visiting the town becoming the victim of alcohol related violence
- **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence** – Victims should be encouraged to report incidents and it should be ensured that effective help and support is available to them
- **Substance Misuse** – To change the behaviour and life chances of substance misusers, many of whom are members of the street community and their behaviour can have a big impact on the wider community
- **Reducing Re-Offending** – Managing prolific offenders is key to reducing crime.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime** – We must encourage reporting and support high risk and vulnerable victims.
- **Environmental Crime** – Tackling issues like littering, dog fouling and graffiti is important to most people in Hastings.
- **Road Safety** – Crashes involving death and serious injury have increased.
- **Prevent Strategy** – Raise awareness of the need to identify and support those who have been radicalised or who are susceptible to radicalisation

What the community thinks...

Recent surveys show that ASB remains the highest priority for residents

Some residents raised concerns about serious sexual offences and said that they had been directly affected or know someone who has been directly affected

Drinking in public places remains of concern in Hastings and St Leonards

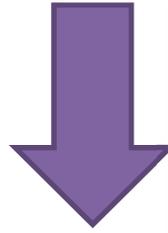
Road safety & careless / inconsiderate driving are important issues to local people

Achievements so far...

Since 2001 to 2002, crime in Hastings has reduced from over 14,000 to around

7,900

Today.



The Safer Hastings Partnership has upgraded the town's CCTV cameras and control room.

A Community Police Hub has opened in Central St Leonards.

The Safer Hastings Partnership have used new closure powers to shut down three premises where drug and anti-social behaviour were having a big impact on the local community.

The Safer Hastings Partnership has further extended the town's 'Reduce the Strength' scheme, increasing the number of Off Licences not selling 'super strength' beer, lager and cider.



Funding has been provided for several youth diversion projects, the Hastings Taxi Marshall and Barwatch schemes.

Over the next 12 months, we will...

- Continue to commission services which provide support to victims of hate crime, provide positive activities for young people and contribute towards a safer evening economy.
- Continue to support the Hastings and Rother Road Safety Group.
- Support further developments of monthly multi-agency Street Community Hub arrangements to address their complex needs and reduce the impact that some have, particularly in areas like Hastings and St Leonards.
- Consult on and introduce new restrictions on drinking alcohol in some public areas if supported by businesses and the wider community.
- Work in partnership to reduce opportunities for vulnerable people to be exploited by those engaged in drug trafficking or other criminal activity.

Lewes Community Safety Partnership

“Our vision is to improve people’s lives in Lewes’s Communities by working in partnership to reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and to manage the fear of crime.”



What are the priorities and why?

- **Work in partnership to seek long lasting solutions to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** ASB remains a priority to the community and the police and partners agencies continue to receive many calls. The impact of anti-social behaviour can disproportionately affect the health and well-being of residents and communities.
- **Promote community safety initiatives to reduce crime and the fear of crime:** crime levels in Lewes continue to be low but there is a disproportionate fear of crime that requires the partnership to reassure the public and promote the work that all partners undertake.
- **Work to protect and support vulnerable victims of crime:** this is a new priority for the partnership, to acknowledge the importance of prioritising community safety work where vulnerable victims are involved.
- **Increase awareness and knowledge of Domestic Abuse leading to improve confidence in recognition and response:** Lewes was at the forefront of the White Ribbon campaign and it continues to be a priority to encourage victims to report incidents to the police. Domestic abuse is widely known to be an under-reported crime which this priority aims to reverse.
- **Reduce the number of Dwelling Fires:** We continue to work with partners to identify those most vulnerable from fire in our community, so that prevention support can be delivered.
- **Reduce the number of Killed & Seriously Injured on Lewes District’s roads:** We continue to focus on making our roads safer for all road users across the district as the level remain unacceptably high.
- **Promote and contribute to the implementation of the Prevent agenda:** We will provide awareness training to partners as part of the national anti-terrorism agenda.

What the community thinks...

In a survey undertaken in June 2015, the top community safety priorities for residents in Lewes were ASB, burglary and road safety.

The top types of ASB that residents’ said were the most important to tackle were:
Careless / inconsiderate driving
Illegal parking
Dog fouling
Drinking in public places

Achievements so far...

The Shop Watch scheme in Lewes has continued to grow and has been successful in reducing shoplifting in the town.



