

***AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET***

<b>Report Title:</b>	Community Safety Annual Report
<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11 September 2023
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	David Burrows
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The report provides a summary of work in relation to Crime and Disorder, as delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>The report considers performance during the previous year, priorities for the forthcoming year and highlights several projects delivered through the Community Safety Partnership.</p>
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	None.
<b>Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:</b>	None.
<b>Environmental Implications:</b>	None.
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	The committee is scrutinising the work of the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in accordance with S19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	No specific implications. Partnership priorities include hate crime.

**Scrutiny Committee - 11 September 2023**

**Community Safety Annual Report**

**Public Report of the Chief Officer - Regulation and Safety**

**Summary**

The report provides a summary of work in relation to Crime and Disorder, as delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership.

The report considers performance during the previous year, priorities for the forthcoming year and highlights several projects delivered through the Community Safety Partnership.

**1. Introduction**

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act requires 'responsible authorities' to work together to reduce crime and disorder at a local level. In England, the responsible authorities are the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health and probation services. The responsible authorities must work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

The Scrutiny Committees have a statutory responsibility (at least once a year) to review the decisions and actions of the responsible authorities within the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in relation to their crime and disorder functions.

**2. The Rugby Community Safety Partnership**

The Rugby Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is well established with a good track record of understanding levels of risk within the Borough, producing action plans to deal with local community safety concerns and working across partners to maximise resources.

The community safety function currently sits within the Environmental Health and Community Safety Team. The team is managed by Henry Biddington. The Council's Community Wardens, who have a very good reputation with elected members for providing front line proactive and reactive services including out of hours and at weekends, is part of this team. There was a long-term sickness absence of the Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator and the person in this post left Rugby Borough Council in August 2022. It was decided that to ensure consistency and prevent duplication of work this post would temporarily be amalgamated into a new post. Claire Baldwin (Principal Community Warden) took

the temporary position of Community Safety Team Leader in January 2023. Helen Highfield took the temporary position of Senior Community Warden to take on some of Claire's previous duties. Following a trial of this new structure it was agreed by Council in June and subsequently Claire Baldwin is now the Community Safety Team Leader and Helen Highfield the Senior Community Warden. Following an amendment by Council a further Community Warden position has been added and this is currently out for recruitment.

Following a request from the Chair of the Rugby Community Safety Partnership Cllr Derek Poole, in 2021 a review of the role of the Board was carried out by the Warwickshire County Council Community Safety Team, which aims to support the Board to be more inclusive, improve strategic planning and link more closely to officer groups, including monitoring performance. Due to pandemic recovery and other resource issues a second review was carried out by Chris Williams at CJW consultants in December 2022.

A number of recommendations came out of this report and an action plan to implement the recommendations was agreed at Rugby Community Safety Partnership Board meeting on 21 March 2023. A copy of this Community Safety Partnership Board paper can be found at Appendix 1.

Overall, by implementing the actions the Community Safety Partnership will

- Have better governance structure
- Develop strategic aims and set local and relevant priorities
- Be more effective and cohesive in partnership working
- Have sufficient resources
- Meet all statutory functions
- Manage and scrutinise performance.

The Rugby CSP recognises that some of the statutory functions are better lead at a county wide level through the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and continue to be a part of the Board and also engage in the Countywide Community Safety Officers Group, the Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group, the Warwickshire Prevent Steering Group, the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership, the Warwickshire Reducing Reoffending Strategy, Domestic Abuse Emerging Trends group and the Violence Against Women and Girls group. It is recognised as part of the review and action plan that the Rugby CSP needs information on how these duties are discharged and how the Rugby CSP contributes, and that this needs to be fed back to the Rugby CSP Board for scrutiny. This will be achieved through attendance by WCC at the newly reformed Priority Action Group who will develop action plans around each priority and report back to the CSP Board.

As part of the Actions the Environmental Health and Community Safety Manager has met with key partners to discuss attendance on the Board, participation, and contribution to the CSP and development of the new Terms of Reference and strategy. A draft Terms of Reference (Appendix 2) was presented to the Rugby CSP Board meeting on 20 June 2023, which was agreed in principle with some amendments. The final version will be agreed at the next Board meeting. Additionally, there was a report on the Action Plan (Appendix 3), what has been achieved and next steps.

More locally the Problem-Solving Panel Meeting (PSPM) identifies local issues around the CSP priority areas using Problem Solving methods and plans, to develop actions to address these issues and review the actions on their effectiveness. The PSP received training on the SARA model of problem solving and has been focused on tackling specific issues effecting communities. These local Problem-Solving Plans will feed into the newly reformed Priority Action Group and relate to the CSP priorities which will further feed back to the Rugby CSP Board for scrutiny.

