



Thurrock Community Safety Partnership.

Annual Report

2023-2024

Reporting on our Priorities for 2023/24

Thurrock partnership set the following priorities within its 2023/24 Community Safety Plan:

- **Tackling disproportionality in relation to violence against women and girls (VAWG)** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
- **Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse** – in line with local authority duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- **Violence and vulnerability** – tackling gang-related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
- **Reduce harm to, and safeguard, victims from hate crime**
- **Tackling community-based anti-social behaviour, and safeguarding victims** – including response to car cruising
- **Counter extremism and terrorism** – preventing violent extremism locally
- **Human trafficking, modern-day slavery and organised immigration crime**
- **Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement**
- **Tackling offending** –reducing offences in relation to theft (predominantly burglary and vehicle crime)

Priority 1: Tackling disproportionality in relation to VAWG

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. Sign-off and implement the action plan to deliver on the refreshed multi-agency VAWG strategy to drive effective partnership working
2. deliver bystander training and awareness
3. respond to the findings within Operation Minerva
4. work with the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) to safeguard young people from child sexual exploitation (CSE) through Operation Makesafe, ensuring hotel staff are able to recognise risks and respond
5. consider the 'Walk and Talk' initiative to understand what women need to make them feel safe
6. promote the reporting of hate crime due to sex/gender
7. promote the training opportunity that covers honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, available on the LSCP elearning programme.

Progress made:

1. draft action plan presented to VAWG Board November 2023, amendments noted, final sign-off February 2024
2. train-the-trainer bystander training received – new Transport Safety officers to be the first to receive training
3. Operation Minerva underway in Corringham with increased high visibility patrols, work with school in relation to VAWG, and improvements to CCTV.
4. 2 operations undertaken, 4 passed second visit, improvements seen across all, training launched online
5. 'Walk and Talk' delivered in Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham in October, and in Grays during 16 days of activism
6. there continue to be low reports of hate crime due to sex/gender, mainly female but also a male and 'other'
7. training opportunities continue to be promoted and note in several partnership newsletters including LCSP, Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)

Priority 2: Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. sign-off and implement the action plan to deliver on the refreshed multi-agency VAWG strategy to drive effective partnership working
2. continue to deliver a range of support, through New Burdens funding, within safe accommodation as identified in the needs assessment as priority areas for victims – including financial inclusion, specialist drug and alcohol support, trauma informed psychological support for resident adults and children, support to move on, working with young people who are victims – including tutoring
3. review needs assessment to ensure it is meeting the intended needs, once services are commissioned
4. continue to explore and respond locally to the TONIC recommendations with Southend and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Partnership (SETDAB), including the mechanism for survivor engagement
5. progress the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation
6. ensure method of hearing domestic abuse survivor voices is implemented as part of Domestic Abuse Act
7. respond to recommendations from any Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) or Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) as appropriate.

Progress made:

1. draft action plan presented to VAWG Board November 2023, amendments noted, final sign-off February 2024
2. key performance indicators (KPIs) continue to show benefits of the new support within safe accommodation due to new burdens funding – progress is reported to VAWG Board
3. uptake of the new services continues to grow, especially the children's tuition with positive feedback of its impact received from schools and the support staff at refuge
4. following the TONIC recommendations, there is a Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET)-wide commitment to further joint commissioning – full report due to go to Thurrock Council Cabinet February 2024
5. housing seeking an assessment date with DAHA assessors
6. survivor engagement key agenda item at VAWG Board meeting, further development of VAWG Board views ideas is underway, survivors currently engaging via commissioned services
7. completion of Thurrock's first joint DHR/SAR – delivered a partnership webinar detailing the recommendations with the report author

Priority 3: Violence and vulnerability

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. ensure Thurrock meets its duty in respect of serious violence by 31 January 2024 through having needs assessment and strategy in place with a local plan
2. preventative work focused on the localities of Grays, Tilbury and West Thurrock through outreach youth work and specialist focused intervention within schools – both secondary and primary
3. support secondary preventative work to address risk in Ockendon
4. intensive work with those most at risk through the child exploitation (CE) and gangs lead, and exploitation worker
5. support to schools' regards offensive weapons to mitigate risk and reduce exclusions
6. respond to the Youth Listening Project and concerns raised
7. respond to the deep dive of all non-domestic violent crime
8. support implementation of the Youth Justice Plan 21/24 to deliver an effective youth justice service
9. continue to support Operation Henderson – an operation focusing on addressing CSE and child criminal exploitation (CCE) in relation to transport hubs
10. through the IAG establish a stop and search panel

Progress made:

