



Public Document Pack

Arun District Council
Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Tel: (01903 737500)
Fax: (01903) 730442
DX: 57406 Littlehampton
Minicom: 01903 732765

e-mail: committees@arun.gov.uk

Committee Manager - Jane Fulton (Ext 37611)

27 May 2022

HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Housing and Wellbeing Committee will be held in **The Council Chamber, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF** on **Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors Pendleton (Chair), Mrs Cooper (Vice-Chair), Daniells, Mrs English, Gregory, Haywood, Hughes, Madeley, Needs, Thurston and Yeates.

PLEASE NOTE: Where public meetings are being held at the Arun Civic Centre, to best manage safe space available, members of the public are encouraged to watch the meeting online via the Council's Committee pages.

1. Where a member of the public wishes to attend the meeting or has registered a request to take part in Public Question Time, they will be invited to submit the question in advance of the meeting to be read out by an Officer, but of course can attend the meeting in person.
2. It is *recommended* that all those attending take a lateral flow test prior to the meeting.
3. Those attending the meeting will *not* be required to wear a face covering however, are encouraged to bring one along to cover instances where a meeting may have higher public attendance. Masks will be made available at the meeting.
4. We request members of the public do not attend any face to face meeting if they have Covid-19 symptoms.

Any members of the public wishing to address the Committee meeting during Public Question Time, will need to email Committees@arun.gov.uk by 5.15 pm on **Monday, 30 May 2022** in line with current Committee Meeting Procedure Rules.

It will be at the Chief Executive's/Chair's discretion if any questions received after this deadline are considered.

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact Committees@arun.gov.uk.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are invited to make any declaration of pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda, and are reminded that they should re-declare their interest before consideration of the items or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

Members and Officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item they have the interest in
- b) whether it is a pecuniary/personal interest and/or prejudicial interest
- c) the nature of the interest

3. MINUTES

(Pages 1 - 12)

The Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Housing and Wellbeing Services Committee held on 17 March 2022.

4. ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To receive questions from the public (for a period of up to 15 minutes).

6. START TIMES

The Committee is asked to set its start times for meetings during 2022-23.

7. SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP

(Pages 13 - 36)

This report provides summary information which is intended to assist the Committee to undertake its statutory function of scrutinising the performance of the Safer Arun Partnership.

Chief Inspector Nick Bowman, District Commander for Arun & Chichester, will be in attendance to assist in responding to questions from Members.

8. SAFEGUARDING AT ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL (Pages 37 - 44)

Arun District Council is committed to protecting and safeguarding its community, especially Children, Young People and Adults at risk. This report sets out for scrutiny the resources for managing safeguarding and identifies the main categories of harm reported by officers.

OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

There are no items for this meeting.

9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 45 - 46)

The Committee's Work Programme for 2022-23 is attached for the Committee's information.

Note: If Members have any detailed questions, they are reminded that they need to inform the Chair and relevant Director in advance of the meeting.

Note: Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings – The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. This meeting may therefore be recorded, filmed or broadcast by video or audio, by third parties. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and as available via the following link - [PART 8 - CP - Section 5 Filming Photographic Protocol](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Subject to approval at the next Housing and Wellbeing Committee meeting

525

HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

17 March 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Pendleton (Chair), Gregory (Vice-Chair), Mrs Cooper, Mrs English, Goodheart (Substituting for Daniells), Hamilton, Hughes, Madeley, Thurston (Substituting for Catterson) and Yeates.

Councillor Gunner was also in attendance for part of the meeting.

747. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence had been received from Councillors Catterson, Daniells and Needs.

748. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

749. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 24 January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

750. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions submitted for the meeting.

751. ARUN INSPIRES PROGRAMME

Becky East from the Artswork charity provided members with a detailed presentation on the Arun Inspires Programme.

After the presentation members then took the opportunity to ask questions. There was overwhelming support and endorsement from members and recognition that the programme was extremely important in terms of the support it provided to children and young people of the district.

The Leader of the Council was also invited to make comment and he expressed his thanks for the hard work that the Artswork Charity and Becky had undertaken.

An amendment was then proposed by Becky and this amended recommendation was proposed by Councillor Hughes and seconded by Councillor Cooper.

This amendment is set out below:

Housing and Wellbeing Committee - 17.03.22

That the funding of **£15,000 for the Arun Inspires Programme (Phase 2) until March 2026 for 2022/23 and endorsements of future funding** subject to satisfactory reviews, in line with Arun District Council's Priorities and the availability of funding be approved.

On this amendment being put to the vote it was declared CARRIED.

The Chair then returned to the substantive recommendation and the Committee

RESOLVED

That the funding of £15,000 for the Arun Inspires Programme (Phase 2) for 2022/23 and endorsements of future funding subject to satisfactory reviews, in line with Arun District Council's Priorities and the availability of funding be approved.

752. CONTINUATION OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX HARDSHIP SCHEME FOR 2022/23

The Interim Financial Services Manager provided members with an overview of the report and drew members attention to section 2.16 where it outlined the discretionary payments of £150 to those homes in bands E-H that the council had been requested to implement to provide additional support.

Members then took part in a debate where a number of comments were made in support of the report, in particular the additional discretionary payments for homes in bands E-H. Some members queried how residents could ensure they received a support payment if they were eligible for one. The Interim Financial Services Manager advised that the council would make every effort to find all those residents who would benefit from these payments, but advised that the quickest way for residents to have this confirmed would be for them to make contact with the Council. Those who paid their Council Tax Bill by Direct Debit would have the payment transferred directly into the bank account their Direct Debit was paid from. Those who paid by others means would need to either make contact with the council or wait to hear from the council regarding their payment.

The recommendations were then proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

(1) That the urgent decision to continue the Hardship Fund for claimants of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for 2022/23, which constitutes an additional discretionary discount of up to £150 per household for working age claimants in the district be endorsed and supported; and

(2) Authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree the County Wide discretionary rebate scheme being negotiated for households not eligible for the mandatory scheme.

753. GRANT FUNDED HOMELESSNESS EXPENDITURE

The Housing Options Manager provided members with an overview of her report explaining that the committee was being requested to provide its approval for the expenditure detailed within the report.

Members then took part in a debate. This saw several members of the committee thanking the Housing Options Manager and her team for the work they had done particularly during the pandemic. It was commented that the grants were welcome as they helped to assist the council in preventing homelessness and rough sleeping. It was also highlighted that as a result of the Omicron variant, and its particularly high transmission, rate the council had to quickly offer everyone who was rough sleeping accommodation. All bar two of those approached took up the offer of accommodation during this time. There were also some questions asked regarding what the council would do should there be another increase in covid cases, where it was confirmed that the council would be led by the government in terms of restriction and directions in terms of managing a response to covid.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To approve the expenditure of the following grants:

- a) Homelessness prevention grant (2nd Tranche)
- b) Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Grant
- c) Covid Management Fund (COMF) d) Protect & Vaccinate Fund

754. HOUSING COMPENSATION POLICY

The Repairs and Maintenance Manager provided an overview of her report explaining that the policy set out the mandatory and the discretionary compensation detail. It was confirmed that the discretionary compensation claims would be where members would see the council being more involved and that each case would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Members took part in a debate where there was discussion surrounding what policy meant when it referred to 'right to buy' and what was the process the council would follow should an investigation find that the council was not at fault, but a contractor used by the council was, would the council then claim the costs back from the contractor.

A slight amendment to the recommendation was required to update the delegated authority being requested from the Group Head of Residential Services to the Interim Head of Housing.

The amended recommendation was then proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Goodheart.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

- (1) the adoption of the Compensation Policy be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Interim Head of Housing to make minor changes to the policy and any amendments necessary to reflect legislative changes.

755. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COUNCIL HOUSING

The Chair explained that it had been previously agreed with the Vice-Chair and Director of Services that this item would be withdrawn from tonight's meeting without discussion, to allow for the new Interim Head of Housing who started with the council last week to review before presenting to Committee.

756. LOCAL MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT - PROPOSAL FOR NIGHTINGALES SHELTERED SCHEME, FINDON

The Resident Engagement Officer provided an overview of her report explaining to members the difference between a Local Tenancy Agreement and a Tenant Management Organisation.

