

Contents

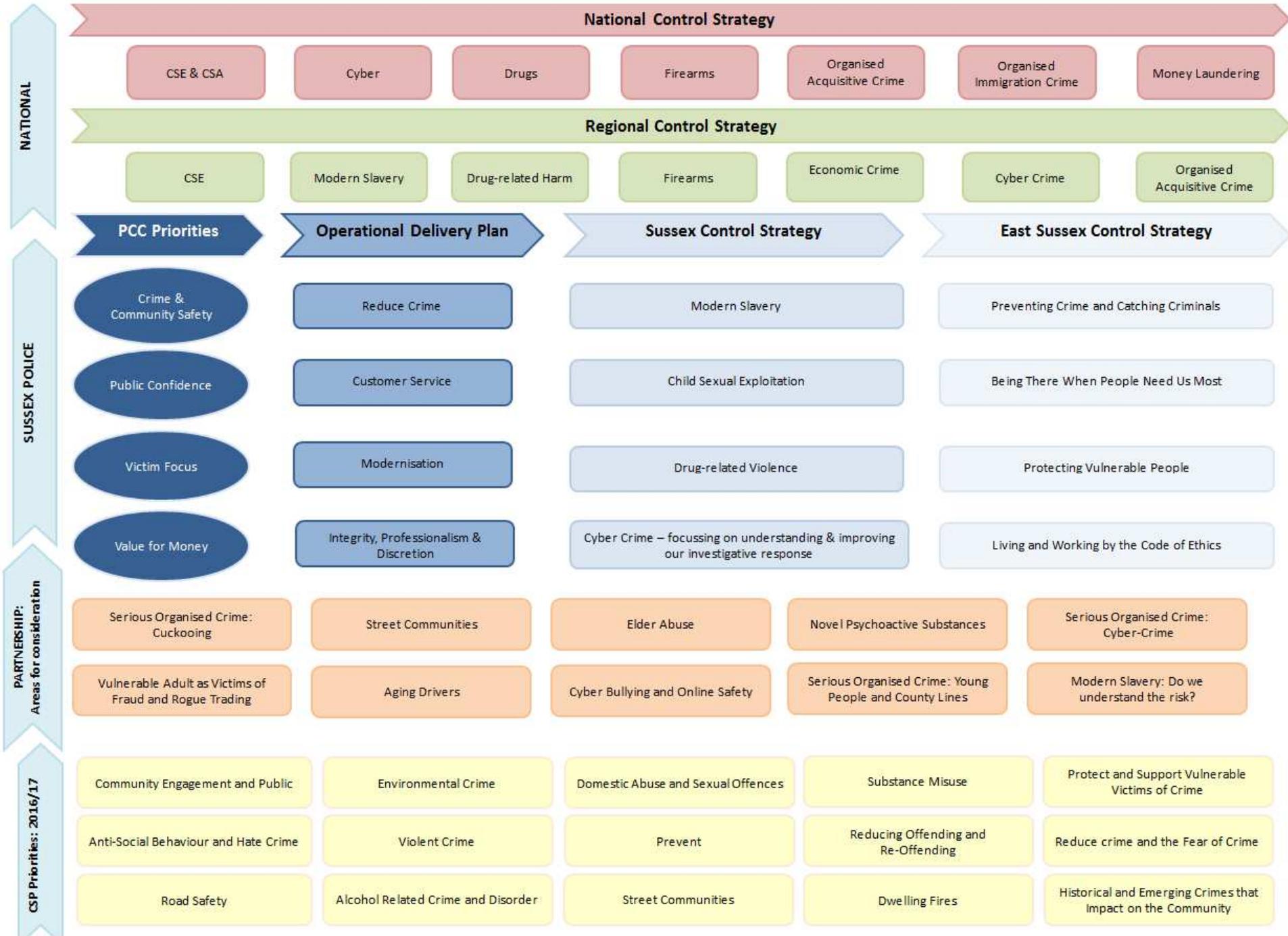
Identified work streams	3
The partnership landscape: challenges and changes	5
Vulnerable adults	7
Serious organised crime: Cuckooing	7
Vulnerable adults as victims of fraud and rogue trading associated with serious organised crime	9
Elder abuse	11
Street communities	13
Aging drivers	15
Young people	17
Cyber bullying and online safety	17
Novel Psychoactive Substances	19
Serious organised crime: young people and county lines	21
Community	23
Serious organised crime: cyber crime	23
Further research	25
Modern slavery: Do we understand the risk?	25
Existing work packages that will continue	26
Prevent	26
Hate crime	26
Drug related deaths	27
Drug and Alcohol Strategy	27
Offending	27
Domestic Violence & Abuse, and Stalking and Rape & Sexual Violence and Abuse	29

Identified work streams

Below is a summary of those ‘new’ work streams that have not previously been identified by the partnership and raised as a result of the Safer People, Safer Places event in May. It also includes those ‘existing’ work streams for which the partnership has previously adopted and where work is currently being undertaken.

	Work streams	New	Existing
Vulnerable adults	Serious Organised Crime: Cuckooing		✓
	Vulnerable Adults as Victims of Fraud and Rogue Trading Associated with Serious Organised Crime		✓
	Street Communities		✓
	Aging Drivers	✓	
	Elder Abuse	✓	
Young people	Cyber-bullying and Online Safety	✓	
	Novel Psychoactive Substances		✓
	Serious Organised Crime: Young People and County Lines		✓
Community	Serious Organised Crime: Cyber-Crime	✓	
Further research	Modern Slavery – Do We Understand the Risk?	✓	

It should also be noted that this document was written in the context of other work streams identified at both a national and local level. The diagram below shows where the threats identified at the Safer People, Safer Places event sit in the context of national work being undertaken, as well as those work streams identified by the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Sussex Police. It also shows those areas identified as work streams at a district and borough level for 2016/17.

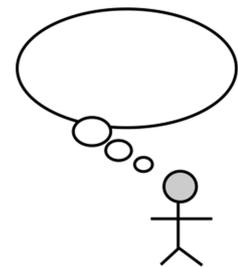


The partnership landscape: challenges and changes

The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy was published by the Home Office in March 2016 and updates the way we think about crime prevention, building on the successes of the past while making the most of new research, techniques and technology. The actions outlined within the strategy represent the start of a shift in the way all partners work together to prevent crime. It is hoped that the impact of the new approach will not just be seen in crime rates themselves, but also in public perceptions of crime, the plans of the Police and Crime Commissioner and members of organisations like Neighbourhood Watch.

To ensure the partnership are embracing this new strategy, the Strategic Assessment of Community Safety 2016 has been produced using MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement), which is a UK-wide project that is used by law enforcement agencies to assess and prioritise risk. This process allows a consistent approach and provides a sound evidence base for selecting partnership priorities.

We held a Safer People, Safer Places engagement event in May 2016 to gather expert insight from partners, organisations and individuals who work, live and support various people in East Sussex on what the main community safety issues are for vulnerable adults, vulnerable young people and the community. This event has been used to inform this year's strategic assessment. Discussions from the event were captured and have been used as a useful and insightful background to our document. Please note that all quotes within this document are taken from the Safer People, Safer Places event.