1. the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit has completed the needs assessment and we will adopt their strategy with a Local plan to deliver
2. specialist intervention within Grays and Tilbury secondary schools, primary outreach in the prevention of permanent exclusion supported AA schools with outreach provided to 20 pupils with 11 accessing a placement – where attendance was an issue (N/A 5) improvements seen for 13 pupils, 2 N/C
3. regular meeting held with professionals to discuss concerns and intervention workers provide school drop-ins
4. our CE and gangs lead has supported over 16 young people a quarter and 75% of those aged under 18 on the gang matrix
5. since inception, our outreach programme supported 154 pupils at risk of exclusion with only two being permanently excluded – the protocol has been refreshed and shared through headteacher forums – secondary schools have had visits from the education officers who have completed a knife crime input
6. youth workers attended Burger King for 6 weeks to provide trusted adult in a hot spot – a closure order was placed on a vape store
7. no new findings, continuing focused work in Grays, West Thurrock and Tilbury, Operation Dial started July including licensing visits in West Thurrock
8. the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) reoffending data published in June 2022 (YDS 110) indicates that Thurrock's reoffending rate for the yearly cohort was 36.4% – this indicates a very slight increase over the financial year and is being monitored at the Youth Crime Governance Board (YCGB)
9. intervention workers, and children and young people's officers, travelled on trains engaging with public regarding exploitation, where to report concerns across two dates in 23/24
10. this is established and has met 3 times and feeds back to the YCGB and Youth Cabinet

Priority 4: Counter extremism and terrorism

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. review and refresh Thurrock's Prevent strategy for 2023/26 in line with the national review of counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST)
2. utilise the Prevent communications toolkit to improve dialogue and awareness with our communities
3. continue to offer programme of training across partners
4. respond to current risks in relation to vulnerabilities due to mental health and those aged under 18 hosting an event for practitioners

Progress made:

1. workshop held with board, currently drafting to consult with members and sign off by CSP Board March 24
2. action plan in place, tension form reviewed, web site updated, Channel posters shared, advice to home educators refreshed, continued promotion of messages in Thurrock resident's newsletter and to staff required
3. delivered 7 training sessions, hosted misogyny webinar, briefed designated safeguarding leads on neurodiversity, members of Hidden Exploitations and Harms Committee (HEHC) attended face to face training and all members offered session through Essex – training is revised quarterly in line with the latest threat and risk
4. 71 people attended Prevent webinar in relation to mental health and neurodiversity – afterwards 66% reported good knowledge and understanding and 32% able to champion confidently

Priority 5: Reduce harm to, and safeguard, victims from hate crime

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. commitment to engagement with the learning-disabled community through professional carers awareness raising and community visits
2. refresh of an easy-read hate crime reporting leaflet
3. refresher training 23/24 – training is now updated to reflect and include gender/sex-based
4. attend the multi-agency event in May around mental health.
5. host a pop-up event at Sikh Temple.
6. utilise calendar of events to target all strands across the year
7. offer a drop-in coffee with cops and create safety packs for our care homes and sheltered housing schemes

Progress made:

1. training with carers complete – all 4 TLS community venues will have had visits by end of year and be HIRCs
2. easy read hate crime leaflet drafted with support of TLS to launch by end of year
3. delivered 6 hate crime ambassador, 6 hate crime awareness, and 4 refresher training sessions as well as targeted training for TLS, Sunshine Centre and staff forum – we have 262 ambassadors
4. information shared but no opportunity to engage – Prevent webinar held in relation to mental health including handouts on hate crime in relation to mental health
5. complete and CPT and TCT through Operation Sacred now regularly visit all faith groups
6. hate crime ambassadors receive monthly update on relative topic for that month
7. safety packs created, Let's Talk offered to all and 3 visited

Priority 6: Tackling community based anti-social behaviour, and safeguarding victims

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. continue through multi-agency work and funding to target enforcement of the West Thurrock public spaces protection order (PSPO) in relation to cruisers through Operation Irish Lions and looking at innovative responses through the strategic and tactical groups
2. ongoing localised targeting of hot spots through multi-agency action plans
3. overlay police, fire and housing data to identify areas on which to focus
4. continue to use our Locality Action Groups to work in partnership to safeguard victims
5. promote anti-social behaviour (ASB) case reviews and respond accordingly to findings
6. implement the action plan for Ockendon

Progress made:

1. 12 months ending September 2023, 259 reports 57% increase on previous 12 months – downward trajectory since July – 45 PSPO tickets issued between April and November 2023, Operation Dial in place contributing to 58% reduction in crime at Chafford Hundred station
2. a joint action group developed Operation Zap and action plan was put in place to address the issues in Seabrooke Rise – Operation Velour and Operation Bike in place to address the youth/motorbike nuisance in Tilbury, PSPO for Grays High Street renewed and extended to Grays Town Park
3. we are awaiting data from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) community safety to look at how progress
4. there have been 45 referrals made by partners to the Locality Action Groups – no change on 2022/23
5. 7 applications for ASB case review April to November 23, 4 accepted – 3 declined due to i) complaint ii) new case opened, iii) open service request – one outcome has been appealed, 2 process changes in order to manage expectations
6. complete – CCTV improvements unable to be made due to funding and insufficient data to support

Priority 7: Human trafficking, modern-day slavery and organised immigration crime

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

- complete the Local Government Association (LGA) modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) self-assessment and develop action plan in response
- continue to offer training on MSHT
- data collection from all Thurrock systems and police systems including qualitative data
- briefing to community forums to raise awareness by Community Safety and Engagement officers
- posters and awareness to businesses and offer to attend training
- develop and implement innovative and shared disruption approaches
- use intelligence to ensure that multi-agency operations are effectively targeted

Progress made:

- this is drafted and waiting on director agreement to proceed
- 3 sessions delivered from April to December 2023 all offering 25 spaces – uptake has reduced – 21 attendees in total, 11 attendees booked onto the session in February 2024
- data collection is outstanding
- information shared with all forums, 3 requested attendance 1 to schedule
- training scheduled for promotion via Business Buzz newsletter alongside the small and medium enterprises (SME) toolkit from stopthetraffik

Priority 8: Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

1. enable people to report confidently where they do not feel safe through Promotion of safer streets www.essex.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe
2. implement measures to improve people's safety in areas recognised within the street safe project (Operation Minerva)
3. apply for funding for round 4 of safer streets to tackle ASB and VAWG
4. host regularly coffee with cops across the borough
5. host monthly partnership street pop ups in areas of concern
6. sustain the surgeries being held monthly in Grays as part of safer streets legacy
7. deliver a safe well and secure event with ECFRS
8. provide and maintain a resource pack for all council community venues
9. in response to increase in vehicle crime continued running of Operation Sculpture and Operation Alien locally and working cross border to identify and target known offenders

Progress made:

1. Walk and Talk events (Operation Brave) held in Stanford-le-Hope, Grays and Corringham, results to be evaluated and responded to
2. CCTV upgrade in Corringham and additional high vis patrols in area in quarter 4
3. delayed due to requirement for match funding
4. Let's Talk events at 17 locations, Café Connect and regular attendance at community forums by CPT
5. attended 5 Big Lunches, 3 community safety event events at college, 7 engagement events (including 16 days of action and hate crime awareness)
6. Operation Grip patrols in Grays where highest levels of violent offences as well as monthly pop-up events.
7. ECFRS have been attending pop-ups – event to plan
8. resource packs created for all council community venues.
9. although vehicle offences have increased, our solved rate of theft of motor vehicle has increased by 44% year-to-date versus last year-to-date – theft from motor vehicles has reduced by 12% in the last 3 months, we are continuing to use different tactics to tackle this including dedicated team of officers and detectives targeting vehicle offences (Operation Ignition)

In addition:

- digital newsletter launched Essex Police (govdelivery.com)
- Operation Dial engagement events
- weekly articles in CVS newsletter – over 20,000 views in 7 months to August
- engagement at 2 open days, Orsett Show, Horndon Fayre, Alzheimer's, U3A, NHW and Royal British Legion groups, Youth Cabinet, Thurrock Refuge, walk online roadshow with year 5, 5 school and college fetes, and safeguarding events

Priority 9: Tackling offending

Reporting against our commitments, 2023/24

What we said we would do:

- through the Combatting Drugs Partnership respond to the Public Health detailed needs assessment in relation to drugs and alcohol – once completed review re-offending plan to address any gaps
- partners continue to support the IOM scheme through monthly meetings – the focus of IOM continues to with Serious Acquisitive Crime, including vehicle crime and gangs, knives and organised crime groups (OCGs)
- IOM partners will work to prevent acquisitive offending through interventions and support for prolific offenders in the community. Thurrock LCSP remains a key partner within the IOM
- offenders failing to engage or returning to criminality will be returned to the justice system.
- continued piloting of the Acquisitive crime electronic monitoring pilot this will include offenders with vehicle crime convictions and vehicle offences remain part of the daily scans sent to the MOJ
- probation data required against each of the 9 pathways to shape services locally and to know what success looks like
- that concerns around disproportionality in relation to BAME cohort are shared and actions identified within re-offending plan
- continue to promote the use of Essex Restorative Justice Mediation Services particularly in relation to ASB, neighbour disputes and hate crime

Progress made:

- an alcohol and substance misuse epidemiological population health needs assessment for Thurrock was completed in August 2022 and is published here – re-commissioning process completed for all-age service, new Transitional worker and Dependency and Recovery worker in place at adult provider
- violent crime – 10.6% acquisitive crime (robbery, burglary, vehicle) +7.3% (+10.8% vehicle)
- number of interventions are offered including Thinking Skills Programme (general offending) and Building Better Relationships (domestic abuse)
- 30% (8) were recalled in the 12 months ending March 2023
- 5 offenders currently managed through electronic tag
- this has now been provided and Thurrock performs well regarding employment, accommodation and substance misuse – greatest needs in relation to lifestyle, thinking and behaviour
- this is being led by Youth Crime Governance Board and Essex Criminal Justice Board – ethnicity (by group, where recorded) 5.8% Asian, 12.5% Black or Black British, 3.8% Mixed, 1.4% Other, and 70.7% White
- 5 fewer referrals in 2022/23 than in previous year