Before members took part in a debate, the Chair confirmed that a vote that took place with the residents directly involved, and the vote result was overwhelmingly supportive of this agreement. In turning to the debate, a number of questions were raised and answered. A summary of questions asked is below:

- How detailed would the training for Officers be? It was confirmed that the team of officers had already completed some bespoke training courses e.g. equality & diversity, Health & Safety as examples. Further training would be completed, and this would be in line with any other training undertaken by the council and or managing agents.
- If those residents who were involved in the management of this agreement decided to 'step back', could they do this easily? It was confirmed that yes, should anyone decide to take a 'step back' this would be managed carefully and closely to ensure that the arrangement continued to work for the residents.
- Would the council make other multiple living schemes aware of this option? It was confirmed that although this was the first agreement of its kind at Arun District Council, the Resident Engagement Officer saw no reason why the council would not share the success of this arrangement with others.

A slight amendment to Recommendation (2) was required to ensure that the delegated authority being requested was provided to the new Interim Head of Housing and not the Group Head of Residential Services. The recommendations as amended were then proposed by Councillor Madeley and seconded by Councillor Hughes.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

- (1) The proposal to enter into a Local Management Agreement with the Nightingales Tenants Association be approved, and;
- (2) Delegated authority be given to the Interim Head of Housing to sign and enter into a Local Management Agreement.

757. NEW HOUSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

The Interim Head of Housing explained to members that the report before them provided an update on the implementation of the new system Civica CX and on the changed financial projections for delivering the system.

Before members took part in a debate, the Chair stated that the need for the new system had been proven from the work undertaken so far, however she expressed concern regarding the escalating cost of the project. Other members were in agreement with the concern raised and the Interim Head of Housing advised the Committee that given the very limited time he had had available since joining the council, he did not yet have an understanding as to why the costs had escalated as they had. However, moving forward he would keep the project risks and dates under close review. The Director of Services was then invited to make comment where she explained that some of the issues the project had faced had been detailed in the report at section 1.5. The need for the new system was clear and that having had early discussion with the Interim Head of Housing she was confident that he would be looking at the project carefully moving forward.

In turning to the debate, members were in agreement that reviewing the project and its lessons learnt was needed so that future project costs would not escalate further. There was also discussion on the importance of data cleansing before transferring data into a new management system and that this was a huge task for the project team to complete. The Chair was in agreement that data cleansing was a huge part of the project, however she stated that the council should have been better at estimating the size of the tasks needed to complete the project and its costings in its earliest stages.

The recommendations were then proposed by Councillor Madeley and seconded by Councillor Gregory.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

- (1) the financial projections and virements undertaken for delivery of the project be agreed; and
- (2) the progress of the project to date and delivery risks be noted.

758. LEISURE OPERATING CONTRACT UPDATE

The Group Head of Community Wellbeing provided an overview of his report highlighting the following points to members during his introduction. He explained that the report focused on the financial matters for the current year and that the leisure contract provided a valuable income for the council. It was evident that Covid had had a significant impact, officers had met with Freedom Leisure's directors each month for the past 2 years to review income and expenditure and the overall performance of the contract. There had been a steady increase in visitor numbers for the current year and the financial performance was up to approximately 88% of where it was prior to the pandemic. He referred members to table 1 on page 158 of the agenda where the recovery was best illustrated. In summing up he explained in detail why the committee was being asked to recommend a virement from the Covid-19 contingency budget be approved by the Policy and Finance Committee.

Members then took part in a debate where they discussed the benefits of the council supporting its leisure facilities during the pandemic and the many benefits these facilities provided to the residents of the district. Members were encouraged by the figures that had been reported.

The recommendations were then proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Gregory.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

- (1) £289,127 of COVID-19 contingency budget be used to offset the anticipated income shortfall for 2021/22 from the Leisure Management contract, subject to approval by the Policy and Finance Committee;
- (2) The Council's contribution be subject to Freedom Leisure paying the remaining balance of £432,090 due for 2021/22 as per the contract;
- (3) From 2022/23, invoicing reverted to the arrangements in place before restrictions due to the pandemic were introduced.

The Committee also

RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

That it approves a virement of £289,127 from the COVID-19 contingency budget for 2021/22.

759. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT - PUBLIC HEALTH WELLBEING PROGRAMME

The Communities & Wellbeing Manager provided an overview of her report to members and drew members attention appendix A which detailed the council's wellbeing business plan for 2022-2027.

Members then took part in a debate where they asked a number of questions and received answers on the business plan. A summary of the points raised is below;

- Clarity on targeting workplaces
- What was the Falls Prevention Programme and how would someone be able to access this support
- Would the Committee be provided with a further report to review performance at a later date

Members were supportive of this programme, and it was stated that members should talk about it with residents of the district to ensure the programme was known to them.

The recommendations were then proposed by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

- (1) Agreement be given to enter into the Partnership Arrangement Agreement to deliver the Public Health Wellbeing Programme in Arun for the period April 2022 to March 2027 with West Sussex County Council;
- (2) The financial contribution of £414,024 from West Sussex County Council per annum for the duration of the five-year agreement to deliver the Arun Wellbeing Programme be noted; and
- (3) Agreement be given to allocate from the financial contribution of £30,000 grant funding per year to deliver a Falls Prevention programme with local partners Age UK and Freedom Leisure and £10,000 to freedom Leisure to deliver an activities programme per annum, subject to satisfactory performance and available funding.

760. COMMUNITY WARDENS

The Chair confirmed that this report had been brought to Committee due to previous discussions that had taken place at its last meeting held on 24 January 2022. The task today was for the Committee to ratify the report. The Chair then handed over to the Communities & Wellbeing Manager who provided members with a detailed overview referring to appendix A which was explained and was there to assist members with their decision making.

There was a short discussion regarding the funding for the Bognor Regis Project where it was confirmed by the Chair that the budget for the project had been confirmed.

The recommendations were then proposed by Councillor Madeley and seconded by Councillor Cooper.

The Committee

RESOLVED - That

1. The delivery model for the Littlehampton Community Warden project within the approved budget be approved.
2. Authorisation be given to the Group Head of Community Wellbeing to scope and agree the implementation of a Bognor Regis Community Warden project.

761. OUTSIDE BODIES UPDATE

The Chair asked if any members had any questions, they wished to ask regarding her feedback report from her attendance at the last meeting of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel held on 28 January 2022.

A request was made for the Chair to consider obtaining more detail on the SPACE project at the next meeting. It was agreed that before the Chair could confirm this, she would need more information and would discuss with the member outside of the meeting.

762. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/23

The Committee received its work programme. In considering it, the Chair queried why it did not contain an item regarding Flaxmean or sheltered housing accommodation. She strongly felt that this be included. It was confirmed by the Director of Services that development of the work programme was still progressing and that she was waiting for the opportunity to run through the work programme for 2022/23 with the new Interim Head of Housing and the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee. Despite

Housing and Wellbeing Committee - 17.03.22

this, it was estimated a report would be brought to the Committee for the June 2022 meeting.

It was clarified that item 10 of today's agenda [Development of new Council Housing] would be brought back to committee at some point. The Chair confirmed that further work with officers was required before a decision was made on this matter.

763. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The recommendation to move into exempt business was proposed by Councillor Hughes and seconded by Councillor Cooper.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That under Section 100a (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items.

764. COUNCIL TAX WRITE OFFS OVER £5,001

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That agreement be given to write off the outstanding council tax charges totalling £57,626.09 which were subject to insolvency action, which prevented the Council from pursuing the debtor for payment.

765. COUNCIL TAX INSOLVENCY WRITE OFFS OVER £5,001

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That agreement be given to write off the outstanding council tax charges totalling £11,278.39 which have been subject to recovery action as the Council have been unable to locate the debtor to pursue for payment.

766. BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS OVER £10,001

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That agreement be given to write off the outstanding Business Rates and BID charges totalling £30,604.20.

767. BUSINESS RATES INSOLVENCY WRITE OFFS OVER £10,001

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Thurston.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That agreement be given to write off the outstanding Business Rates and BID charges totalling £37,930.52 which are subject to insolvency action, which prevents the Council from pursuing the debtor for payment.