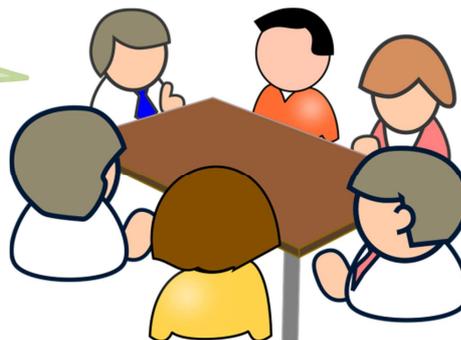


It is evident that as we move forward, the broader threat of exploitation is something that should be considered within the field of community safety. People can be vulnerable for many reasons. Their age, financial status or even living arrangements can all play a part, as can other factors such as mental or physical health issues and dependence on alcohol or illicit substances. Sadly, others will see these vulnerabilities as weaknesses and use them to their advantage, leaving the victim often frightened, isolated and at further risk of exploitation. Many of the threats identified within this document crossover into the sphere of exploitation of both vulnerable adults and young people, and it is clear that these should not be considered in isolation. There are commonalities between all of these areas, with vulnerable individuals within our communities being targeted and exploited by others for personal, commercial or financial gain.

East Sussex has an aging population. The over 65s now represent 25% of the population and are projected to make up 30% of all people in 2027. All elderly age groups are expected to increase in size, with the very elderly aged 75 and over projected to increase to almost 93,000 in 2027, representing 16% of the population compared to 12% in 2014. In contrast, it is projected that the proportion of young people (0 to 17) in the county over the next 20 years will stay broadly static at around 20%. Considering this, concerns have been raised about the impact of cuts to both services for vulnerable adults and those for young people.

“A reduction in services could lead to isolation and loneliness, which in turn could increase the risk of exploitation of vulnerable adults.”

“Vulnerable adults are less connected to others and their community.”



“The reductions being seen in early intervention and engagement means there could be more vulnerable adults going into the future.”

Issues in relation to vulnerable adults securing and keeping stable accommodation were also raised at the Safer People, Safer Places event. Housing and rental stock is currently at a premium and this has presented challenges around affordability and suitability of accommodation for all vulnerable individuals including offenders. Supporting People funds housing related support services for vulnerable people delivered by a range of providers including registered social landlords. Supporting People offer 20 accommodation-based services across the county for those with mental health issues, young mums, young people, single homeless and those seeking refuge from domestic abuse.

“The vulnerable have difficulty accessing housing and this can underpin other issues.”



With all of this in mind, it is therefore essential that we continue to ensure we are making the most efficient and effective use of resources across East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership. Sustaining work within the partnership, such as the Safe Place Scheme, and developing new relationships with the voluntary sector is of particular importance to ensure we are supporting vulnerable individuals in the community and helping them feel safe and confident when out and about. It is also clear 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. All of this with the challenging financial climate will continue to bring obstacles and changes to all agencies.

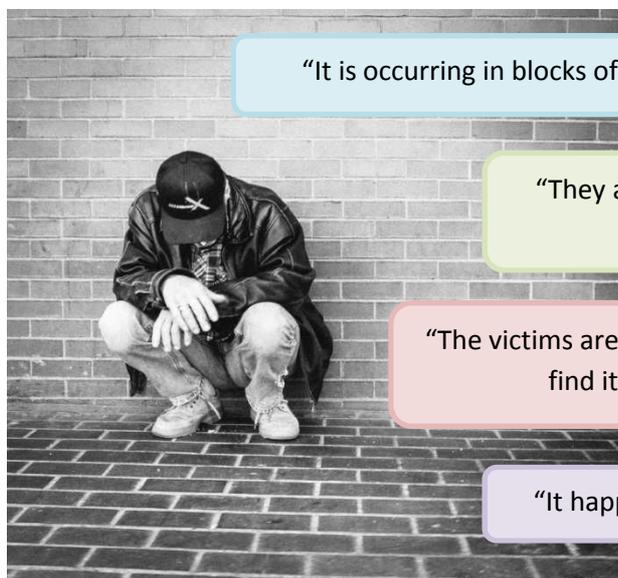
Current plans within East Sussex County Council are based on the need to make savings of £70 million to £90 million during the current three year plan period of 2016/17-2018/19. However, a move towards a five year period for financial planning purposes will give as much assurance as possible for the planning of integrated health and social care services, whilst acknowledging the significant changes that will take place. The direction of travel for the Local Policing Model also remains the same. Up until 2015, Sussex Police reduced costs by £50 million. However, savings of £35 million are still required by 2020 and the main strands of the Local Policing Programme are looking at Prevention (neighbourhood policing), Response and Investigations.

Vulnerable adults

Serious organised crime: Cuckooing

Drug dealers are befriending vulnerable residents and setting up drug operations from their homes. The dealers are targeting the vulnerable to use their flats as the base of their drug-running operation in a technique known as 'cuckooing', named after the bird that invades other bird's nests. These dealers are selective about who they target and a lot of the time victims are lonely, isolated, and frequent drug users themselves.

Cuckooing means the criminal can operate from a property rather than the street, making it an attractive option as it is out of sight of the police and is essentially, a hidden crime. Turnover of properties can also be high and so enforcement activity is difficult. All of these elements were recognised at the Safer People, Safer Places event:



"It is occurring in blocks of flats as it is hard for police to get warrants."

"They are targeting vulnerable drug users using 'free drugs' as buy in."

"The victims are vulnerable and lead chaotic lifestyles so would find it difficult to find alternative housing."

"It happens behind closed doors. It's a hidden issue."

The victim can find themselves displaced from their property and forced into temporary street homelessness. This in turn increases their vulnerability for further exploitation. In some instances, victims who are cuckooed are also subject to sexual exploitation. Victims may require support for the abuse they have suffered, help with their addiction or support managing a relapse.

We know that cuckooing is an emerging issue in East Sussex. However, it is difficult to quantify the scale of cuckooing in the county as not only is it a hidden crime but it is not a criminal offence in its own right. Information in relation to cuckooing is therefore largely anecdotal although intelligence streams are being developed.

With this in mind, the East Sussex division of Sussex Police has changed the way they approach this area of work. Partners, including housing support services, drug and alcohol treatment services and local day centres met and agreed that there was a need to increase reporting of this issue to the police.

East Sussex Division has therefore written an operational response that puts the safeguarding of the vulnerable individual ahead of any prosecution. While this approach in no way grants any form of immunity to any person, Sussex Police ask that safeguarding vulnerable victims and the swift return to their home be prioritised above the disruption of Class A drug supply and the arrest and prosecution of offenders when formulating a response.



A dedicated email address that is monitored 24 hours a day has also been set up that should be used if there is a suspicion that a property is being cuckooed. The email address is C22.EastDiv@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Partners also acknowledged the need for some information leaflets, one for professionals around spotting the signs and one aimed at potential victims themselves. These have now been produced and printed¹.