Fire safety awareness work, including promoting installation of smoke alarms, has continued to reduce the number of dwelling fires.



There has been a reduction in burglaries as a result of effective detection work.

Safety in Action has been run again to address arson, amongst a range of other issues.

We have held a range of White Ribbon activities, including the 'Living Library' project.

We have reduced the amount of fly-tipping occurring in the district by regular patrols of hotspots and taking legal action.

Road safety workshops have been held to address the driving behaviours of young men.

Over the next 12 months, we will...

- Deliver Prevent awareness training to staff within the partnership organisations, and other relevant bodies.
- Extend the Paws on Watch initiative developed on the Wealden area to cover the Lewes District.
- Support the fire service as it realigns posts to enable more dedicated staff time to be given to tackling behaviours resulting in road traffic accidents.
- Expand the Shop Watch Scheme, focussing on charity shops who often struggle to have an effective response to retail crime on their premises.
- Continue our work to raise awareness, particularly in rural communities, of the domestic abuse support which is available.
- Work closely with Wealden District to jointly try to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the district's roads.
- Continue our White Ribbon campaigning.

Safer Rother Partnership

“We aim to ensure that Rother remains a safe place to live, work and visit by working in partnership to reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and managing the fear of crime.”



What are the priorities and why?

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime** – To continue to develop partnership interventions around ASB and Hate Crime which impact on victims and the local community and to carry out targeted work in problem areas.
- **Road Safety** – Rother has the highest rate of Killed and Serious Injured (KSI) figures per 10,000 population in East Sussex so further work will be carried out in 2016/17 on KSIs. Safer Rother and the Safer Hastings Partnership are working together to deliver a range of interventions to address speeding, anti-social driving and road safety issues.
- **Reducing Offending and Re-offending** – A small number of people commit crime and anti-social behaviour, but they have a significant impact on Rother communities. We will be continuing work across partner agencies to reduce the impact of these offenders and support rehabilitation.
- **Historical and Emerging Crimes that Impact on the Community** – Historically, Rother has suffered from sudden increases in crime, often caused by criminals travelling across districts, boroughs, counties and police forces. These crimes impact on Rother. The partnership will also focus on emerging issues such as Prevent, Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking, cyber-crime and scams, when they impact on Rother residents.
- **Violent Crime including Violence within a Domestic Setting** – To respond to the move from public place violence to an increase in domestic setting violence, including intergenerational, young people and rural residents.

What the community thinks...

The most important issues residents identified to tackle at a county level:

ASB
Road Safety
Alcohol Related Crime and Drug Misuse

Residents surveyed are most concerned about ASB; 34.3% compared to 23.9% the year before. Their second highest concern was Road Safety at 16.4% which has fallen from 31.3%.

Residents expressed concern about homelessness and tackling violent extremism further in 2016/17.

The top ASB issues were:
Careless / inconsiderate driving: 35.8%
Illegal parking: 27.9%

Achievements so far...

Variable Messaging Machines have been used effectively across Rother for crime and community safety messages all year round i.e. road safety, Operation Radcott, White Ribbon and burglary alerts.



Launch of Scarlett's Story and delivery of White Ribbon "These Hands are not for Hurting" campaign around domestic abuse.

Safer Hastings and Rother Roads Group has been working in partnership across Hastings and Rother to deliver educational road safety interventions.

Effective rehabilitation and offender management based interventions to reduce ASB, domestic abuse and crime, including multiagency interventions securing and maintaining tenancies.



Over the next 12 months, we will...

- Continue to work in partnership to reduce crime and the impact of crime committed by those already convicted of offences. We do this through officer work in Offender Management and Public Protection schemes, youth programmes and neighbourhood interventions. We also provide support with housing and access to services to assist offender's rehabilitation.
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime work in 2016/17 will focus on reviewing the implementation of the new tools and powers within the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, for example the Community Remedy and Community Protection Notices.
- Research will be commissioned to fully understand the Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) incidents on Rother roads, including research into reasons, locations and solutions. This research will be used to target resources to reduce KSIs and educate drivers on Rother's roads to reduce the risks of KSIs.
- The partnership will be working with Rother District Council to deliver the Prevent agenda and requirements within Rother.
- Further work will be carried out to explore the impact of and any future work required to address Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation in Rother.
- Police and partnership intervention with neighbouring areas and shared information and operations will continue to be a priority when Rother experiences an increase in shoplifting, burglary, begging and cross border crime such as thefts from rural and farm buildings, caravan break-ins, oil and fuel.
- Engage with partners to identify interventions required with vulnerable adults and serious organised crime such as scams and Operation Signature.