The CSP has also been carrying out Environmental Visual Assessments (EVA) of areas that have presented specific issues within Communities. The aim of EVA is to identify actions that can be taken to reduce crime and improve safety relating to the specific issues the Communities are facing and further specify who will be leading on actions with emphasis being on the Community, to drive the actions with the help of partner agencies.

In addition to local (Rugby based) partners, the CSP continues to forge strong links with countywide partners including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, and numerous Third Sector Organisations.

The CSP was also required to call a Community Impact Operational Group (CIOG) in relation to an attempted murder that took place involving a suspected drug dealer. The CIOG looked at the impact on the community near to where the incident took place and related premises. In addition, it looked widely at some of the young people that had been drawn into violence by the victim and associates and considered how to protect them. This resulted in an increase in Police patrols, reassurance communications from RBC and the Police, work in schools from WCC and work with the young people from Social Services and Youth Justice teams. A closure order was also obtained by the Police working with the RBC Housing team for a premises related to the incident, and ongoing criminality and ASB, which had a big impact on the local community.

We continue to work with Warwickshire Police and partners on preventing terrorism. Work has also started on preparing for a new duty regarding anti-terrorism protection of buildings and spaces with public access.

### **3. 2021/22 Strategic Assessment**

#### **3.1 Overview**

Strategic Assessments are assessments of crime and disorder, which allow Community Safety Partnerships to respond more effectively to the community, plan activity, allocate resources and deliver activities that focus on priorities and achieve results.

The Rugby CSP Strategic Assessment 2021/22 was produced by the Warwickshire County Council Insight Service and was commissioned with the intention of providing Rugby with:

- A review of 2020/21 priorities
- Analysis of crime and disorder to inform future priority settings
- The identification of any areas of concern
- Recommendations for the suggested 2021/25 priorities.

This was used at the CSP Board meeting in February 2021 to set six priorities and three cross cutting themes: instead of the usual one-year plan. The priorities were set for four years to allow longer term action rather than short term gains.

The priorities are:

- Young people linked to knife related violent crime
- Personal robbery
- Retail business crime
- Domestic abuse
- Exploitation of young people
- Hate crime

The cross-cutting themes are:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Reducing re-offending
- Cyber crime

### **3.2 2022/23 Performance Summary**

The Rugby CSP Crime and Disorder Data table for 2022/23 is shown in Appendix 4.

The table shows crime and disorder data relating to CSP priorities in Rugby for 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022, and compares it to the previous 12 months. It also compares the data to county data.

Care must be taken with this data and the comparison data from 2021 as both were affected by COVID-19 restrictions which changed the patterns of crime. 2022 was the first year since the pandemic that there were no restrictions in place.

The Commentary in Appendix 4 provides a summary of the data.

Knife crime is still an issue but knife related violence continues to predominately occur in the home. There have been increases of note in the borough during 2022 in relation to more serious violence, including S18 wounding offences and violence involving a knife. This is, however, a countywide trend, and volumes of offences in the borough are either level with, or below, pre-pandemic volumes.

Personal Robbery has seen a reduction by 32.5% in Rugby compared with a county average increase of 12.7%. Rugby saw the 6th biggest decline in robbery offences in the UK over the last three years which is testament to a number of Police and partnership operations targeting gang activity and gang related child exploitation.

Retail Business Crime has seen an increase in line with the County Council and returning to pre-pandemic levels. Particular increases were noted in fuel thefts and make off without payments (taking fuel from forecourts without paying). The PSPM has run two problem solving plans around shoplifting in specific locations and make off without payments at another hotspot location. Both of these plans have seen partners working with business to make improvements, streamline reporting and ultimately there has been a marked reduction in make off without payment over the first two quarters of 2023.

There has been a reduction in domestic abuse and related violence, and it seems to have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Warwickshire County Council provide a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) to support victims of domestic abuse which is funded by the County Council and Warwickshire districts and borough councils and Warwickshire Police. This service has recently been expanded supported by Rugby. This continuing trend over Q1 and Q2 of lower levels and referrals compared to the rest of the county has led to the development of a working group of partners between the Police, RBC, WCC and Refuge. Meeting actions to improve reporting has further been developed. This includes targeted communications and developing working relationships between front line staff and Refuge.

Hate crime in the borough remains at levels higher than those recorded prior to the pandemic. Rugby CSP is a member of the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership that looks at trends and identifies actions across Warwickshire to tackle hate crime. Rugby CSP partners attended the Safer Warwickshire Big Conversation event which brings partners together to discuss and provide actions towards tackling discrimination.