Recommendation

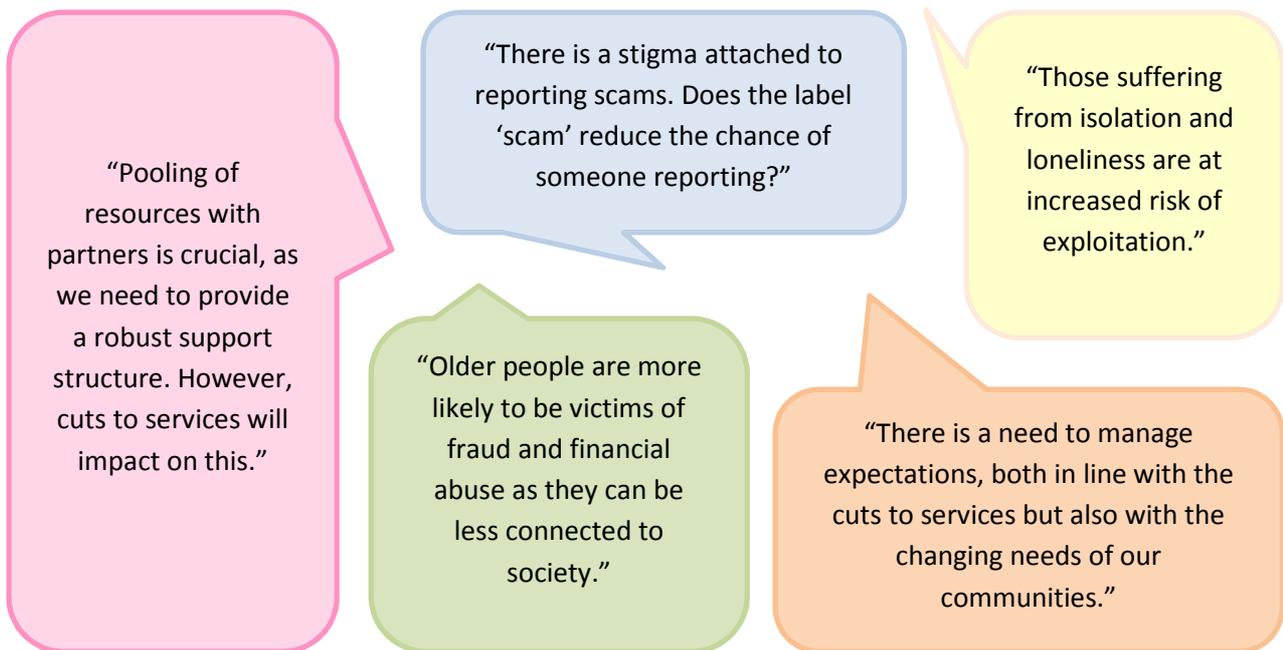
- Partners to continue to work together to inform and educate individuals considered as vulnerable to cuckooing

¹ Contact Paul Sellings (paul.sellings.01@sussex.pnn.police.uk) for leaflets

Vulnerable adults as victims of fraud and rogue trading associated with serious organised crime

Following Sussex Police's production of an East Sussex Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile², the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership chose this area as a priority for 2016/17 because of the range of frauds identified that primarily target vulnerable elderly victims in East Sussex. This profile provided the first step in partnership working and sharing of knowledge as to what work is being done locally.

Increasingly, fraud is becoming more complex and deceptive, much of which is targeted at vulnerable and elderly people. The nature of fraud victimisation is not only financial. The emotional impact is significant and includes guilt, misplaced trust and diminished confidence, and negatively affects physical and mental health and increased social isolation.



It is generally believed that this crime is under-reported, and whilst the reasons for under-reporting may be many and complex, it was noted at the Safer People, Safer Places event that part of this may be due to the connotations with the word 'scams' which could imply that responsibility somehow lies with the victim, when in fact scams are a crime (fraud) and people should feel more confident in reporting it. Some victims who are repeatedly scammed struggle to identify themselves as victims, as responding to mail gives them a sense of purpose and helps with feelings of loneliness.

Victims are often, although not exclusively vulnerable through age, and with an aging population in East Sussex, this is something that we need to be mindful of.

Operation Signature³ is the Sussex Police process to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud within Sussex, and if you are a resident of Hastings and aged over 75 years you would be more likely to be a victim of an Operation Signature fraud offence than any other crime type⁴.

² East Sussex Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile, Author: Owain Gower, Senior Intelligence Analyst, Sussex Police

³ Operation Signature: <https://sussex.police.uk/advice/protect-yourself-and-others/fraud/operation-signature/>

⁴ Operation Signature: Sussex Police Vulnerable Victims of Fraud Profile, Author: Colin Purslow, Performance Information Unit, Sussex Police Sussex

In East Sussex, there are effective links between Trading Standards, Sussex Police, National Scams Team, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Adult Social Care, with effective information sharing and referral mechanisms in place between the different agencies. The direction of this work has been formed by the establishment of the Scams Working Group, which brings together individuals from statutory agencies with responsibility for protecting vulnerable victims of fraud.

The group are currently working together to develop a shared understanding of the profile of victims and locations to collectively target preventative activities in relation to scams in areas identified as having a high risk population. Working collectively with the voluntary, community and housing sectors, the group will look to build on existing work to support victims of scams and help build resilience in the community. Work is also being undertaken to understand more about the services that are available to support existing and potential victims of scams, which is something that was echoed at the Safer People, Safer Places event:

“Need to encourage community support, such as volunteering and befriending services.”

“We need to improve awareness of services available.”



Also of note is Friends Against Scams⁶, a National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team initiative. NTS Scams Team works across England & Wales and engages with partner agencies to identify and support victims of scams. We will be working with Friends Against Scams to protect and prevent the residents of East Sussex from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to "Take a stand against scams."

Recommendations

- Collectively continue to develop preventative activities in areas where there is a high risk population, such as awareness raising campaigns, and providing advice and information on local support services and groups.
- Work together to ensure appropriate support services are being drawn on at the appropriate time to assist with reducing the levels of repeat victimisation.
- Scope out behaviour change work – The National Scams Team are linking with key academic studies in relation to this and where possible these findings may assist with providing an evidence base which to work from.

⁶ Friends Against Scams: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/

Elder abuse

According to the World Health Organisation elder abuse can be defined as a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect⁷.

The Sussex Elders Commission, which is an opportunity for older residents to support, challenge and inform the work of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, has also identified the importance of a number of issues related to elder abuse including nuisance calls and scams and financial coercion and abuse, tying this in with *Vulnerable Adults as Victims of Fraud*, which is covered earlier in this document. Elder abuse was also raised as a threat at the Safer People, Safer Places event:

“There needs to be better understanding and response to domestic abuse within hidden populations, especially the elderly.”

“The recent Domestic Homicide Review highlighted issues around domestic abuse in older people and the lack of services specific to elderly and their needs.”

“This is often a hidden type of abuse, especially in rural areas.”

“Isolation and loneliness makes older people more vulnerable and open to exploitation.”



There is little academic research about elder abuse. However, the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report 2015/16, reported that the three most common types of abuse that resulted in enquiries were neglect, physical abuse and financial abuse (this was the same as in the previous year). Neglect is still the most common form of abuse however physical abuse is now the second most common whereas it was previously financial abuse. There are also already effective links between Police, Adult Social Care and other services including specialist services like Change, Grow, Live (CGL) and Survivors' Network with effective information sharing and referral mechanisms in place between the different agencies.



A review of e-learning and face-to-face domestic violence and abuse training is currently underway and will consider issues around mental capacity, as well as the impact of coercion and control. Self-neglect multi-agency training has also been developed by the Safeguarding Adults Board Training subgroup, and delivered from April 2016 onwards by partners from Adult Social Care, Clinical Commissioning Groups, and East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. This training was developed in recognition of the challenge faced by staff when assisting people who self-neglect, and can affect older people both in their own homes and in care settings.

Following a multi-agency case review of an older couple where there were concerns of Domestic Abuse, a 'Lead Practitioner' post for older people has been recruited within the Domestic Violence and Abuse

⁷ http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder_abuse/en/

Specialist Commissioned Service⁸, for one year. This post is to be shared between Brighton and Hove and East Sussex and will primarily be a consultative post for practitioners to call upon, with the aim of improving the pathway for older people who experience domestic violence and abuse.

Also of note, the Client and Carer Safeguarding Advisory Network (CCSAN) has been tasked with increasing links with the community and strengthening the voice of clients, carers, and volunteers or professionals who support them to shape safeguarding practice. This network has made links with Age UK East Sussex, raising awareness of elder abuse, the role of carers, and sharing knowledge on support and interventions that can respond appropriately to abuse, and assist in its prevention.



Recommendations

- Consider a joint event between Safer Communities, Safeguarding Adults Board, and Local Safeguarding Children's Board on coercion and control, including workshop on domestic abuse affecting the older population.
- Review of Carers Toolkit to include focus on older people at risk from abuse.

⁸ The Portal: <http://www.changegrowlive.org/content/the-portal-east-sussex>

Street communities

Work in relation to the Health Needs Audit⁹ identified the health inequalities experienced by the homeless population of East Sussex. This comprehensive piece of work highlighted the greater use of health services amongst a group of people compared with the general population of East Sussex; A&E use was two and a half times higher and hospital admissions were four times higher.

These are areas that were echoed at the Safer People, Safer Places event with concerns being raised about the poor general health of this cohort, issues in relation to their mental health and substance abuse, and their level of vulnerability in the community.



The number of rough sleepers has increased annually since 2010, with figures for the South East increasing by 167% during this period¹⁰. However, any data in relation to rough sleeping should be given caution. The counts and estimates process is not designed to arrive at an exact number of people sleeping rough – a figure that would be impossible to gauge accurately. Instead, it is a snapshot of the numbers of people likely to be sleeping rough each night during a given period each year, and which can subsequently be used to track trends nationally and locally.

Also of interest, with the exception of Lewes, all districts and boroughs have seen an increase in relation to homeless applications in the past six years¹¹. Hastings saw the largest rise, with the number of applications increasing from 33 during the first quarter of 2010 to 129 in the first quarter of 2016, and Rother has seen double the number of applications, rising from 22 to 44.

Between 1 February and 1 June 2016, Sussex Police made 52 arrests of members of the street community, for offences including public order, theft and drug related offences. The arrest figures are slightly down from the same period in the 2015 but the type and nature of the offences being committed has not changed. However, between 1 February and 1 June 2016 there were eight incidents where members of the street community were victims of crime. This number is likely to be higher but there is a reluctance to report crime for fear of reprisal. However, this is something that is hoping to be addressed as confidence and trust in services is improved through local work.

⁹ Health Needs Audit undertaken by the SEST, PHE and Homeless Link. Contact: Martina Pickin: martina.pickin@eastsussex.gov.uk

¹⁰ Homeless Link: <http://www.homeless.org.uk/facts/homelessness-in-numbers/rough-sleeping/rough-sleeping-our-analysis>

¹¹ Homeless Applications: <http://www.homeless.org.uk/facts/homelessness-in-numbers/statutory-homelessness>

Other findings from the health need audit included that 58% of respondents had been to their GP more than three times in the last year, and 39% reported using drugs or alcohol in order to help them cope with their mental health. Interestingly, a much higher proportion reported having at least one mental health problem (78%) when compared with the general population.

The audit captured other information that is currently being pulled into a final report, and recommendations have been developed to look at what can be done to help address the issues raised. It will shortly be available on the JSNA website¹².



While this report will be signed off as part of the East Sussex Better Together Programme, the findings have also provided a steer for work being undertaken locally in relation to the monthly client drop ins being held in Eastbourne, where we have been working with partners from Eastbourne Borough Council, Sussex Police and the voluntary and community services to establish improved case management of those with complex needs. These individuals are then invited to attend Eastbourne HUB where they can access services and engage with agencies that are available together in one location. We have supported the development of this monthly HUB meeting and have launched a monthly client drop in at the Salvation Army which has been supported by Eastbourne CSP funding.

Recommendation

- Ensure the recommendations from the health needs audit are taken forwards under the Housing and Health Sub Group and monitor the outcomes.

¹² <http://www.eastsussexjsna.org.uk/>

Aging drivers¹³

Earlier this year the Older Drivers Task Force published *Supporting Safe Driving into Old Age*¹³, a report setting out a national older driver strategy. The Chairman of the Older Drivers Task Force said “The number of people over 85 will double to 1 million by 2025, many without access to public transport. This influx of older drivers has important economic and social value but it also presents road safety risks if we don’t adapt. Getting to grips with these risks, without limiting the independence and freedoms of the elderly is an important policy challenge.”

The emergence of elderly drivers and the risk potentially associated with this was raised as a concern at the engagement event, especially in light of the aging population of East Sussex.



“There could be deterioration in their ability to drive but they feel they need to maintain their independence otherwise they could become isolated.”

“This could be exacerbated by cuts to public transport services and limited access to alternative means of transport in rural areas.”

“We need to educate ‘experienced’ drivers – empower them to make the decision to stop driving.”

Data from the National Travel Survey¹⁴ shows that across England, the number of licence holders in the 60 to 69, and 70 and over age groups has increased over the last 10 years. However, we do not know if this is because they can (perceived ability and affordability) or because they feel they have to due to cuts in public transport or services moving out of villages into major towns and ‘out of town’ locations. Nationally, there has also been a decrease in the percentage of people aged 60 and over travelling frequently by bus since the peak in 2007 to 2010. This may be due to cuts in services, the increasing number of people in this age group holding a diving licence or a combination of both factors.

While the small numbers lead to fluctuations and make it difficult to read too much into the data, in East Sussex it does appear that car drivers who are Killed or Seriously Injured (KSIs) are on the rise, and 2015 saw the highest number of drivers aged 60 plus having collisions than any of the last 10 years.

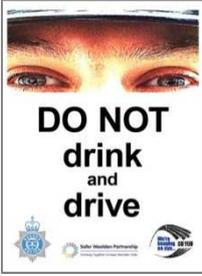
Also of note, the number of car drivers aged 60 plus having collisions in 2015 exceeded the number seen in 2006. However, as the population has increased in this time, the rate of drivers having collisions per 10,000 population still remains lower than it was in 2006.

Issues relating to collisions resulting in KSIs will be looked at as part of the £1 million public health funded Safer Streets project. Although the funding will be spent over the next three years investing in education and behaviour change programmes bespoke to East Sussex, decisions made will be based upon science and evidence and schemes will be fit for the future.



¹³Supporting Safe Driving into Old Age: <http://www.roadsafetyfoundation.org/media/33073/modsfl-single-page-printable-version.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2014>



The project will also look at best practice and what other authorities and road safety partners have undertaken, and will look to build on behaviour change programmes that have been piloted elsewhere, such as Wealden's 'We're Keeping an Eye on You'. It is hoped that this behavioural insights work carried out in Wealden will cut the number of people killed on the roads.

Although there is enough information to suggest that this issue needs to be monitored, the basic analysis would not support a re-profiling of work already prioritised in relation to road safety. However, the analysis has thrown up some questions and although there are no immediate answers, they will be relevant to the development of any interventions, and could be considered as part of the Safer Streets project if appropriate.

Recommendations

- Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to continue to monitor the issue of elderly drivers in East Sussex.
- Work in relation to the Safer Streets projects to be fed back to the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership for information and action as appropriate.
- Encourage people to report poor driving or the need for a licence to be reviewed through Operation Crackdown.

Young people

Cyber bullying and online safety

Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets. This includes social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming rooms, Instagram, Snapchat to name but a few. Cyber bullying is rife on the Internet and most young people will experience it or see it at some time. Due to advancements in technology, cyber bullying can happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week and it can go viral very fast¹⁵. Cyber bullying is also part of the much wider issue of exploiting the vulnerabilities of young people, which also includes threats such as grooming, child sexual exploitation and even radicalisation.

