

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE WORKING GROUP ON 10th DECEMBER 2020

PART A : REPORT

SUBJECT: Safer Arun Partnership Annual Review 2019-20

REPORT AUTHOR: Georgina Bouette, Community Manager

DATE: 1 October 2020

EXTN: 37605

PORTFOLIO AREA: Community Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out progress of the Safer Arun Partnership (SAP) during 2019-20 in delivering the strategic priorities contained in its Partnership Plan (2018-2022). It provides information to enable Members to understand performance to date and provides a summary assessment of the future challenges and opportunities for SAP.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To recommend to Cabinet that:

1. The work of the Safer Arun Partnership is endorsed and the importance of partnership working in contributing to reducing anti-social behaviour and addressing crime and disorder in Arun is recognised.
2. Recognition is given to the work of the Safer Arun Partnership in contributing to the delivery of the Council's strategic priority "supporting you if you need help".

1. BACKGROUND:

1.1. Overview

1.1.1. The Safer Arun Partnership (SAP) works jointly to address and reduce anti-social behaviour and crime across the district. Membership comprises representatives from:

Sussex Police

Arun District Council

West Sussex County Council

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

West Sussex Fire and Rescue

Probation services

NHS Trust

1.1.2. For 2019-20, SAP set five key strategic priorities. These were:

- Serious Violence
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Community Resilience
- Improving Public Confidence
- Tackling Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

This report will set out progress against these priorities and will allow facilitation of scrutiny of the partnership's performance.

1.1.3. These strategic priorities were agreed by the partnership as being concerns that greatly affected the local area and where SAP could achieve the vision of "working in partnership to achieve the vision of proactively and reactively reducing the risk of harm and vulnerability associated with crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour for identified individuals, communities and neighbourhoods."

1.2. Performance

1.2.1. Principal key findings of partnership performance for 2019-20 are summarised in **Appendix A**.

1.2.2. To allow members to fully scrutinise the performance of SAP during the year, a full copy of the Annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) is attached as **Appendix B**. This document analyses the situation in Arun over the year and helps to scope the priorities for the coming year while focusing SAP resources on short, medium and long term outcomes.

1.2.3. To help the Working Group see the complex work undertaken by the Council's ASB team, three case studies are provided in **Appendix C**. These highlight the challenging nature of some interventions and the partnership working that is involved to achieve successful outcomes.

1.3. Joint working with neighbouring Community Safety Partnerships

1.3.1. The Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) of Chichester and Arun have long aligned themselves to work jointly in addressing common priority areas of concern. This recognises the benefit of sharing intelligence and affords the CSPs to mirror the local Sussex Police hub which formally identifies itself as Arun & Chichester.

1.3.2. Aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour often cross district borders and local coastal strip CSPs recognise the need to liaise regularly and share information. During 2020, this has seen Arun commence working closely with Adur & Worthing Councils due to a shared concern around serious violence amongst young people. Taking the opportunity to share resources and intelligence means that areas can take timely action and be proactive in their responses.

1.4. Crime

1.4.1. Across Arun, total crime increased by 10% during the period from April 2019 to

March 2020 when compared to the same period the previous year. This compares to an increase of 8.9% across the Sussex force for the same period.

- 1.4.2. When analysing crime figures, it is helpful to do so by the occurrence per 1,000 population. This gives greater accuracy in interpreting the risk and likelihood of being a victim of crime within the district.

No. of crimes recorded per 1,000 population in Arun		
2019-20	2018-19	Change (+/-)
76	67	+9

- 1.4.3. During 2019-20 the top 3 offences in Arun, as per the number of recorded incidents were:-

- a) **Violence against the person** contributed 42.5% of total crime in Arun. This is an increase of 12.1% (+523 offences) between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

There has been an increase of 4 recorded incidents per 1,000 population for this crime type from 2018-19 to 2019-20: 28 to 32.

- b) **Assault with less serious injury** contributed 10% of total crime in Arun. This is an increase of 0.7% (+9 offences) between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

There has been no change in the number of recorded incidents per 1,000 population for this crime type from 2018-19 to 2019-20: 8.

- c) **Criminal damage** contributed 10% of total crime in Arun. This is a decrease of 15.4% (-208 offences) between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

There has been a decrease of 2 recorded incidents per 1,000 population for this crime type from 2018-19 to 2019-20: 9 to 7.

- 1.4.4. Detailed information on crime in Arun during 2019-20 can be found on pages 3 and 23 of the SIA at **Appendix B**.

- 1.4.5. The fear of crime relates to a person's perception of how likely they are to experience crime. Fortunately, in Arun the likelihood of being a victim of crime is low. However, the perceived risk can leave people feeling in danger and can deter them from leading their normal lives. This fear can manifest itself in a number of ways, most notably via the press and local social media where negative news stories and criticism of enforcement agencies can exacerbate the situation.

- 1.4.6. Conversely, the same media channels can be utilised by SAP and member agencies to inform the public as to actions being undertaken and successful interventions. Quite rightly, people take pride in their communities and, as highlighted by the recent Covid-19 emergency, come together to protect themselves when needed. The aim of SAP going forward is to provide a sense of security and reassurance so that the fear of crime reduces.

1.5. Future challenges

- 1.5.1. The main challenge for SAP is sustaining effective partnership interaction and commitment from all agencies to the shared responsibility for problem solving and taking action to reduce crime and disorder. National best practice guidance

is compelling in outlining the need for CSP partners to work together in order to successfully tackle the key strategic priorities. However, the continuing pressure on public services does result in differing responses to the level of participation and ownership of tasks. This is not isolated to SAP but is reflected across CSPs in West Sussex.

- 1.5.2. SAP has been adversely affected by the reduction in capacity of agencies to commit and direct resources to the partnership. The detailed partnership working involved in running a CSP requires considerable resources to ensure that the identified priorities are given suitable support and visibility within agency plans. Varying in-house priorities see resources being allocated to what is often seen as the most prominent. It is crucial that partners recognise the importance of the SAP and their obligation to contribute to the safety of residents, businesses and visitors of Arun.
- 1.5.3. The funding structure and allocation to SAP remain uncertain. The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is allocated grants from Government and passports these to CSPs. These funds are vital to allowing local partnership and community safety work to continue. In 2019-20 SAP received £48,171 in funding. Any need to look externally for additional funding to develop responses to localised anti-social behaviour and criminality would require the partnership to increase its capacity.

1.6. Future opportunities

- 1.6.1. SAP must remain fully committed to tackling the issues affecting Arun and must demonstrate that it is willing to lead, build, support, and sustain a close partnership working relationship to achieve its vision and aims. SAP must be transparent in its commitment to 'think outside the box' in seeking ways to engage with local communities and find opportunities to improve ways of working jointly. This approach will allow SAP to give consistent and encouraging messages of support to the people of Arun and confirm the aim of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

1.7. Conclusion

- 1.7.1. Arun District Council's core Community Services team leads the way in its contribution to SAP and supporting the partnership to achieve its aims. There is a strong belief that doing so can make a positive difference to the lives of the community. The formation of strong and effective working links with partners has seen the team achieve positive outcomes in line with SAPs strategic priorities. This work is under constant review to make sure that the Council's contribution to the partnership is relevant and that it strives to respond effectively to local concerns within the confines of the available resources.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

None.

3. OPTIONS:

1. For the Working Group to approve the recommendations to Cabinet as outlined in the report.

2. For the Working Group not to approve the recommendations outlined in this report.		
4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		x
Relevant District Ward Councillors		x
Other groups/persons (please specify).		x
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal		x
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		x
Sustainability		x
Asset Management/Property/Land		x
Technology		x
Other (please explain)		x
6. IMPLICATIONS		
As this paper is an information only report there are no implications.		
7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:		
To support the work of the Safer Arun Partnership and recognise the importance of its statutory function in addressing community safety concerns across the district.		
9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:		
Appendix A – Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2019-20 Key Findings		
Appendix B – Safer Arun Partnership – Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2019-20		
Appendix C – Case Studies from the Council’s Anti-social Behaviour team		