(The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm)

This page is intentionally left blank

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO HOUSING AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: Safer Arun Partnership

REPORT AUTHOR: Dax O'Connor, Community Safety Officer

DATE: 11 May 2022

EXTN: 37834

AREA: Community Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides summary information which is intended to assist the Committee to undertake its statutory function of scrutinising the performance of the Safer Arun Partnership.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There are no recommendations put forward with this report. It is an information paper which provides detail of the Safer Arun Partnership's activities, allowing the Committee to analyse performance.

In undertaking scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership, the Committee does have authority to make its own recommendations to the partnership in relation to any performance and reporting elements it deems appropriate.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. It is a legislative requirement that scrutiny of local community safety partnerships (CSP) is undertaken at least annually, and that the local authority carries out this function via its Crime and Disorder Committee. The council has designated the Housing and Wellbeing Committee to serve as the Crime and Disorder committee.
- 1.2. For clarification, the CSP of the Arun area is known locally as the Safer Arun Partnership (SAP).
- 1.3. Historically, the performance review has been presented to the Cabinet once a year. Following the change in governance at the Council, the last annual review was presented to the Housing and Residential Services Committee on 30 September 2021.
- 1.4. This annual review provided a long and data heavy report due to the need to include a full year's performance information. Publication was always some months after the end of the reporting year. Assessment of the information presented to in the report would not be up to date and reflective of the concerns from our communities at the time scrutiny was undertaken.

- 1.5. It has been determined that SAP should become a regular agenda item of this Committee. This will provide:
 - greater transparency in reporting on the activities of SAP.
 - timely examination of performance utilising the 'live' partnership plan.
 - a more accurate and relevant report for Committee Members.
 - an opportunity for the scrutiny Committee to hold SAP partners to account and to invite agencies to Committee meetings to discuss their own contributions.
 - increased public awareness of SAP and its aims.
 - Increased accountability of all SAP members for completion of actions and work streams.
- 1.6. In scrutinising performance, the Committee holds SAP and each of its Members to account, whilst providing an opportunity for local representatives to participate in reducing crime and disorder.
- 1.7. It is intended that scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership will provide open, objective, and constructive feedback that enhances the partnership and its objectives. Value to the joint work and responses that SAP offers to the public should be provided through this process.
- 1.8. The Committee should give consideration to the availability of resources within the partnership if making any recommendations. It should be noted that all member agencies are responsible for undertaking any additional work that the recommendations create.
- 1.9. **Appendix A** provides further guidance as to the scrutiny function in relation to community safety partnerships and reference to associated legislation.
- 1.10. **Performance**
- 1.11. **Appendix B** is a copy of the latest partnership plan. This has been updated following the most recent partnership meeting on 26 April 2022 and reflects the current status of all actions. This document provides all relevant information from which the committee can assess the partnership's strategic and operation actions.
- 1.12. Key performance highlights:
 - SAP has provided funding for a number of projects that seek to address community safety concerns. These include:
 - Provision of personal safety devices to offer increased security and reassurance for high risk victims of domestic abuse. This scheme is managed jointly by Sussex Police and the council's Lifeline team.
 - Match funding to allow Bognor Regis BID to install additional town centre CCTV.
 - Continued use of clinical space at Dove Lodge for Change Grow Live (drug and alcohol treatment services). This additional funding was granted on the basis of public health committing future funding within its own budgets.

- Contribution towards the Littlehampton community wardens pilot project. Both the district and town councils have since committed further funding to extend the scheme beyond the pilot period.
- Community engagement project to include tackling and reducing serious violence and exploitation amongst children and adults in Wick.
- SAP undertook a detailed review of its terms of reference, resulting in an updated and more appropriate working document which provides a clear code of governance.
- Agreement on the adoption of a 'live' partnership plan has recently been made. This provides a working document which highlights relevant action points and also holds lead agencies to account. SAP can become more robust through this approach, whilst holding partners to account for their own contributions.
- In light of national incidents, SAP recognised the importance of the safety of women and girls in the Arun area. The creation of the Arun and Chichester Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) group has brought together a range of organisations to reduce vulnerabilities. Led by the district council's community safety teams, local concerns are shared with SAP for strategic oversight and direction.
- SAP endorsed and adopted an innovative report looking at the demand for drugs in Bognor Regis. Understanding the demand is fundamental to being able to develop effective intervention and support strategies. This is being taken forward via an established working group consisting of a wide range of important organisations. The link to this detailed report is provided at section 8.
- The partnership has formulated its own community safety survey, due for publication by June 2022. By consulting with our residents, we hope to better understand the issues most pressing for them, and to be able to formulate plans which can improve public awareness of SAP and confidence in the members agencies.
- Reformation of the Arun Hate and Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC). This forum has successfully brought together statutory and non-statutory groups to address the most high risk ASB cases and reduce the threat to communities.
- Anti-social and dangerous driving has been identified by SAP as a rising concern. The relevant member organisations have been tasked with assessing the local risks and to instigate a plan of action.
- The Serious or Organised Crime strategic priority is undertaking a significant review. As such, SAP agreed to discharge the previous action points to allows for the Sussex Police led evaluation of serious or organised crime and where overall responsibility for this will sit.

<p>1.13. It should be noted that SAP is due to receive its annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment, produced by West Sussex County Council, in late June 2022. This report provides significant data from a range of sources that helps to inform partnership responses and the formulation of future strategic priorities. This will be discussed at length at the partnership meeting in July and the partnership plan will be updated to reflect the assessment's impact on SAP's priorities.</p>																													
<p>2. PROPOSAL(S):</p> <p>None</p>																													
<p>3. OPTIONS:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>This report is only intended to aid the Committee in carrying out its function of scrutinising the Safer Arun Partnership by providing information relating to the partnership's activity. Therefore, no options have been considered in compiling this report.</p>																													
<p>4. CONSULTATION:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Has consultation been undertaken with:</th> <th>YES</th> <th>NO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Relevant Town/Parish Council</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relevant District Ward Councillors</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other groups/persons (please specify)</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO	Relevant Town/Parish Council		x	Relevant District Ward Councillors		x	Other groups/persons (please specify)		x															
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO																											
Relevant Town/Parish Council		x																											
Relevant District Ward Councillors		x																											
Other groups/persons (please specify)		x																											
<p>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>YES</th> <th>NO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Financial</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainability</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asset Management/Property/Land</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technology</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (please explain)</td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				YES	NO	Financial		x	Legal		x	Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x	Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act	✓		Sustainability		x	Asset Management/Property/Land		x	Technology		x	Other (please explain)		x
	YES	NO																											
Financial		x																											
Legal		x																											
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x																											
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act	✓																												
Sustainability		x																											
Asset Management/Property/Land		x																											
Technology		x																											
Other (please explain)		x																											
<p>6. IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>Community safety – by undertaking scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership the council is in compliance with relevant legislation. Whilst scrutiny is required by be carried out at least once a year, doing so regularly via the Committee throughout the year means the council will be doing more than the bare minimum.</p>																													
<p>7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:</p> <p>As an information paper there is no decision required.</p>																													

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix A – scrutiny of community safety partnerships guidance

Appendix B – SAP partnership plan

[Understanding & Reducing Drug Demand: Bognor Regis Analysis 2021](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



GUIDANCE BETWEEN THE DESIGNATED SCRUTINY BOARD AND THE SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to clarify and provide common understanding of how the scrutiny of crime and disorder in Arun should be carried out. Legislative regulations¹ and good working practices have influenced this guidance, which interested parties may revise by mutual agreement in order to continually improve the scrutiny process. The aim is to allow all parties to ensure that scrutiny of the Arun district Community Safety Partnership remains a positive process.

The legislation requires local authorities to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee which is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the work of its local Community Safety Partnership, known in Arun as the Safer Arun Partnership. This provides a platform for holding the Safer Arun Partnership and its responsible authority members to account, whilst enhancing the role of local communities in reducing crime and disorder. In Arun, the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee has been designated the Crime and Disorder Committee for this purpose.