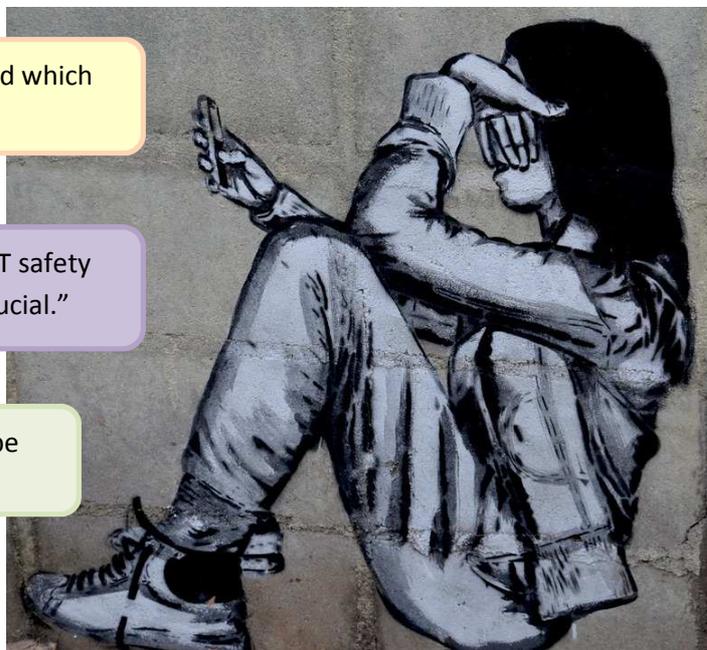
Cyberbullying and online safety were areas of concerns highlighted by the young people that attended the Safer People, Safer Places event.

“Victims can become withdrawn and isolated which could lead to further exploitation.”

“There is a lack of parental understanding. IT safety and how to use the internet properly is crucial.”

“There is a need for voluntary agencies to be utilised for support”

“Social media encourages bullying.”



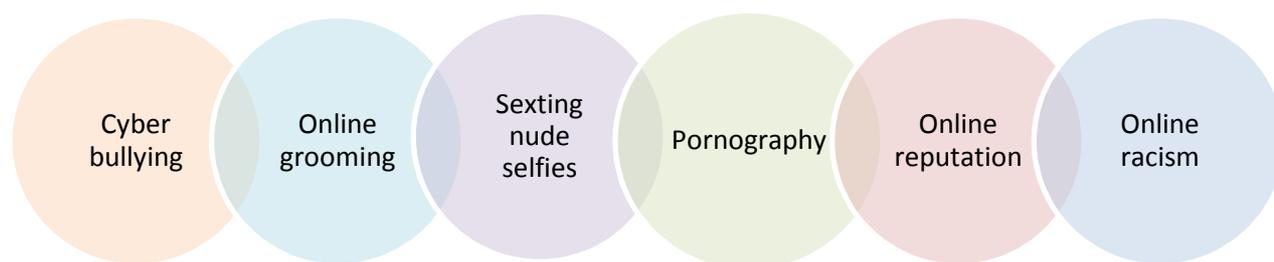
While many national reports have been produced in relation to cyber bullying, research undertaken by McAfee and the Anti-Bullying Alliance shows that almost a quarter of all children surveyed said they had witnessed mean or cruel behaviour directed at a classmate or friend online, and only 36% of children who were the recipients of mean or cruel behaviour online told their parents. Over 50% of parents surveyed believe online safety should be taught in all schools, and whilst this would certainly help, the Internet is fast becoming a life skill and should be part of the continuous education, and parental support to protect children when online¹⁶.

Locally, cyber bullying and online harassment is a priority for the Sussex Police Crime Commissioner’s Youth Commission. The Youth Commission gathered over 300 individual responses about this topic and found the problem was wide spread and experienced by young people from an early age. Many young people who experienced cyber bullying and online harassment said they would not know what to do if they were to become a victim or witness an incident personally, and they also did not understand the law or their rights online.

¹⁵ <http://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/>

¹⁶ http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/media/6621/mcafee_digital-deception_the-online-behaviour-of-teens.pdf

East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children's Board Voice of Children and Young People consultation on 2015-18 priorities¹⁷ highlighted young people's concerns about:



They also highlighted the point that many services are giving young people inconsistent messages about online safety and that online safety needs to be a more serious subject in schools. The LSCB's priority is therefore to 'co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to online safety for children, young people and their families'.

Cyber bullying and Hate Crime Awareness training has also been offered to all primary schools in East Sussex. Between April and September 2016 a total of 51 sessions were undertaken, primarily with pupils although a small number were aimed at parents and governing bodies. Subjects covered in these sessions include equality and diversity, cyber bullying and criminal responsibility.

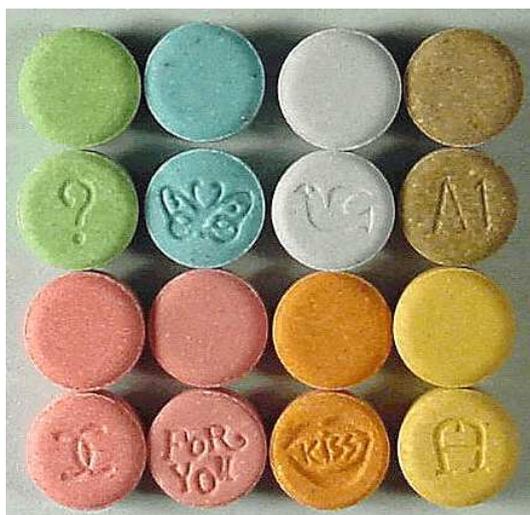
Recommendations

- Undertake further research and scoping to gain a better understanding of this area of work.
- Work with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to ensure a multi-agency approach to online safety for children, young people and families.
- Consider adapting Think, Protect, Connect, a digital resilience and critical thinking programme which has been developed to counter violent extremism and radicalisation, to equip young people with improved skills and online behaviours.

¹⁷ <http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk/about-us/voice-of-children-and-young-people/>

Novel Psychoactive Substances

Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) potentially represent the greatest change in the nature and pattern of drug use to have occurred within the last thirty years. NPS initially emerged as legal alternatives that mimic established drugs like cannabis, MDMA and magic mushrooms and can be purchased easily through headshops and the internet. There has been little research into the long-term risks of NPS for human consumption, although known side effects include seizures, mental health issues, brain damage and heart problems. NPS was identified as a potential threat by the young people in attendance at the Safer People, Safer Places event.



“Causes emotional and psychological damage to young people.”

“There is a need for education and training in schools.”

“There is a perception they are ‘safe’.”

“Unknown content of substances is a risk.”

“They are readily available.”

Towards the end of 2015, local research was undertaken in an attempt to understand the true extent of NPS use within the county. Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2014/15 suggest that NPS use was highest amongst young people aged 16 to 24, and so interviews were carried out with students to ask about their experience of using NPS¹⁸.

General observations were that NPS didn't appear to be a concern for the majority of students who participated. Even though a third of respondents said they had used them, for many it was a one off. However, of interest is that almost half of NPS users said they thought they were unsafe and the majority of respondents agreed that people are more likely to use NPS due to ease of availability.

School liaison officers from Sussex Police have developed an awareness and education programme including a focus on NPS products. This is aimed at upper primary and secondary pupils. The programme raises awareness of the risks attached to taking NPS products. Participants are shown different examples of NPS products and officers address how these are marketed. This occurs in an age appropriate manner and takes into account the level of knowledge displayed by the group.

On the 26 May 2016 the Psychoactive Substances Act came into force, which makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply or possess with intent to supply and substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect. Although it is too early to assess the impact of this legislation in the UK, findings from our local survey suggest that less people would use NPS if illegal. It has also been reported that more than 300 UK retailers are no longer selling NPS with a further 24 shops being closed down altogether. Although the Home Office has said it is 'encouraged' that so many retailers had been 'denied the change to profit from this reckless trade', the charity DrugWise said the ban had driven the market underground¹⁹.