Safer Wealden Partnership

“Improving people’s lives in Wealden by working in partnership to reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and to manage the fear of crime.”



Safer Wealden Partnership

Working Together to Keep Wealden Safer

What are the priorities and why?

- **Reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in Wealden** – anti-social behaviour can blight the lives of local residents and although not a large problem in Wealden, agencies work together to tackle it when it occurs. There are also many preventative projects in place organised and run by partners.
- **Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wealden’s roads** – safety on the roads and the prevention of anti-social driving is vitally important to communities in Wealden. The district also has one of the worst records for serious crashes in the county. The rural nature of the area and most roads being single carriageway compounds the problem.
- **Reduce the amount of household burglary and burglary from sheds, outbuildings and commercial premises** – this crime can be devastating for people affected by it. The nature of the district, with many properties being isolated can make them more vulnerable.
- **Reduce the amount of environmental crime in Wealden, with a focus on fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling** – complaints about dog fouling have fallen. Fly-tipping incidents have also fallen in recent months, but the rural nature of the district and many of its roads lends itself to this type of crime.
- **Raise awareness and promote the help and support services available for victims of domestic abuse** – the number of reported cases of domestic abuse has risen in recent years as has domestic abuse crime.
- **The Safer Wealden Partnership will be proactive in response to emerging threats and priorities such as the ‘Prevent’ and ‘Serious Organised Crime’ agendas and will also deliver a number of projects to improve general community safety, including increased community engagement** – the partnership and its constituent agencies offer a number of projects to improve community safety. In addition the partnership is alive to increased threats and is playing its part in the Prevent and Serious Organised Crime agendas.

What the community thinks

ASB is the top priority for local residents, although the number of respondents citing this as their major priority has fallen from last year. Other priorities include burglary, tackling violent extremism and road safety.

ESCC Reputation Tracker Survey

When asked further about ASB, the public cited careless and inconsiderate driving as the most common type of behaviour which needed tackling.

Of those respondents who claimed to have been directly affected by the issue, the order and type of offence changed. The top four were ASB, road safety, burglary and alcohol related crime.

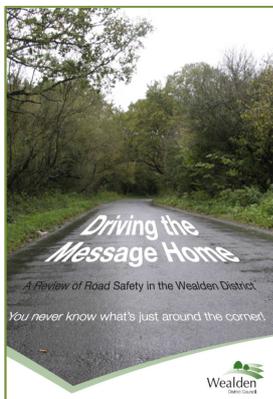
ESCC Reputation Tracker Survey

Achievements so far...

'Paws on Watch' was launched during 2015/16, a project which aims to recruit responsible dog walkers in the area to keep their eyes open and report any suspicious activity; to challenge dog walkers who do not clear up after their pet; and they will also be briefed by email about any particular crimes to look out for whilst out and about on their daily walks. To date there are over 300 members signed up!



The Wealden area saw falls in the number of burglaries and burglaries from sheds, outbuilding etc... last year. This is particularly welcome as these crimes were a priority for the partnership last year. Good policing and detection saw a number of people convicted along with preventative measures such as increased community awareness and the widespread promotion of shed alarms all helped with reducing this crime type.



The Wealden report on Road Safety continued to motivate partners and act as a focus for road safety activity in the area, making it intelligence led and focussed.

The Wealden area has seen less ASB this year which is good news for residents and communities. The 'Friday Night Project' run by Hailsham Town Council offers young people in Hailsham the chance to try out a variety of activities and acts as a diversion, thereby reducing levels of ASB.

Over the next 12 months, we will...

- The partnership will continue to be intelligence led and focus on crimes which affect residents and communities the most. This is against a backdrop of reduced resources for many partners involved in the partnership.
- During the year there will be a number of projects organised to raise awareness of the importance of personal and community safety. Some of these projects will use insights from the behavioural sciences to influence outcomes.