The responsible authorities required to participate in the Safer Arun Partnership include:-

- Sussex Police
- Arun District Council
- West Sussex County Council
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- National Health Service

2. Legislative provision

There are a number of key provisions set out within the regulations that guide the scrutiny of community safety partnerships. These are:-

- i) Every local authority is required to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee with the power to review and scrutinise, and make reports and recommendations, regarding the work of its local community safety partnership.
- ii) Crime and Disorder Committees must meet at least once a year.
- iii) Responsible authorities must provide such information as required by the Crime and Disorder Committee within the timescales identified in the request.
- iv) Crime and Disorder Committee can request the attendance of a representative of a responsible authority in order to answer questions in relation to the discharge of

¹ The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 (S.I.2009/942) and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/616).

its functions as part of the community safety partnership, on the provision of reasonable notice of the meeting date.

- v) Where any recommendations are made by the Crime and Disorder Committee, the identified responsible authorities must respond in writing within 28 days.
- vi) Crime and Disorder Committees can co-opt additional members to serve on the committee to add value and expertise to the committees work. Co-opted members can include any person except a member of the local authority's executive

3. The principles of community safety scrutiny

- a) The scrutiny of community safety partnerships is intended to be positive, objective, and constructive. It should acknowledge good practice and recommend improvements where it feels these would be of benefit. The scrutiny process should seek to add value to improve public services.
- b) When conducting scrutiny reviews, it should be acknowledged that the role of reducing crime and disorder is a shared responsibility of a number of statutory services and this collective response should be considered by the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee.
- c) Both officers and members of the organisations involved in the Community Safety Partnership should, at all times during the scrutiny process, be treated with respect and courtesy as should representatives of community groups and members of the public.
- d) Key partner agencies must be willing to share data and intelligence relating to the delivery of community safety strategies and services, and to undertake any duties that are reasonably expected of them to enable effective scrutiny to be carried out.
- e) Crime and disorder scrutiny will be open and transparent.



2021-2022 SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP PLAN



Introduction

The statutory Community Partnership (CSP) for the Arun district, known locally as the SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP (SAP), has considered its annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment for 2020-21. This assessment has been used to form the evidence basis for the revised strategic plan.

The Strategic Vision

“To work in partnership to proactively and reactively reduce the risk of harm and vulnerability associated with crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour for identified individuals, communities and neighbourhoods.”

The vision relies on committed partners who are willing to work together on shared issues of concern and, ultimately, for the benefit of all local communities in Arun. The following partners have a critical role in delivering the strategic priorities:-

- **Arun District Council:** Community Safety, Housing (homeless, social and private), Licensing, Parks, and Cleansing.
- **Sussex Police:** Prevention, Response, MISPER, Divisional Intelligence Unit, Community Investigations Team.
- **Fire & Rescue:** Helping to spot the signs of serious and organised crime and building stronger and resilient communities.
- **West Sussex County Council:** Child & Adult social care, Youth Offending Service, Education services, Public health.
- **Probation:** tackling and reducing re-offending, decreasing risk for local communities and rehabilitation of offenders.
- **Drug and Alcohol services:** Addressing substance misuse through dedicated support and treatment.
- **Local Voluntary sector:** Looking at how to address community issues including homelessness and mental health, and the inclusion of community groups to provide intelligence and communication.
- **Health Care services:** Primary healthcare provision for vulnerable adults, mental health services and reducing health inequality.
- **Crimestoppers:** Improving public confidence by issuing safety messages and information campaigns.

A holistic and strong partnership approach has the greatest potential to significantly reduce crime and disorder within Arun and offers the greatest opportunity to build stronger communities with confidence in their local services.

SAP Strategic Priorities 2021-2022

Serious Violence

- Raising awareness of cuckooing and the vulnerability of those individuals targeted by developing partnership initiatives and campaigns.
- Enhancement of intelligence sharing practices between agencies to highlight concerns at the earliest opportunity and to allow early intervention.
- Assessing the impact of drug use within local communities and developing shared solutions to reduce vulnerability and associated negative health related impacts.
- Addressing drug related harm and associated serious violence, incorporating the public health approach.
- Evaluate the demand for drugs and the impact this has on criminal behaviour in Arun.
- Develop strategies to address issue of Domestic Abuse locally, and to support wider WSCC led initiatives.
- Violence against women and girls, to include activities and behaviour linked to night time economy.
- To consider intervention strategies of drug users in addition to dealers.
- To identify links between educational factors such as community interventions and public perception of serious violence in local communities.

Serious or Organised Crime

- To create effective training and publicity campaigns for both partners and the public as to the types of activity considered to constitute serious and organised crime and the effects on communities.
- To capture local issues relating to modern day slavery.
- To offer statutory training to licensed taxi drivers to identify exploitative behaviours.

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

- To achieve 95% or higher early intervention work by Council's ASB team.
- Continue to improve joint agency working protocols to aid early identification of perpetrators of ASB and managing associated risks.
- HASBRAC reporting to SAP to include involvement of all relevant partners and their contributions to identify how landlords and RSLs tackle ASB.
- To identify a joint local response to anti-social driving and related road deaths.

Community Engagement and Confidence

- Address public perception of crime and disorder in Arun whilst developing strategies to reduce the fear of crime.
- Develop effective and engaging public communication campaigns and utilise social media to highlight partnership initiatives and actions.
- To further develop and utilise the Joint Action Group (JAG) forum to raise awareness of the collaborative efforts of statutory and non-statutory groups to reduce community based nuisance and disorder.
- Ongoing engagement between partners and community groups to support local communities.
- Ensure that reporting pathways for non-statutory partners remain open and accessible to ensure effective responses.
- Empowering communities to take ownership of local issues and to feel safe in reporting and accessing support.

All partners commit to undertaking their respective actions and are accountable to the Safer Arun Partnership, reporting on progress and outcomes on a quarterly basis.

Serious Violence

Action	Lead Agency (Officer)	Working Group Link	Monitoring & Evaluation	RAG Profile and Actions
Identify a local profile concerning activities that result in drug related harm and agree multi-agency support and action plans (to include both drug and alcohol misuse).	Sussex Police	♦ Arun & Chichester Cuckooing Safeguarding Group	• Review of local profile to include report on no. of properties identified, no. of visits conducted, no. of positive warrants, no. of arrests made, no. of closure orders, no. of referrals made to partner agencies.	Outstanding
UPDATE 05.04.2022: No working group meeting held since January 2022. UPDATE 26.04.2022: Police currently reviewing the structure of this working group, but it is seen as a vital component in addressing serious violence. Further updates to be provided by NPT Inspector.				
Evaluation of service level data and evidence to inform most effective local responses to meet need.	WSCC (drug and alcohol services)	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• Quarterly reports to be discussed at SAP meetings.	On track WSCC commissioner to provide service level data
Monitor the use of SAP funded clinical space in Littlehampton.	Change Grow Live	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• CGL to provide quarterly updates to SAP to include data as set out in funding agreement, and any additional details requested by SAP.	Discharge
UPDATE 11.01.2022: SAP agreed to fund clinical space Jan–March 2022. Public Health to fund 2022/23. UPDATE 26.04.2022: Discharge from plan – funding from SAP ended, Public Health taking forward.				

Connect 2 Project: community ambassadors initiative to champion local response to young people at risk of violence.	Arun District Council (Community Safety)	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• Quarterly updates to be provided to SAP and outcomes evidenced in annual SIA evaluation.	In progress
	UPDATE 05.04.2022: Commissioned service provider invited to April SAP meeting to provide update.			
Support the work of the West Sussex Violence Reduction Unit – consider local responses to implementing a public health approach to serious violence.	WSCC (Community Safety & Wellbeing)	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• WSVRU area profile reports and analyst reporting.	In progress
	UPDATE 11.01.2022: Actions remain to be updated to reflect new statutory duties. UPDATE 28.04.2022: Funding application submitted for 2022/23 to include continued youth outreach offer in Arun and expansion of schools exclusion project into Littlehampton. Additionally, funding secured to pilot place based delivery in support of public health approach development in Arun.			
Drug demand project – initiative to try and identify the demand for drugs in Bognor Regis and the determinants of choice and use. Report can be used to determine appropriate strategies to reduce harm and risk.	WSCC & Public Health	♦ West Sussex CSP ♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• Project updates to be provided to monitor progress. • Final report document to be shared with SAP partners to determine actions and where they can aid drug reduction work.	On track
	UPDATE 11.01.2022: Draft report has been compiled following assessment of all data and survey responses; to be discussed at SAP meeting 25/01/2022. UPDATE 25.01.2022: Final report agreed by SAP and agreement for publication Understanding & Reducing Drug Demand: Bognor Regis Analysis 2021 UPDATE 15.03.2022: Working group set up to discuss how report findings will shape service delivery in Arun. Plan action to be updated to reflect that initial drug demand report completed, and that working group taking forward recommendations.			
Develop strategies to reduce levels of Domestic Abuse locally and to identify support	WSCC (Communities)	♦ Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Group		In progress

and safeguarding practices for victims.	UPDATE 28.04.2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action developed to ensure service provision is West Sussex supports need and demand. - Ongoing activity to ensure that voice of service user / survivor is used to develop our response. - Implementation of domestic abuse duty to ensure suitable safe accommodation and support is available recognising protected characteristics and multiple complex needs. - Supported by place based development above. - MoJ funded post for Eastern European Independent Domestic Violence Advisor based in Arun. - Implementing lessons learnt from Domestic Homicide Reviews. 			
Violence against women and girls, including activities related to the night-time economy.	Arun District Council (Community Safety)	♦ Arun and Chichester Women's Safety Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update on status of action plan. • Quarterly reports to SAP 	On track
	UPDATE 11.01.2022: Mobile support unit pilot project initiated November 2021; trained patrol staff providing support to vulnerable individuals in the NTE of Bognor Regis. Twice weekly patrols, two officers per shift, 10pm – 2am. UPDATE 28.04.2022: Working Group continuing to meet and implement actions. Proposal put forward to continue use of mobile support unit patrols in Bognor Regis; funding bid to be submitted for consideration.			
Detached Youth Outreach Work: provision of outreach sessions across Littlehampton and Bognor Regis, mentoring work for YR5 and 6 school children.	Arun District Council (Community Safety)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly reports to SAP 	On track
	UPDATE 24.03.2022: Review of detached outreach provision resulted in commissioning further sessions: Arun Youth Project – Littlehampton / Sussex Clubs for Young People – Bognor Regis In-school mentoring provision adapted to focus on pupils at risk of exclusion from secondary school. Innovative approach adopted to work with a local gym to offer memberships for young people in Littlehampton at risk of SV or challenging behaviour in the community. UPDATE 05.04.2022: Detached outreach commissioned until August 2022 using service providers as previous update. Utilising VRP underspend from 2021/22. SID Youth to provide in-school mentoring at The Littlehampton Academy. 8-10 pupils to be offered 1-2-1 support.			

Serious or Organised Crime

Action	Lead Agency (Officer)	Working Group Link	Monitoring / Evaluation	RAG Profile and Actions
Raise awareness of SOC strategy and targeted operations within Arun, liaising with external local stakeholders to reduce serious or organised crime.	Sussex Police	♦ SOC Group	• Produce SOC action plan and thereafter quarterly monitoring reports	Discharge
Desktop review to scope the profile of offenders/repeat offenders in Arun.	The Probation Service	♦ SOC Group	• Agree scope of review and timescales for final report	Discharge
UPDATE 11.01.2022: Data report provided for information at January SAP meeting.				
Desktop review to identify rates of reconviction / reoffending within Arun and monitor whether reoffending results in progression to more serious crime.	The Probation Service	♦ SOC Group	• Agree scope of review and timescales for final report	Discharge
UPDATE 11.01.2022: Information outside of scope of Probation Service data and so cannot be provided. Probation data lead looking at whether alternative resource available.				
UPDATE 25.01.2022: This data set is unavailable – partnership agreed to discharge from plan.				
Modern Day Slavery and organised immigration crime.	WSCC Arun District Council Sussex Police	♦	• NRM reports • Safeguarding data	Discharge
Identify vulnerabilities that can lead individuals to be both victim and offender, looking at environmental and social factors such as housing, people about the	Sussex Police	♦ SOC Group	• Identification of risk and vulnerability factors from partnership data.	Discharge

person, and economic circumstances.				
-------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

UPDATE 28.04.2022: The partnership agreed to discharge all action points under this strategic priority due to the detailed review of SOC across the county being led by Sussex Police. Serious or Organised Crime overall will be integrated into the Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (PTTCG) which will hold the strategic responsibility for tackling SOC across the county and feeding this approach and action planning into local CSPs.

The Safer Arun Partnership will identify any local SOC threats and risks. These will be fed into the PTTCG forum for discussion and to determine relevant actions both locally and within West Sussex.

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

Action	Lead Agency (Officer)	Working Group Link	Monitoring / Evaluation	RAG Profile and Actions
Proactive enforcement of PSPO to reduce street drinking and associated ASB.	Arun District Council (Community Safety & ASB Team) Sussex Police		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidenced in annual SAP SIA to include no. of interventions, no. of times alcohol was removed, no. of times people asked to leave an area, no. of FPNs issued. 	On track
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of ECINS profiles to record interactions and enforcement actions – East and West. 	On track ECINS profiles set up for recording interactions; to be utilised by Police and ADC officers.
Utilise the Arun Hate & Anti-social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (HASBRAC) to identify key trends and formulate partnership action plans.	Arun District Council (ASB Team) Sussex Police	♦ HASBRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly reporting to include no. of cases, types of interventions and enforcement action, tenure types and landlord. 	On track
				<p>UPDATE 11.01.2022: Quarterly information report submitted for January SAP meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 05.04.2022: Quarterly information report submitted for April SAP meeting.</p>
Target of 5% or less reoffending rate for perpetrators of ASB.	Arun District Council (ASB Team)	♦ HASBRAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be evidenced in annual SAP SIA. 	On track Note: this is an annual target evidenced through the SIA.
Address local anti-social driving concerns and associated harm.	West Sussex Fire & Rescue			In progress
				UPDATE 11.01.2022: WSFR and Arun & Chichester Police hub to collaborate on a plan to tackle anti-social driving.

UPDATE 05.04.2022: WSFR information report submitted for April SAP meeting.

Community Engagement and Confidence

Action	Lead Agency (Officer)	Working Group Link	Monitoring / Evaluation	RAG Profile and Actions
Review purpose of the Joint Action Group (JAG) and how to utilise relevant community groups and partners to be an effective forum for addressing local place based concerns.	Sussex Police Arun District Council (Community Safety)	♦ Arun JAG	• Proposals update to be provided to SAP on completion of review.	In progress
UPDATE 11.01.2022: Initial scoping of new format undertaken. Plan to hold seminars with Parish Councils this month to explain format and obtain their buy-in to ensure local concerns are brought forward. UPDATE 15.03.2022: Delayed seminars with stakeholders due to need for face to face meetings to outline plans. Suitable venue to be found. UPDATE 26.04.2022: Briefings regarding reformed JAG have been scheduled for 16.06.2022 with invites being sent to all parishes.				
Arun-wide child exploitation campaign – directed at community cohesion and resilience, looking after young people, and a local response.	Arun District Council (Community Safety – Safeguarding)	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• Quarterly progress and feedback reports to SAP to include analytical data.	Discharge
UPDATE 11.01.2022: Campaign is 'live' via press releases, website, and advertising on local buses www.reachout-arun.gov.uk UPDATE 26.04.2022: Partners agreed to discharge as completed.				
Arun Community Engagement Project – Bersted and Courtwick with Toddington wards; Develop and utilise community hub space at Chilgrove House to engage and enhance inclusion with local community.	Arun District Council	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• Quarterly reports to SAP on use of the space and community engagement activities.	On track
UPDATE 11.02.2022: Recruitment successful for three roles; start date end of January 2022. UPDATE 15.03.2022: Community Engagement Officers in post. Community hub spaces at Chilgrove House and Bersted Green Learning Centre to formally open at the start of April 2022.				
Littlehampton Community Warden Project – continue to	Arun District Council (Community Safety)	♦ Community wardens project group	• Quarterly reports to SAP	On track

enhance service within the community.	<p>UPDATE 11.02.2022: Summary progress report (Oct. – Dec. 2021) provided for January SAP meeting. Report also being presented to ADC's Residential & Wellbeing Services committee on 24.01.2022.</p> <p>UPDATE 24.03.2022: ADC and LTC have agreed to provide additional funding beyond October 2022. ADC scoping possibility of extending the project to Bognor Regis.</p> <p>UPDATE 05.04.2022: 2 x Community Warden roles for Littlehampton currently being advertised.</p>			
Safer Arun Partnership online - keep ADC website updated with SAP information and initiatives.	Arun District Council (Community Safety)	♦ Partnership Communications Network	• To be a permanent on-going process.	On track
			• Publish minutes of quarterly SAP meetings via Arun DC webpage.	Outstanding
To consider undertaking community survey work to determine key areas of concern for local residents.	Arun District Council (Community Safety)	♦ Safer Arun Partnership	• Q4 meeting for further discussion.	In progress
			<p>UPDATE 11.01.2022: Communications plan agenda item for January SAP meeting.</p> <p>UPDATE 25.01.2022: Agreed by all present that raising profile of SAP and public engagement is necessary.</p> <p>UPDATE 05.04.2022: Proposal to publish public survey regarding SAP itself and to ask what issues are most important to residents to be discussed at April SAP meeting.</p>	

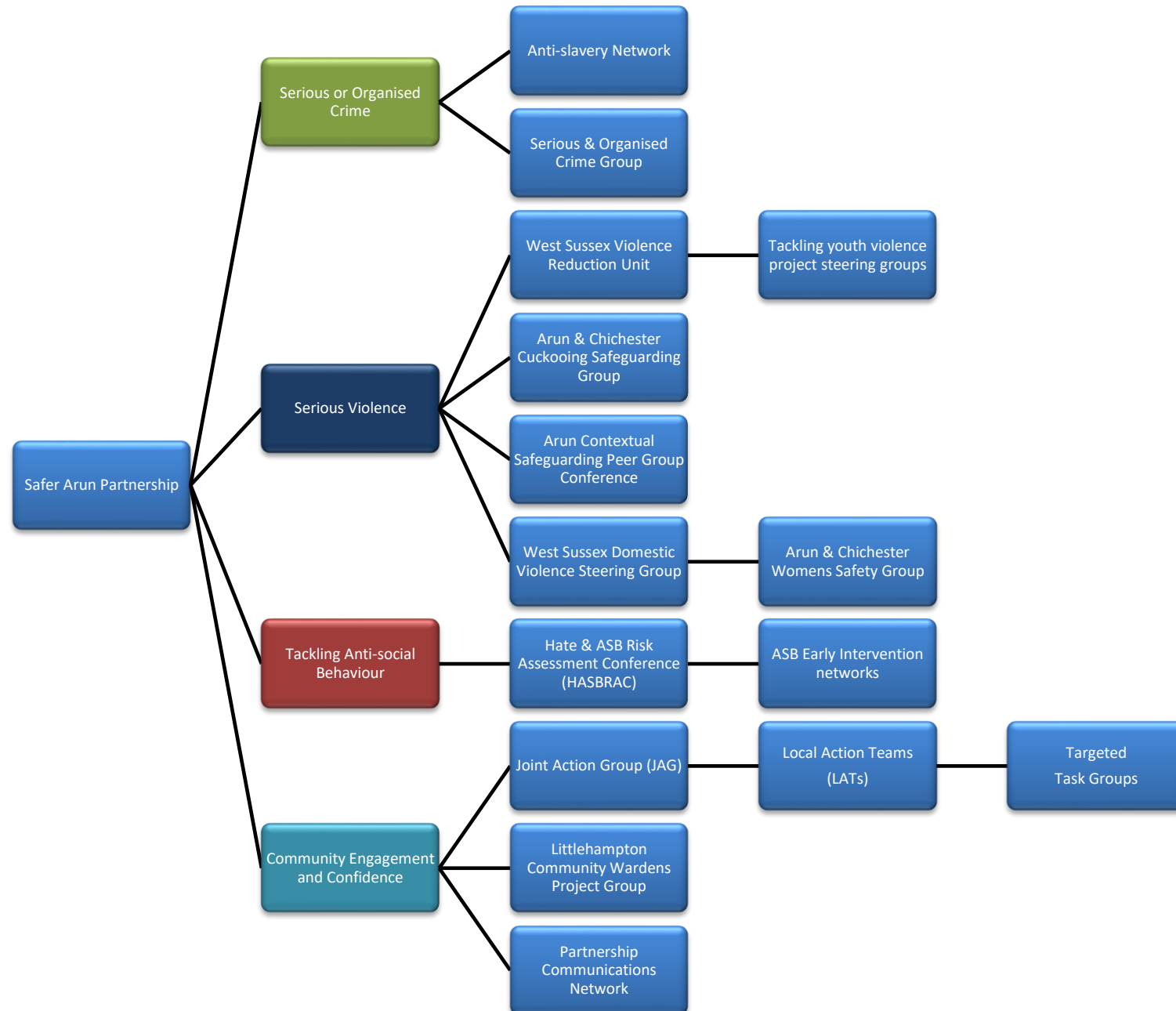
Current Active Multi-Agency Working Groups

Working Group	SAP Priority	Strategic Owner
Serious & Organised Crime Group	Serious or Organised Crime	Sussex Police
Arun & Chichester Cuckooing Safeguarding Group	Serious Violence	Sussex Police
Arun Rough Sleepers Multi-Agency Meeting	Tackling Anti-social Behaviour	Arun District Council
	Serious Violence	
	Serious or Organised Crime	
Arun Joint Action Group	Community Engagement and Confidence	Arun District Council Sussex Police
West Sussex Violence Reduction Unit	Serious Violence	West Sussex County Council
Local Action Teams	Community Engagement and Confidence	Arun District Council Sussex Police
HASBRAC	Tackling Anti-social Behaviour	Sussex Police Arun District Council
Peer Group Conference	Serious Violence	Arun District Council
Community Wardens project group	Community Engagement and Confidence	Arun District Council

Potential New Multi-Agency Working Groups

Working Group	SAP Priority	Strategic Owner
Partnership Communications Network	Community Engagement and Confidence	Arun District Council
Tackling youth violence projects steering groups	Serious Violence	Arun District Council
Safe and Well Visit programme	Community Engagement and Confidence	West Sussex Fire & Rescue

Proposed SAP Pathways All pathways must consist of two-way communication ensuring information and reporting goes both up and down the line and should allow cross priority communication as crime and problematic behaviour does not confine itself to a single category.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADC	Arun District Council
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
HASBRAC	Hate & Anti-social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference
CGL	Change Grow Live [drug and alcohol rehabilitation service]
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
ECINS	Empowering Communities [multi-agency information sharing software]
ISA	Information Sharing Agreement
JAG	Joint Action Group
KSSCRC	Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
LAT	Local Action Team
NPS	National Probation Service
PSPO	Public Spaces Protection Order
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
SAP	Safer Arun Partnership
SIA	Strategic Intelligence Assessment
SOC	Serious and Organised Crime
VRP	Violence Reduction Partnership
WSCC	West Sussex County Council
WSVRU	West Sussex Violence Reduction Unit

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF HOUSING AND WELLBEING SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Review

REPORT AUTHOR: Cathryn French, Safeguarding Officer
DATE: 31/03/2022
EXTN: 01903 737828
AREA: Community Wellbeing, Service Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Arun District Council is committed to protecting and safeguarding its community, especially Children, Young People and Adults at risk. This report sets out for scrutiny the resources for managing safeguarding and identifies the main categories of harm reported by officers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

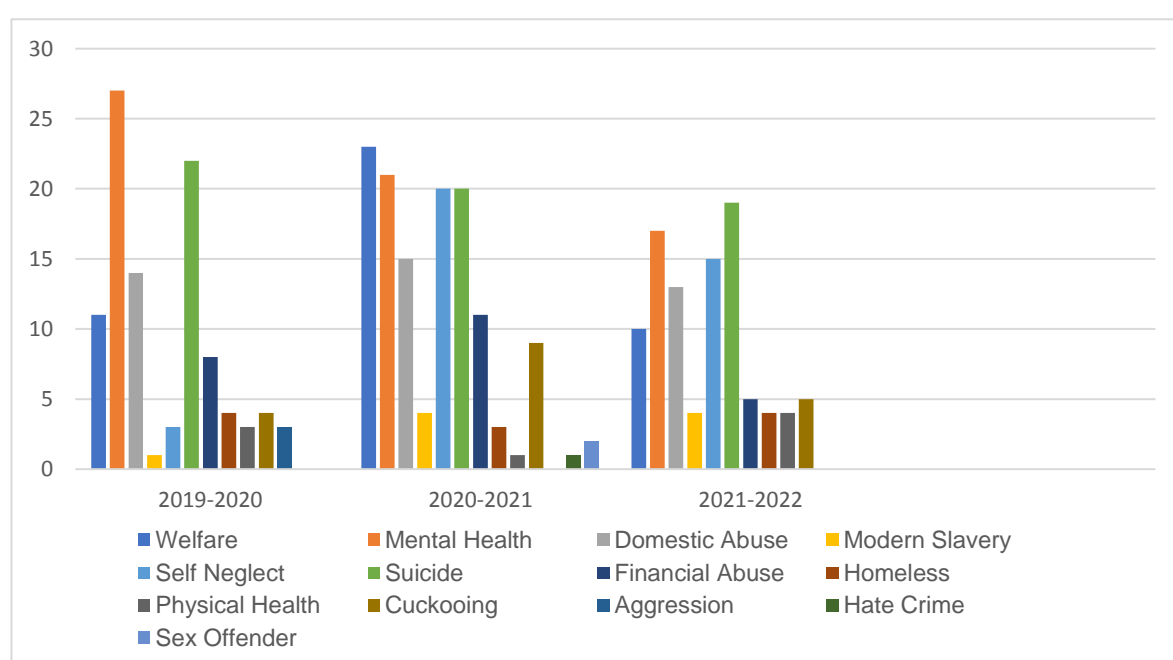
It is recommended that the Housing and Wellbeing Committee endorse the Safeguarding function at Arun District Council and the work of its officers.

1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Arun District Council has a Safeguarding Policy that covers both children, young people and adults at risk of harm and abuse ([Safeguarding Policy](#)). The policy accords with the Pan Sussex overarching policies overseen by the West Sussex Adult Safeguarding Board and the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- 1.2 The Council has a dedicated Safeguarding Officer within the Community Wellbeing team providing advice and support to all service areas. The officer works in partnership with the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the West Sussex Safeguarding Children's Partnership (WSSCP), but also has a working relationship with Sussex Police and West Sussex County Council's Child and Adult Social Care teams.
- 1.3 The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to ensure that the Council's Safeguarding policy is applied consistently across the Council. Key to this is chairing an internal staff group of Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO's) comprised from each Council department. These officers cascade information to maintain compliance with both the Council's and other partner organisations processes and policies.

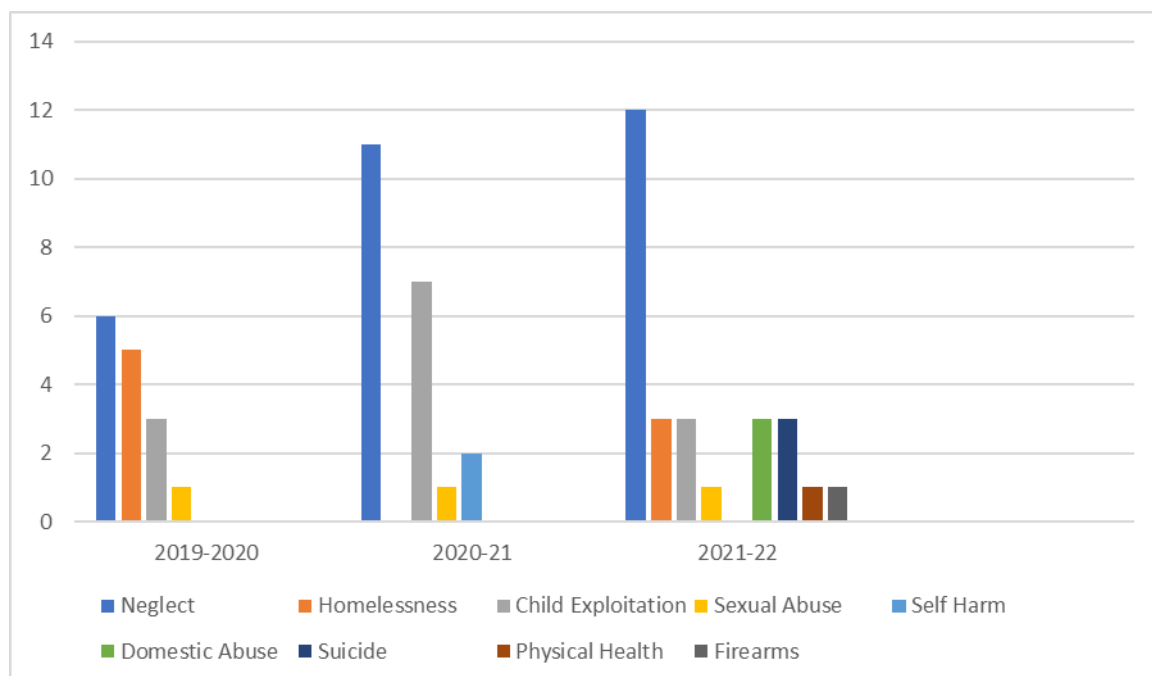
- 1.4 The Safeguarding Officer also plays an important role in training staff to identify and report safeguarding concerns, particularly those who have a significant role in visiting or meeting with customers. These staff and their supervisors are provided with enhanced training so that they are able to act on their concerns and provide appropriate support.
- 1.5 The nature of Arun's services tend to result in a greater number of adult cases being referred. Over the past three years (2019 to 2022) an average of 108 Adult cases were submitted each year compared to an average of 21 cases concerning children and young people. A summary of cases and categories of referral are provided in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1 Adult Safeguarding Referrals



100 referrals 2019/20
 130 referrals 2020/21
 95 referrals 2021/22

Figure 2 Children and Young People Safeguarding Referrals



15 referrals 2019/20
 22 referrals 2020/21
 26 referrals 2021/22

- 1.6 To provide further insight a range of anonymised cases are provided in Appendix 1. Below are further details relating to the most frequent categories of referral made by officers.
- 1.7 **Domestic Abuse**
- 1.8 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty for the provision of safe accommodation, but also to broaden the provision of community-based services and provide a statutory definition which recognises victims and their family (to include children).
- 1.9 Arun has the highest incidence of Domestic Abuse in West Sussex and accounts for a third of serious violence in Arun. This is a key priority for the Safer Arun Partnership. In March 2022 WSCC made an executive decision to split the Arun and Chichester joint Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), to a single Arun meeting to manage the increased number of cases being reported across the district. This meeting is attended by a member of the Housing team.
- 1.10 Two domestic homicides occurred in Arun over the period covered by this report, one of which was during the Covid lockdown. Both are subject to statutory Home Office Domestic Homicide Reviews commissioned by West Sussex County Council.

- 1.11 Since the most recent homicide, training has been provided to key staff on the signs of domestic abuse and resources have been provided on SharePoint. A web page has also been created on the Arun District Council website with a safe exit button for members of the public to hide their browsing history.
- 1.12 The Council is also running a pilot project in 2022 to increase the safety of victims/survivors in their own homes with the provision of ring doorbells to those identified as being at high risk of harm. This work is being undertaken jointly with Sussex Police.
- 1.13 **Child Exploitation**
- 1.14 In September 2020 in response to increasing concerns of Child Exploitation and harm occurring outside the family, the Safeguarding Officer implemented an Arun Peer Group Conference to discuss young people and locations of concern with key local partners including town and parish councils, the Community Safety team, Sussex Police, secondary schools, youth providers and Children's Social Care.
- 1.15 To date the group has discussed 233 individual children and young people and forged a partnership that has strengthened the local response to safeguarding concerns for young people at risk of being exploited. The Council has provided specific training on Child Exploitation to ensure professional knowledge and practice is maintained.
- 1.16 **Mental Health**
- 1.17 Concerns regarding emotional wellbeing have been consistent over the past three years, but many referrals submitted to WSCC Adult Social Care are not adopted as safeguarding enquires as many do not meet the threshold of the Care Act 2014. The Council has offered Mental health training to staff in recent years. This training supports staff with their own mental health whilst helping to manage the needs of customers for whom they have a concern.
- 1.18 **Suicide**
- 1.19 The Council regularly receives a number of threatened suicides each month particularly from callers to the Contact Centre and the Revenues and Benefits team. The Council has a duty of care to treat every self-report seriously and officers listen empathetically to customers and offer appropriate advice and support. However, there are instances where a professional judgment warrants a welfare call from a visiting officer or the emergency services to carry out a welfare visit.
- 1.20 Over the period (January 2022), Arun experienced one youth suicide within a family dwelling and one attempted youth suicide occurred at a Council car park in Bognor Regis. The Safeguarding Officer coordinated the Councils response with key internal departments and represented the Council at Public Health multi-agency response meetings.
- 1.21 The Council's training programme regularly offers suicide awareness training for staff. Following the incidents in January 2020, further training was provided to increase staff awareness and confidence in dealing with future situations.