¹⁸ Novel Psychoactive Substances East Sussex, Author: Claire Rivers, SEST

¹⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37185996>

We also need to be mindful of findings from other countries who have implemented the same legislation, as these are not encouraging. The Irish 2010 blanket ban closed down most of the 'head shops', but the market simply moved to the street and online. NPS use in Ireland has increased from 16% in 2011 to 22% in 2014, with use amongst young people (16 to 24) the highest in the EU²⁰.

Recommendation

- The impact of this legislation is unknown. It is therefore recommended to monitor this change locally and reflect on the impact, if any, in the next Strategic Assessment of Community Safety.

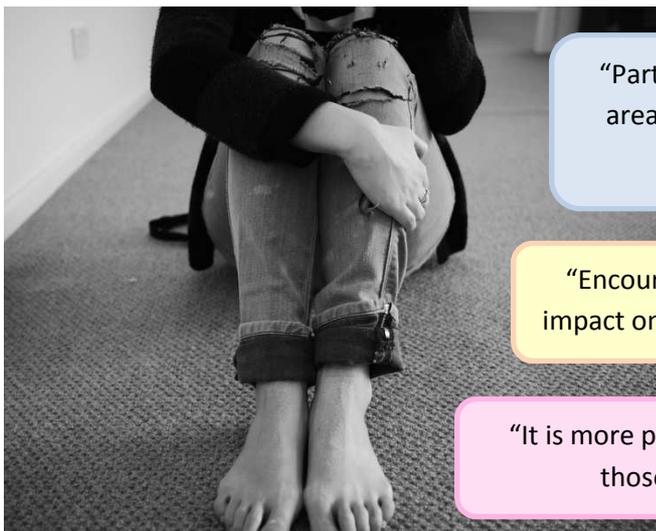
²⁰ <http://www.tdpf.org.uk/blog/5-reasons-why-new-%E2%80%98psychoactive-substances-bill%E2%80%99-should-be-scraped-and-1-reason-commend-it>

Serious organised crime: young people and county lines

In the summer of 2015 the Gang and Youth Violence team within the Home Office published a report that 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 within county lines. A 'county line' describes a situation where an individual, or more frequently a group, establishes and operates a telephone number in an area outside of their normal locality in order to sell drugs directly to users at street level. This generally involves a group from an urban area expanding their operations by crossing one or more police force boundaries to more rural areas, setting up a secure base and using runners to conduct day-to-day dealing. A 'county lines' enterprise almost always involves exploitation of vulnerable persons; this can involve both children and adults who require safeguarding²¹.

An individual's upbringing can have a profound impact on their identity, which in turn can increase the risk of the individual being drawn into serious and organised crime. Children and young people who are Looked After, or have additional learning needs or disabilities, or may be known to Social Care or the Youth Offending Team are often at particular risk.

Although this was the main concern highlighted at the engagement event, it is clear that much like cyber bullying and online safety, this forms part of the wider issue of exploitation, with links to grooming, child sexual exploitation and even cuckooing.



"Particular targets are looked after children from out of area placed in East Sussex. There are specific concerns about young people from London Boroughs."

"Encourages criminal behaviour, which will have an impact on both the young person and the community."

"It is more prevalent in urban areas, especially those that are more deprived."

Data and intelligence in relation to this area is limited and often restricted, and although we do not currently have a specific strategy in place, the Strategic Assessment of Community Safety 2015 identified vulnerable young people being exploited and victimised in connection with substance misuse and drug trafficking offences. The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership agreed that this should be adopted as a work stream for 2016/17. With this in mind, we are currently working with partners to identify usable data sources to identify young people in or at risk of being involved in serious organised crime in East Sussex.

As well as using this information to work with agencies to develop targeted interventions and preventative activities in key areas of the county, our intention is to also produce a risk matrix that assists in identifying those characteristics that indicate involvement in organised crime.

²¹ NCA Intelligence Assessment: County Lines, Gangs and Safeguarding:
<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/620-NCA-Intelligence-Assessment-County-Lines-Gangs-and-Safeguarding/file>

The Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) operational and strategic groups are now well established in East Sussex. Accountability for the agenda is to the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board with membership and reporting links to the Youth Offending Team Chief Executive Group and the Safer Communities Board. The East and West operational groups provide the multi-agency oversight of risks and safety planning for individual children and groups of children, identified as being vulnerable or involved in child sexual exploitation (CSE) within East Sussex.



Using a one month snapshot of all the MACSE high risk cases, a piece of work was recently undertaken that looked at the correlation between CSE, safeguarding referral and substance misuse treatment. Findings identified a clearly shared client group and an adult exploitation connection. The outcome of this report has resulted in the decision to broaden the strategic and operational agenda of the MACSE groups to also address the wider threat of exploitation to include drugs and the ‘county lines’ threat as it is reported.

Sussex Police have also produced a Serious Organised Crime Local Profile which will be disseminated to partners. To ensure a joined up approach, one of the areas within the profile will be vulnerable young people being exploited and victimised in connection with substance abuse, and the work that is being carried out locally in relation to this will be included within the document. The aim of the profile is to inform local and national partnership of the profile of the serious and organised crime threat within each local area. It also looks to support increased working between police, local authorities and other agencies, to ensure that the full range of powers and all available information is used against the threat of serious organised crime.

Children’s Services have also been working with YMCA Central and the Licensing leads from district and borough councils to develop a communications campaign and awareness raising event regarding child exploitation. This is specifically targeted at licensed premises, taxi drivers, off licences and hoteliers. Four half-day training sessions will be delivered to this audience with follow-up support. The primary focus of the event will be child sexual exploitation and associated safeguarding messages regarding the identification and appropriate response to potential victims of exploitation.



Recommendations

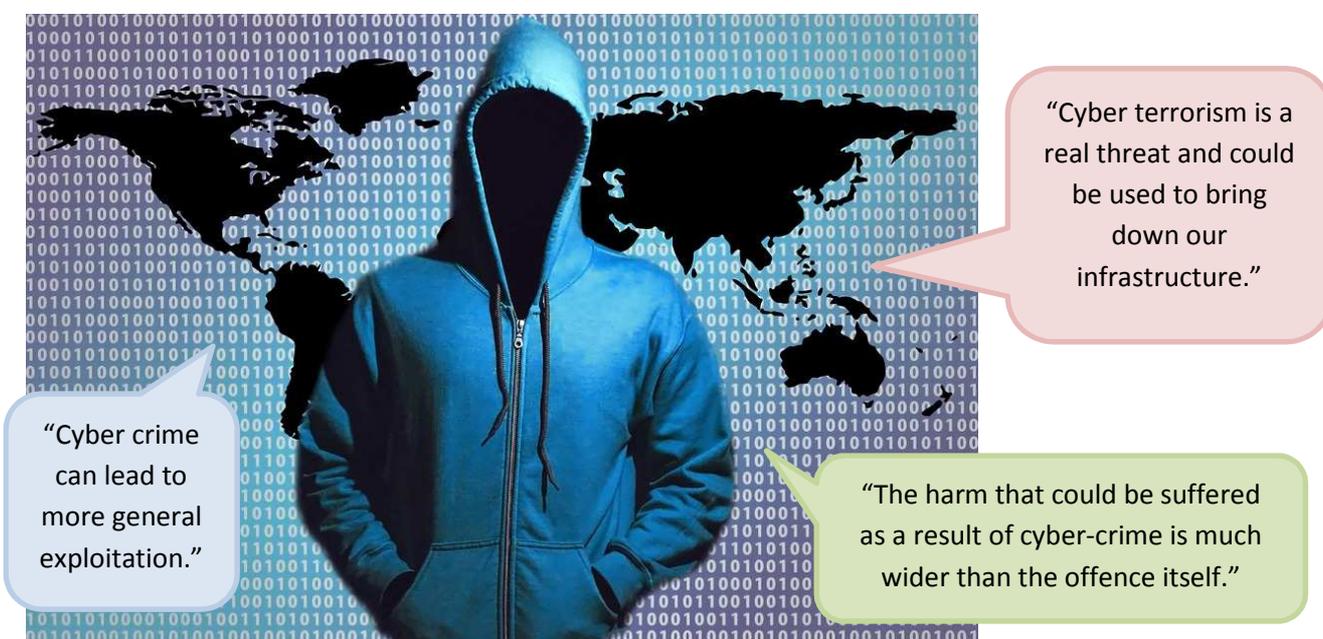
- Continue to work with partners to gain a better understanding of this area of work.
- Investigate further opportunities for partners to engage in preventative work in relation to organised crime, particularly where young people might be vulnerable to being drawn into organised theft or supporting the trafficking and supply of controlled drugs.
- Explore the potential for collaborative working with Children’s Services in relation to targeted communication work.

