

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Wellbeing Committee - 26 March 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Safer Arun Partnership Scrutiny Report</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Dax O'Connor, Community Safety Officer</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Carol Birch, Chair of Housing and Wellbeing Committee
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF ARUN: Develop and implement a Wellbeing Strategy to plan services, resources, amenities, activities, and places to help our community thrive.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The Council has a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 5) to review and scrutinise the decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions by the Safer Arun Partnership.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> Not applicable to this external body scrutiny report.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. This report provides the latest update information in relation to the performance of the Safer Arun Partnership to allow this committee to carry out its statutory scrutiny function.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. There are no recommendations put forward with this report. It is an "information only" paper which provides detail from which the committee can scrutinise the performance of the Safer Arun Partnership. It should be noted that SAP is an outside body.
- 2.2. However, when undertaking scrutiny of the Safer Arun Partnership, the committee does have authority to make its own recommendations back to the partnership in relation to any performance and reporting elements it deems appropriate.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 3.1. Since the last partnership scrutiny report was presented to Committee in November 2023, the results of the latest community safety consultation have been collated and reviewed. A summary of the responses is provided as **Appendix A** of this report.
- 3.2. Summary details of the partnership meeting held on 30 January 2024 can be found at 4.6 – 4.10 of this report.

### **4. DETAIL**

- 4.1. The partnership ran its latest residents community safety consultation from 18 September to 3 November 2023.
- 4.2. West Sussex County Council hosted the consultation on behalf of all Community Safety Partnerships in the County, utilising their specialised survey platform. On evaluating the responses, a 'you said, we did' update has been provided by the partnership. A link to this is provided within the background documents section at the end of this report.
- 4.3. A total of 338 responses were received to the consultation. It is acknowledged that this may mean that results are not wholly representative of everyone who lives in Arun, but it does give agencies an idea of what local people are concerned about.
- 4.4. The top 5 issues that respondents felt that the Safer Arun Partnership should focus on were -

1. Anti-social behaviour (e.g. drunk/rowdy behaviour, neighbour nuisance)
2. Drugs (e.g. drug dealing, drug use, discarded drug paraphernalia)
3. Street community issues (e.g. street drinking/begging, rough sleeping)
4. Road safety (e.g. collisions, anti-social driving)
5. Serious acquisitive crime (e.g. burglary, vehicle crime, robbery)

This mirrors the main issues raised during the 2022 consultation and were included at the heart of the 2023-2025 partnership plan. The latest survey responses confirms that the partnership is on the right track and trying to tackle the most important concerns of residents.

- 4.5. Other key factors identified within the feedback given is the results to questions 49, 50, and 51.

Q49 confirms that 82% of respondents had experienced crime or anti-social behaviour, either personally, as a witness, or both.

Q50 highlighted that 64% of those did not report the incident.

Q51 helps to identify the reasons why people did not report the incident. The Safer Arun Partnership acknowledges that "I don't think anything would be

done about it” as the main response is acceptable and that work to change this view needs to be undertaken. Action to address this will have to be led by individual agencies responsible for actioning reports.

The partnership also recognises that the other responses to this question indicate a need to improve the confidence of residents in how to report crime and anti-social behaviour. If reports are not made, agencies do not have the full picture of what is happening and will be hampered in deploying appropriate resources. As a result, the partnership is launching a public appeal to encourage reporting so that data held more accurately reflects what is allegedly happening in our communities.

- 4.6. The partnership’s most recent meeting took place on 30 January 2024. All partners are requested to share an update of their work in relation to the partnership plan ahead of the meeting. On this occasion, the only report update report submitted was from the district council’s Community Safety team. This is attached as **Appendix B** of this report.

All partners were reminded of the need to provide these reports as a way of providing feedback to this committee and the public.

- 4.7. A funding application received from the owners of The Arcade in Littlehampton for match-funding to install CCTV cameras was considered. Partners unanimously approved the request for £675.50.

- 4.8. The Safer Arun Partnership currently holds a budget of £28,463.

- 4.9. A presentation was given by Public Health in relation to their Drug Demand Analysis project. This is led by the WSCC Combatting Drugs Partnership with projects taking place across all districts, and builds on the initiative developed in Bognor Regis in 2021 and endorsed by the Safer Arun Partnership. A link to the 2021 pilot is provided at the background documents section of this report.

This project looks to understand the demand and drivers of drug use in our district, with the final analysis being used to influence strategic, operational, and tactical responses including the commissioning of services.

All partners have committed to participating in this project as it aligns with the strategic priority of reducing drug and alcohol related harm.

- 4.10. Serious Violence and the risk of criminal exploitation of young people remains a topic that the partnership regularly addresses as a priority. The Safer West Sussex Partnership are analysing risks and trends at a local level and will share with the Safer Arun Partnership. Partners are keen to obtain such data and insights as they will be invaluable to embedding targeted local actions, such as the proposed Arun Youth Engagement Programme, funded by Safer Arun Partnership and led by the Council’s Community Safety team.

In addition to the statutory contributors to the partnership, British Transport Police, Southern Rail, and local youth services have confirmed their willingness to contribute to this work.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1. Consultation has not been undertaken in relation to this information report.

## **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

6.1. Consideration of options / alternatives is not required as this is an information report relating to an outside body.

## **7. COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER**

7.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

## **9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

9.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

## **10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

10.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

## **11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

11.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

## **12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

12.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

## **13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

13.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

**14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

14.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

15.1. This report resolves the Crime and Disorder Committee's statutory duty in providing scrutiny of the local community safety partnership.

15.2. It is noted that the council's Housing and Wellbeing committee is designated to serve as the statutory Crime and Disorder Committee in Arun.

**16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

16.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

**17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

17.1. There are no direct impacts on the above areas arising from this report.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

Appendix A Community Safety Consultation (2023) results

Appendix B Partnership Update (Arun District Council)

[2023 Community Safety Consultation | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

[Bognor Regis Drug Demand Analysis 2021](#)