

PART I - DELEGATED

10. THREE RIVERS SERIOUS VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK, STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (CED)

1 Summary

1.1 The Committee is asked to endorse the Public Health Framework, Strategy and Action Plans for Serious Violence and Exploitation of the Local Strategic Partnership.

2 Details

2.1 The Government launched its new Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018. Since then the Hertfordshire Serious Violence Strategy and Action Plan have been developed following a strategic needs assessment. The Hertfordshire Strategy is being presented to the board as part of this meeting. The Strategy has been signed off by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, The Hertfordshire Domestic Violence Partnership Board, The Hertfordshire Strategic Drug and Alcohol Board, The Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Board and The Strategic Offender Management Board. The action plans for the Hertfordshire Serious Violence Strategy are still under development by the six partnership boards with co-ordination support from the County Community Safety Unit.

2.2 Locally the Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership has long held violence as one of its local priorities. This has been reflected in the investment of local partners in the Domestic Abuse Caseworker service and Community Support Service.

2.3 In the last year reported cuckooing cases being investigated by the Community Safety Partnership have risen by 950%, from 2 per year to 21 at the point of writing this report. This has been accompanied by a significant amount of closure order applications to the Magistrates' Court, possession proceedings and evictions by housing providers. There is a significant cost to the District Council, Housing Providers and Police in undertaking this work. Three Rivers District Council has increased its ASB intervention capacity by 50% on a fixed term basis to cope with this workload, and is considering a permanent increase to its resources for ASB work. In addition it is anticipating an overspend of £5,000 on legal costs associated with closure order applications. In one case alone Thrive Homes spent £24,000 on legal costs to defend a possession application and eviction on a property closed by Three Rivers District Council on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership.

2.4 Locally the Domestic Abuse Caseworker Service has had its staffing resources increased by 60% since January 2019. In addition it is recruiting a new Prevention Caseworker to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse, following a successful bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.5 Several further bids have been submitted by the Community Safety Partnership to the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding from April 2019. These include:

2.5.1 A county-wide bid on behalf of all 10 Community Safety Partnerships to fund 4 additional SOS Project workers to work with high risk young people;

2.5.2 A joint bid with Hertsmere CSP to fund a shared Dual Diagnosis Worker for the Community Support Service.

- 2.5.3 A joint bid with Hertsmere and Watford CSPs to fund 150 hours of specialist 1 2 1 support from YC Herts in each area as part of the Better Choices programme, to work with young people at early stages of criminal exploitation and engagement in violence.
- 2.6 The Three Rivers CSP was successful in securing a small grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to match fund the contributions of Watford Borough Council and Three Rivers District Council to employ a consultancy to rapidly develop and implement a Youth Violence Panel. This will complement the two PCSOs that have been funded through Watford CSP and Chessbrook Education Support Centre to work with young people identified as engaged in violent crime.
- 2.7 Three Rivers District Council has drafted a Public Health Framework for Serious Violence – Drawing the Lines. This has been well received by the Public Health Team at Hertfordshire County Council, and by the Hertfordshire Strategic Drug and Alcohol Board, which is attended by the Head of Community Partnerships as a representative of the 10 District and Borough Councils.
- 2.8 The Public Health Framework has been shared with key stakeholders and with the sub-partnerships of the Local Strategic Partnership as part of a consultation exercise. Revisions have been made to the wording of the framework as a result of this consultation and the revised version can be found in Appendix 1.
- 2.9 A draft strategy and action plan for the Local Strategic Partnership has also been produced by Three Rivers District Council. This has also been shared with key stakeholders and with the following structures of the Local Strategic Partnership as part of a consultation exercise.
- Community Safety Co-ordinating Group
 - Watford and Three Rivers Families First Partnership
 - Adults with Complex Needs Group
 - 11-19 Strategy Group
 - Tri-CSP Youth Violence Project Management Group
- 2.10 Telephone consultations and meetings have been held with key stakeholders in all LSP Partner agencies at a senior level to understand organisational perspectives and potential overlap and conflicts.
- 2.11 Feedback from these consultations has been incorporated into a revised final draft that can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.12 The LSP Board was asked to adopt the Framework, Strategy and Action Plan at its meeting on 13 March 2019. It is envisaged that the action plan will be a live document that is reviewed and updated by each of the 4 key sub-partnerships. Actions will need to be developed over the lifetime of the Community Strategy. Performance reports will be shared with the LSP Board on a regular basis.
- 2.13 Part of the focus of this local Strategy and Action Plan is to seek to move towards prevention and early intervention, both of which are cheaper than the current levels of intensive intervention and enforcement actions being taken. It is for this reason that the strategy and action plans sit across all of the local partnership structures, rather than being focused on the role of the Community Safety Partnership. This also reflects the aspiration of the Hertfordshire Strategy and that of the Government's Strategy.
- 2.14 The local strategy and action plan will complement the County strategy and emerging action plans by focussing on what can be delivered locally in Three Rivers, and with local partner areas with which the community of Three Rivers interacts.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To endorse the approach for all LSP sub-partnerships towards Serious Violence and Exploitation.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the terms of reference of the Local Strategic Partnership. The recommendations are within the priorities of the Community Strategy 2018-23.