Community

Serious organised crime: cyber-crime

Crime as we know it is changing. As we've embraced technology and moved online, it has too, and people are now more likely to be a victim of an online crime than a traditional crime. Recent early estimates published by the Office of National Statistics suggest there could be as many as 5.1 million fraud offences per year in this country, and 2.5 million cyber-crimes. Profit is an increasingly important driver of crime, particularly as intelligence suggests cyber criminals are marketing their services to organised crime groups²².

At the engagement event, concerns were raised around individuals who had been victims of cyber-crime and the impact that this could have on their lives, especially if they are already vulnerable. It was felt that the repercussions of such a crime are far reaching and could lead to social isolation and the potential to be exploited further.



“Cyber crime can lead to more general exploitation.”

“Cyber terrorism is a real threat and could be used to bring down our infrastructure.”

“The harm that could be suffered as a result of cyber-crime is much wider than the offence itself.”

A South East Cyber Crime Survey²³ was recently run by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, which was open to all individuals aged 18 and over in the Surrey, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent and Thames Valley areas. It covered information around internet usage, experiences of cyber-crime, protective and preventative strategies, and demographic information. In two months over 11,000 responses were received and results from the survey showed that:

- 83% of people believe that online crimes are of equal seriousness to physical crimes.
- 84% of people who responded had experienced some form of attempted cyber-crime in the last 12 months.
- Only 31% of people report cyber-crime to the authorities, such as the police, Action Fraud and Trading Standards.

²² Modern Crime Prevention Strategy:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509831/6.1770_Modern_Crime_Prevention_Strategy_final_WEB_version.pdf

²³ <https://www.cybersafesurrey.org/surveyresults/>

The office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is now working with Surrey Police and the Office of the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner to look at crime prevention planning in this area. Initial work has resulted in the group identifying two pilot locations for this work to take place in Chichester in Sussex and Elmbridge in Surrey. Although the planned pilots are still very new, once they are successfully established, the intention is to extend this work to the rest of Sussex and Surrey.



The Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) was established in November 2014 to improve the effectiveness of response to cyber-crime across Sussex and Surrey police force areas. Amongst other things, CCU share best practice, skills and technical advice with other investigative units and hold regular training to front line officers across both forces. They also spread prevention advice by building relationships with local businesses and holding presentations to peer groups.



Sussex Police have also launched the 'Protect your Privates' campaign²⁴ to raise awareness of cyber-crime and to help potential victims protect their private information and stay safe online. This campaign and most other police and PCC initiatives around cyber-crime are targeted at vulnerable individuals.

Recommendation

- Work with partners to develop our local knowledge and intelligence around vulnerable adults as victims of cyber-enabled fraud and scams.

²⁴ Protect Your Privates Campaign: <http://protectyourprivates.co.uk/>

Further research

Modern slavery: Do we understand the risk?

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 came into force on 31 July 2015. This is intended to give this crime type a far higher profile and includes new statutory duties.



HM Government Modern Slavery Strategy estimates the current number of potential victims of trafficking in the UK to be between 10,000 and 13,000. This includes both victims trafficked into the UK, as well as British adults and children. However, Sussex Police have reported that use of trafficking legislation has remained low within Sussex over the last year and relates only to trafficking of individuals (both within and out of the UK) for sexual exploitation.

Modern Slavery has remained on the Sussex Police Control Strategy to ensure a focus on improving both understanding and the multi-agency response to the issue, as has been achieved with other high risk issues such as child sexual exploitation. Locally, the East Sussex divisional priorities are broader and include preventing crime and catching criminals, being there when people need us most, living and working by the Code of Ethics, and protecting vulnerable people. The latter priority includes those at risk of modern slavery and a number of other threats highlighted within this document.

East Sussex Adult Social Care and Children's Services have commissioned two hour workshops focusing on modern slavery and human trafficking. The first of these was held in October, and two more have been agreed for January 2017. These workshops will be open to all Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) member agencies.

Police officer awareness of modern slavery is also growing with training events and seminars across divisions being well attended. Officers are likely to be the first to respond to victims of trafficking so this training is important. However, as highlighted above, it is important for other partnership agencies who deal with vulnerable individuals to also know what signs to look out for and what actions to take upon discovering potential victims. However, it is acknowledged that available data and information in relation to this area of work is a considerable weakness, both locally and nationally. Although there aren't many figures to draw upon, it is likely that a range of modern slavery is occurring across East Sussex, especially considering the port access.

It has therefore been recommended that there is further analytical scoping within Sussex Police to assess the extent of the issue in the force. A Modern Slavery Strategic Assessment for the police force has been commissioned and is likely to be completed by the end of 2016.

We will also be building on the existing Pan-Sussex arrangements and working with the Safeguarding Adults Board to develop an action plan. There will be an initial Pan-Sussex meeting in December where we will discuss the areas of work and actions. Following this we plan to hold a Pan-Sussex event in the New Year for all interest agencies. The action plan will look at the following:

- Public communications and information, including general awareness raising including targeted groups such as taxi drivers and hoteliers.
- Policy and practice including referral pathways. One of our aims will be to incorporate any updated policy and practice information for modern slavery within the updated Sussex Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Staff training.
- Local response arrangement for survivors, for example reception centres.

Existing work packages that will continue

In addition to the priorities that will be adopted by the partnership, the following work streams have been identified through other partnership processes as requiring further work for the countywide partnership.

Prevent

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced a number of new duties for local authorities and the Safer East Sussex Team has taken the lead in implementing these duties and ensuring compliance with the legislation on behalf of East Sussex County Council. The East Sussex Prevent Board assesses the county-wide risk of people being drawn into terrorism and coordinates Prevent partnership activity according to section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Over the past few years Prevent referrals have been received and managed by Sussex Police. Since 3 May 2016 all referrals for young people come through normal safeguarding routes such as the newly established



Single Point of Advice. This will now be the main point for all referrals involving children and young people in East Sussex irrespective of what type of safeguarding concern there is.

From next year local authorities will adopt the lead position in the assessment and support of vulnerable persons, with the support of the function and with the assistance of Police Prevent Officers. Taking place prior to this transfer of functions seven pilot areas (including Kent and Brighton & Hove) will pilot the assessment of all Prevent referrals over the next 12 months and inform practice for other local authorities.

Think Protect Connect, a digital resilience programme, is to be integrated into the PSHE East Sussex Programme of Study and be rolled out to primary schools. This toolkit aims to provide schools and other youth settings with a range of innovative resources to safeguard children and young people from online radicalisation and extremism.