1.22	Self-Neglect
1.23	Self-neglect is a prevalent issue but particularly difficult to raise as a safeguarding concern because of an individual's right to self-determination. Frequently the ability to intervene is based on an assessment of the individual's capacity to make decisions for themselves. If an individual is assessed to have mental capacity, a safeguarding referral may not be an option to mitigate potential risks or harm.
1.24	The increase in households where hoarding is identified as problematic is a case in point. Hoarding can be considered to be a life-choice rather than self-neglect and may not reach the required threshold for a safeguarding referral, even if the living conditions and safety of the individual are a concern. To address these situations a 'Safe and Habitable Homes' forum was established by West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service in 2021 to support all professionals to access appropriate services for their clients.
1.25	The Safeguarding Adults Board also set up a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Meeting (MARM) in March 2021 to help professionals with cases where risk remains despite interventions. Some complex safeguarding referrals have been submitted by the Safeguarding Officer on behalf of individual service areas with positive outcomes. The Arun Safeguarding Officer also represents safeguarding colleagues from other District and Borough councils on the MARM.
1.26	Neglect
1.27	Neglect is particularly relevant to children and young people. In recent experience referrals have tended to feature a child's exposure to parental drug use and there have been many instances when the Safeguarding Officer has had to escalate concerns to West Sussex Children's Social Care.
1.28	Conclusion
1.29	In addition to scrutiny by the Housing and Wellbeing Committee, Arun's Safeguarding Policy and procedures are reviewed by both the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board and the West Sussex Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
1.30	Safeguarding at Arun is overseen by a dedicated Safeguarding Officer who supports a team of Designated Safeguarding Officers distributed across Arun's services. This team provides support and advice to colleagues so that Arun is able to fulfil its safeguarding duty.
1.31	In conclusion it is not the Council's job to establish whether abuse is taking place, but it is our responsibility to report and record any concerns to protect the welfare of vulnerable members of our community.
2.	PROPOSAL:
2.1	It is proposed that the Housing and Wellbeing Committee endorse the Safeguarding function at Arun District Council and the work of its officers.
3.	OPTIONS:
3.1	To support the recommendation evidenced in the report and appendices or request further information to support the recommendation.

4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act	✓	
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other: Safeguarding	✓	
6. IMPLICATIONS:		
Arun District Council has a safeguarding duty		
7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:		
To endorse the Safeguarding function at Arun District Council and the work of its officers.		
8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:		
Safeguarding Policy		

Appendix 1 - Case Studies- concerns raised to Safeguarding Officer (SO)

Adult 1

Over a period of 10 years adult 1 was a persistent caller to the Council self-reporting tubes with invisible fumes being pumped into their house and seeking damages to stop them going to the press regarding the Council. Adult 1 was also a persistent caller to two of the emergency services.

Safeguarding officer (SO) became the single point of contact (SPOC) for adult 1 and due to the risk convened multi-agency meetings with Sussex Police, SE Cambs Ambulance and Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (local Community Mental Health team). Adult 1 had a history of non-engagement with services, so the SPOC aimed to build a gradual, trusting rapport to listen to their concerns and make safeguarding person centred.

Home visit undertaken by SO with Ambulance service and rapport built with adult 1's partner- who in turn called the SO when worried about the health of adult 1. Liaison undertaken with SE Cambs Safeguarding led to conveyance to hospital. Due to being physically and mentally unwell, the hospital authorised a Deprivation of Liberty (DOLS) order to prevent an unsafe discharge whilst medical care could be provided. Sadly, Adult 2 passed away in hospital from natural causes in lockdown 1. Support by SO given to partner and referral made with consent for social care support.

Adult 2

Adult 2 came into the council to self-report they were struggling with paying council tax. The advisor had concerns and made a referral to SO who then met with adult 2 and they disclosed financial abuse from neighbour (council tenant) and another adult blackmailing them for money after befriending Adult 2.

SO made a referral to adult social care, highlighting care and support needs and vulnerability due to learning disability and arranged a multi-agency meeting with adult 2 and their family advocate, due to lack of mental capacity. At the request of adult 2 and advocate, SO supported them to report this alleged crime to the Police and attend Police interview.

SO liaised with Residential Services team and in conjunction with GP & Social Worker, Adult 2 was moved to another property more applicable for learning and housing need where they continue to thrive.

Adult 3

The Council's ASB team started to receive complaints from members of the public regarding adult 3 and the SO became involved through team discussion.

When intoxicated, Adult 3 would try and enter other residents' flats, was Unknowingly defecating in communal areas and leaving trails of blood (from injuries sustained in their flat) for residents to clean up.

The SO and ASB officer undertook a home visit to adult 3. In being invited in, an assessment was made of hazardous conditions, broken glass from cabinets knocked over, rotting food in the kitchen and faeces on the floors. Due to a head injury a call for an ambulance was made but Adult 3 declined medical treatment and was deemed to have mental capacity.

The SO made a referral to Adult Social care due to concern and undertook a further visit with a social worker to attempt to engage Adult 3. SO was provided with the details of adult 3's adult child who was very distraught as they had been trying to help for their parent but was facing constant barriers.

From continual visits to adult 3 they advised of their intention to enter private residential detox which was privately funded. This enabled (with consent) their child to clear the flat. Adult 3 completed this detox treatment and was delighted with the home they returned home. Adult 3's child wrote to the SO acknowledging their gratitude for the support provided to them and their parent.

Adult 4

Adult presented to the Council's Housing Options team as homeless, but staff were concerned for adult 4's mental health and made a referral to SO, who then met with adult 4. Self-report of fleeing from family in London and details given of support agencies. The SO made enquires and Adult 4 identified as a high-risk missing person under the Metropolitan Police with a schizophrenia diagnosis.

SO worked with local and London mental health agencies and located Adult 4 on early morning outreach which then to ambulance conveying Adult 4 to hospital for assessment and then transfer to London. Adult 4 later wrote to SO thanking them for keeping them safe.

Child 1 –

Council Housing officer raised concerns regarding an elderly council tenant and concerns of potential sexual abuse of children known to frequent the address. The Safeguarding officer raised the children's social care which led to Sussex Police undertaking an investigation which resulted in a conviction of 10-year prison sentence for child sexual abuse.

Agenda Item 9

Housing & Wellbeing Committee - Work Programme

Housing & Wellbeing Committee	Lead Officer	Date of Meeting	Time	Full Council Meeting Date
Safeguarding at Arun District Council Safer Arun Partnership Work Programme	Cathryn French Robin Wickham	8 June 2022	6pm	13-Jul-22
Information & Advice – Contract Procurement Report Freedom Leisure Presentation Safer Arun Partnership Update Decarbonisation Strategy Pre-Construction Works Relating to Land at Canada Road and Ellis Close, Arundel and Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis Work Programme	Robin Wickham Steve Turner Mo Hussein	21 July 2022	6pm	14-Sep-22
Age UK Activities for Older People in Arun – Update Community Engagement Project Update Community Transport Plan Safer Arun Partnership Update Work Programme	Robin Wickham	6 October 2022	6pm	09-Nov-22
VAAC Presentation Community Wardens Update	Robin Wickham	6 December 2022	6pm	18-Jan-23

Housing & Wellbeing Committee - Work Programme

Safer Arun Presentation Work Programme			
Arun Wellbeing Programme Update Sussex Police Precept Arun Local Community Network Progress Report Council Tax Reduction Scheme Safer Arun Partnership Update Work Programme	Robin Wickham Andrew Dale	25 January 2023 6pm	15-Mar-2023