Exploitation of young people has seen a rise of child exploitation Cases. This rise may be explained as throughout 2022 there were specific operations to tackle these issues. Following these operations, a new multi-agency Local Contextual Safe Guarding Group is being piloted in Rugby to ensure that young people are identified and protected from exploitation.

## **4. Projects Showcase**

The following projects demonstrate some of the additional work which has been commissioned by the Rugby CSP over the past 12 months. The projects described are funded from CSP budgets, derived from either RBC or Police core budgets or Police and Crime Commissioner grant funding.

### **4.1 Futures Unlocked**

Rugby Community Safety Partnership has continued to provide financial support for Futures Unlocked for their work with ex-offenders.

Futures Unlocked is a charity whose purpose over the last 18 years has been to train and enable volunteer mentors to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to

ex-prisoners returning to the community. For the last seven years the charity has been based in Rugby and delivers mentoring support to the whole of Warwickshire.

There are currently upwards of 40 volunteer mentors who have been trained by the charity to provide mentoring support across a range of pathways identified by research and adopted by HM Prisons and Probation Service as providing the most sustainable desistance from crime.

The management of a case involves an in depth assessment by a Community Chaplain staff member, a match meeting between client, mentor and chaplain and, only when all are content to proceed, regular meetings occur between mentor and client with six weekly review meetings between all three. At review the parties triangulate scorings to establish distance travelled on the pathways. These scorings are further rendered into a RAG (red, amber, green) rating.

## **4.2 Youth Intervention**

Within the CSP we have been working with various agencies to develop a Youth Intervention Strategy. Although ASB continues to be reported in much lower volumes around the county in Rugby there has been an emergence of groups of young people causing issues in the town centre and at youth groups. These groups have involved young females which is a new emerging trend. The youth intervention strategy works to identify young people and provide a staged intervention approach to prevent behaviour from leading to criminality.

We work hard to bring together the agencies who can make a difference to the behaviour of young people at the Youth Intervention meetings. Partners who are engaged include several of Rugby's schools, housing providers, youth workers, Warwickshire Youth Justice Service, Rugby First, Warwickshire Police, WCC Early Help and Support and social workers. Youth intervention meetings are used to discuss interventions, and to offer commitment and support to the young people/parents who are struggling with issues relating to ASB.

The Youth Intervention meeting refers young people to numerous agencies for specialist support, including referrals to Compass, for young people who have drug issues; referrals to 'Ontrack' (part of RBC sports and recreation) for one-to-one support where individuals are otherwise disengaged; and referrals to Warwickshire Youth Justice Service for young people who are moving beyond ASB and into criminality, exploitation, and county lines. Other interventions include visits to parents, antisocial behaviour contracts and banning orders from youth groups to make young people or their parents responsible for their actions and provide support for young people to steer them away from adverse behaviour.

Working with all the agencies has made a difference in a variety of areas which were suffering from high levels of ASB. This has helped to make residents of those areas feel safer in their homes and provided visible evidence of agencies working together in the interest of community safety.

Dealing with ASB not only tackles the immediate issue but also prevents many people who could become involved in serious crime being supported to help them stop offending.

Rugby Borough Council has a team of community wardens – a reactive team who attend reports of ASB within Rugby, manage areas where youths are gathering and move individuals on where they are causing any nuisance. Wardens will identify those who are termed as ringleaders in ASB and link in with Warwickshire police to discuss any actions we can take together.

All partners work closely with Warwickshire police to combat ASB and nuisance behaviour to reduce ASB in our communities and support victims, young people and residents of Rugby.

The CSP has successfully applied for funding from the OPPC for additional diversionary activities for young people. These will include hair and beauty courses and art projects. We have identified that most current diversionary activities relate to sports and these are not suitable to all individual needs.

The Community Safety Team are now mapping incidents of ASB including graffiti and dumping of NOx canisters to help with intelligence around patrols and targeted youth support or drug and alcohol work. Following targeted intervention and joint operations there was a decrease in the number of ASB cases over Q1. Additional partnership interventions have continued over the summer holidays including additional youth outreach work from the Ontrack team commissioned using grant funding from the OPPC.

### **4.3 Violence Against Women and Girls**

Following a survey conducted by Rugby Borough Council in 2021 a working group was set up to address the issues of how safe women and girls felt in Rugby particularly in the Town Centre

The Rugby VAWG Campaign Launch 17<sup>th</sup> November coinciding with the Christmas light switch on.

#### **Campaign objectives**

- Women and girls feel safe to do or go where they want, when they want and how they want, on their own in Rugby.
- Men and boys challenge unwanted attention or harassment from others, change their own behaviour and become advocates for women and girls.
- Residents know that Rugby Borough Council is on their side. They understand the support that is available for women and girls who suffer harassment or unwanted attention.



Officers have attended pub watch, visited 25 Town Centre licensed venues and provided campaign posters, Ask for Angela information and anti-spiking devices. Letters were also sent to all licensed venues across Rugby promoting the Ask for Angela campaign.

Officers have developed web pages for campaign, Enough and Ask for Angela, which have been pushed out via social media

<https://www.rugby.gov.uk/enough>

[https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20054/community\\_safety/566/ask\\_for\\_angela](https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20054/community_safety/566/ask_for_angela)

Bus shelter advertising space has been used for campaign messaging and four banners were hung up in the town centre.

Officers held a campaign stand at Rugby Lights switch on where we spoke to over 100 members of the public and handed out leaflets, anti-spiking material and personal alarms.

All licensed venues have been sent information about Ask Angela.

Further campaign stands are to be held in Asda and work is being done with local schools around the Enough campaign as well as information going out to all staff at Rugby Borough Council.

#### **4.4 ASB Case Management and Conflict Resolution**

The ASB Case Management meeting looks at individual cases of persistent ASB with the view of protecting and supporting the victim and vulnerable residents.

The meeting is a partnership meeting involving housing providers, Victim Support, Rugby First, Warwickshire Police and WCC Early Help and Support and social workers.

The meeting discusses cases and identifies interventions that can be used to protect the victims and resolve conflicts.

We are developing a partnership with Mediation and Community Support (MACS) who are a charity that provide conflict resolution and mediation services to help resolve disputes, support victims, and provide partnership staff in conflict resolution.

Currently MACS have 7 cases referred to them. Not only does this resolve conflicts for individuals and reduces the risk of further ASB it also reduces time and resources of partnership agencies dealing with ongoing disputes.

Frontline staff from RBC and Warwickshire Police SNT have also received training from MACS on conflict resolution and referral processes.

#### **4.5 Safer Streets 4**

In April 2021 Rugby Borough Council (RBC) submitted a joint funding bid with Warwickshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office for funding from the Home Office for Safer Streets 4.

In September 2021 Rugby Borough Council was awarded £49,500 to complete environmental improvements to the area around St Andrew's Church and gardens to improve public safety

There are two main areas of where the grant fund money will be spent:

The first is around CCTV. There will be an additional CCTV camera installed at the entrance of St Andrews Gardens on Church Street. This will provide additional visibility of the graveyard and walk-way between Church Street and St Andrews Church. The grant fund includes an upgrade to two other cameras to provide better coverage.

The second area of spending will occur around lighting. All the lighting in the area will be upgraded to LED lighting and there will be an upgrade to columns to increase the areas that are lit up. There will be additional solar lighting installed into the pathways in St Andrews Gardens.

Works is underway to complete these improvements and is due to be completed by September 2023.

#### **4.7 Serious Violence Mentoring programme**

Through PPC funding the CSP helped to fund the Warwickshire County Council led Serious Violence Mentoring Programme.

The programme has two critical elements.





Firstly, to identify and train skilled mentors who can work with young people aged 14-25 who are at risk of becoming involved in serious violent lifestyles. Our approach is to create a Train the Trainer component, enabling us to sustain the programme beyond the funding cycle. This age range is flexible and will provide support for parents, guardians and support our local schools. For the context of this application, we defined serious violence as including involvement in county lines, weapon related violence that is a risk to them or a risk to others, gang/group related violence, violent conflict with others, perpetuated through social media.

Secondly the programme will identify and train local people who will become community mentors. Community mentors will be offered training and support and will be involved in voluntary mentoring under the supervision of our training provider and our skilled mentors. Importantly we will create a pathway for community mentors who wish to progress into fully skilled and trained mentoring. This will embed our mentoring offer so that it is sustainable but also a viable employment pathway.

**Name of Meeting:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Date of Meeting:** 11 September 2023  
**Subject Matter:** Community Safety Annual Report  
**Originating Department:** Regulation and Safety

**DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY**  **YES**  **NO**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink
1	 Implementation of CSP Review CSP Board Report
2	 Draft Terms of Reference for the CSP Board
3	 Updated Action Plan Report for the CSP Board
4	 Rugby CSP Crime and Disorder Data Table, January to December 2022