The Safer East Sussex Team continue to deliver the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) workshops to raise awareness of Prevent work alongside school-based training for safeguarding leads, school staff and governors. So far a number of schools have received full staff training with others receiving full governor training. Emphasis has been on ensuring the designated safeguarding lead for the school has received Prevent training and this has often been delivered through the Education Improvement Partnership Networks which safeguarding leads attend regularly.

Hate crime

A Hate Crime Action Plan has been developed by Sussex Police in line with *Action Against Hate*, which is the UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime (July 2016). According to the Independent Crime Survey for England and Wales, the difference between police figures and the crime survey show that hate crimes continue to be significantly under reported. We will therefore be contributing to the Sussex Hate Crime Action Plan by:

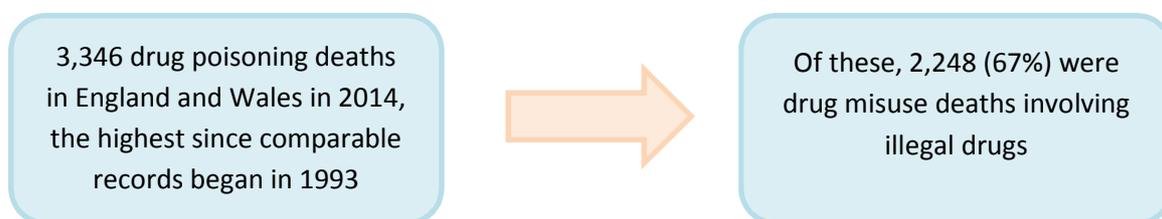
- Increasing the reporting of hate crime, through improving the reporting process, encouraging the use of third party reporting and working with groups who may under report.
- Preventing hate crime by challenging the beliefs and attitudes that can lie behind such crimes.
- Responding to hate crime in our communities with the aim of reducing the number of hate crime incidents.

- Improving support for the victims of hate crime.
- Building our understanding of hate crime through improved data, including the disaggregation of hate crimes records by religion.

Underpinning the plan are two key themes; working in partnership with communities and joining up work across the hate crime strands to ensure that best practice in tackling hate crime is understood and drawn upon in all our work.

Drug related deaths

Each year we undertake two confidential inquiries into those drug-related deaths that have occurred within East Sussex during the year. We will include a brief 'reflection' on each death to consider whether there are any opportunities for earlier intervention and whether there are lessons to be learnt that would enable the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to focus resources on areas of work that could reduce the frequency and underlying causes of drug-related deaths within the county. We present findings to the Resources and Performance Group and work with partners to discuss and implement any findings or recommendations as appropriate.



Drug and Alcohol Strategy

A drug and alcohol strategy has been commissioned and is due to be completed at the end of 2016. We have been consulting with clients, families, community groups and professionals. From this, the need to work with service users and families to ensure their voices are valued in the same way as clinical research to inform evidence-based commissioning has been shown.

The strategy will focus on the priorities identified through consultation which were:

- dual diagnosis
- protected characteristics
- housing, and
- education, training and employment.

It will also link with the principles of East Sussex Better Together and will inform our commissioning intentions for the next five years. There will be a refresh of the work in light of innovation projects and data analysis.

Offending

The Home Office estimates that nationally 0.5% of offenders commit 10% of offences. In addition 10% of offenders commit 50% of offences. A significant proportion of crime is committed by a relatively small group of persistent or prolific offenders who cause harm and distress to individuals and to our communities. However, it should be noted that this group of people are also vulnerable and need support from partners, especially in terms of employment, training and education.

An offending plan is being drawn up, which will sit alongside the new Offending Operational Group. The plan will concentrate on five key areas:

1. Women Offenders.
2. Employment , training and education.
3. Improving processes.
4. Serious organised crime.
5. Accommodation.

It has been identified that women offenders have different pathways into offending and require a different approach to help them stop. Specialist support has proved effective in diverting women away from the criminal justice system at point of arrest and into services which address contributing vulnerabilities. The offending plan will look at the number of women offenders brought into custody and being managed within East Sussex. The plan will also look at what specialist support services are available to this cohort.



Employment, Training and Education (ETE) are essential pathways to reducing offending. Lack of current work experience, qualifications, poorly paid work and employer prejudice contributes to high unemployment rates amongst former offenders. Specialist services are needed in order to gain experience and qualifications. The offending plan will look at those offenders in East Sussex with an ETE need and the services available within the county.

There are already a number of operational groups within East Sussex where offenders are being discussed for instance, IOM, Street Communities, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC), Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) among others. It will be beneficial to have more of an understanding around these groups. The plan will look at the process around how individuals are being discussed and identify any duplication or gaps in services.



For Serious Organised Crime (SOC), we will be linking in with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Children's Services to highlight those Young People who are most at risk of being drawn into SOC. We will be looking at how specialist knowledge and training around Serious Organised Crime Groups can be incorporated into existing models.

Lack of accommodation remains a major driver of re-offending, and this remains the most challenging area for agencies working with this group. Due to the nature of their offences and their chaotic lifestyles, these individuals are rarely able to access social housing options, and the private rental market is highly competitive and mostly financially unattainable through Housing Benefit. Although partners are working together to address these issues and explore viable solutions, to date, success has been limited.

The local Integrated Offender Management programme has strong links with Homeworks, who are also commissioned and funded by Supporting People, and who work with offenders to prevent homelessness. However, with limited services available and a lack of appropriate housing stock in the county, could lead to an increase in the numbers of vulnerable individuals with no fixed address, making them even more vulnerable and open to exploitation. The offending plan will therefore look at further areas for consideration such as Housing First Developments and the Homeless Prevention Fund Bid.

Domestic Violence & Abuse, and Stalking and Rape & Sexual Violence and Abuse

Domestic Violence & Abuse, and Stalking and Rape & Sexual Violence, and Abuse are existing work packages that will continue to be progressed. The overarching aim is that local residents and communities are free from these forms of violence and abuse by delivering the following outcomes:

1. Increased social intolerance and reduced acceptance.
2. People have safe, equal and abuse free relationships.
3. Increased survivor safety and wellbeing.
4. Perpetrators are held to account and are required to change their behaviour.

The local action plans are overseen by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Management Oversight Group, which includes representation from statutory and voluntary partners as well as the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board. There are also a number already of other multi-agency forums, including the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and pan Sussex Management Groups. Districts and borough councils also continue to prioritise issues around violence and abuse and have their own local forums and groups.

Since September 2015 the Safer East Sussex Team has been working with the Partnership Community Safety Team in Brighton & Hove to deliver a joint unit for this area of work. The aim of the unit is to enable the two authorities to more effectively coordinate activity, therefore maximising impact and achieving the best use of resources.

During the year priorities include:

- Piloting the Women's Aid 'Ask Me' safe enquiry scheme which aims to increase public awareness and promote opportunities for disclosures, with support through a simple and clear referral route.
- Continue to work with specialist services to deliver 'The Portal', which is a partnership of leading Sussex Domestic and Sexual Abuse Charities – including RISE, Survivors' Network and CGL – and provides a single point of access and helps victims / survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse to find advice and support in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Freephone 0300 323 9985 or www.theportal.org.uk
- Working with partners to ensure that there are consistent care pathways delivered by a skilled workforce so that there is 'no wrong door' and 'no missed chance'.
- Supporting multi-agency responses, including the continued delivery of the MARAC and working to better manage complex and repeat cases and ensure effective links to Children Services and Adult Social Care.
- Supporting districts and borough councils as requested.



Analytical work relating to these forms of violence and abuse will also be explored, including:

- Performance reports for the MARAC.
- Supporting the development of a robust and useful local data set. It is important to note that data protection should not prevent effective information sharing.
- Reviewing the local strategy in light of changing guidance, policy and practice, as well as reporting trends.