5 Legal Staffing and Customer Services Centre Implications

- 5.1 None specific.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The premise for delivering the action plans is that there may not be additional resources available from partners to deliver the actions. Therefore, actions will have to be identified within existing resources of all partner agencies, including those of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 6.2 It is envisaged that through the joint planning of the action plans the existing resources of partner agencies will be combined and targeted more effectively to achieve the strategy outcomes.
- 6.3 In addition a separate report is being put to the LSP Board to consider the establishment of a Community Interest Company (CIC). The purpose of this CIC will be to secure non-statutory funding to support the delivery of the Three Rivers Community Strategy. Officers feel that this is the most effective way to secure additional resources to support the long term implementation of the Serious Violence Strategy and Action Plan.

7 Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There is a significant impact on the housing estates surrounding cuckooed properties in terms of refuse, criminal damage, and fear for safety by local residents and visitors. The strategy aims to ensure that the local environment of Three Rivers is hostile to organised crime gangs.

8 Community Safety Implications

- 8.1 Recent cuckooing cases have highlighted the existence of County Lines within Three Rivers and the presence of known criminals from London and elsewhere involved in violent crime. This includes the observation of bladed weapons and ammunition and firearms in the District. This poses a significant risk to the population of Three Rivers. The strategy seeks to address these risks.
- 8.2 There is substantial evidence that a large number of young people are being criminally exploited to run drugs in the District. In addition young people have been targeted at private schools for the sale of drugs. There is also evidence of Child Sexual Exploitation affecting children in the District and the involvement of young people in extremist behaviour. The strategy seeks to address these risks.
- 8.3 There is substantial evidence that adults at risk are being targeted to have their premises cuckooed in the District. This strategy seeks to address these risks.

9 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 9.1 The structures of the LSP split the community between children and families, adolescents and adults. This reflects the structure of the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the commissioning structures for health and social care.
- 9.2 There is clear evidence that households affected by poverty are more likely to be targeted for cuckooing. In addition young people and older people are being targeted for criminal exploitation.
- 9.3 Young people not attending school are at particular risk of criminal and sexual exploitation.
- 9.4 Drug and alcohol addicts, disabled (learning disabilities, physical disabilities and people with mental health issues) and older single adults are at particular risk of being targeted for cuckooing.
- 9.5 The action plans will seek to address these vulnerabilities to address these differential impacts on protected characteristics.

10 Public Health Implications

- 10.1 The Public Health Framework presents an evidence based approach to the Strategy and Action Plan. At this stage baseline data cannot be finalised and targets for the Public Health Framework will need to emerge from the action plans and be brought back to the LSP for review and agreement. The draft targets set are ambitious and stretching. However these reflect the ambition of the Community Strategy. The proposed performance indicators for the framework will be drawn from readily available data streams from partner agencies.

11 Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

- 11.1 Three Rivers District Council's has an agreed risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.
- 11.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Community Partnership service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this plan.
- 11.3 The following table gives the risks if the recommendations are agreed, together with a scored assessment of their impact and likelihood:

Description of Risk		Impact	Likelihood
1	The Local Strategic Partnership fails to achieve the priorities of the Community Strategy	III	C

- 11.4 The following table gives the risks that would exist if the recommendations are rejected, together with a scored assessment of their impact and likelihood:

Description of Risk		Impact	Likelihood
1	The Local Strategic Partnership fails to achieve the priorities of the Community Strategy	III	D

- 11.5 The risk above is already managed within the Community Partnerships service plan.

12 Communications & Website Implications

12.1 It is proposed that a communications strategy be developed for the work of the Local Strategic Partnership. This will be consulted on with each of the sub-partnerships and brought back to a future meeting of the LSP Board for adoption.

13 Recommendations

13.1 For the Committee to endorse the LSP Board’s Public Health Framework, Strategy and Action Plans for Serious Violence and Exploitation.

13.2 For officers to share the performance management of the Strategy and Action Plan through the Members Information Bulletin.

Report prepared by: Andy Stovold, Head of Community Partnerships

Data sources:
Hertfordshire Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment
Three Rivers ASBAG

Data checked by: Andy Stovold, Head of Community Partnerships

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	X
3	High	

Background Papers

- Serious Violence Strategy 2018
- Adverse Childhood Experiences report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Drawing the Lines
- Appendix 2 – Three Rivers Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan