

COMMITTEE REPORT 23/06/2026

Community Safety Annual Report
2025 - 2026

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PART I

Annual Community Safety Report 2025 - 2026

1. Summary

1.1 Under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, every local authority is required to designate a crime and disorder committee with responsibility for scrutinising the work of the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP). This duty ensures greater transparency, accountability, and democratic oversight of community safety activity conducted by responsible authorities.

1.2 In addition, updated overview and scrutiny statutory guidance issued by the Government in 2024 reinforces the importance of effective scrutiny arrangements and highlights the role of crime and disorder committees in supporting strong local governance and improved community safety outcomes.

1.3 Under the General Public Services and Community Engagement committee Terms of Reference, the committee is required to “review or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken, in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities.” For these purposes, it acts as the Council’s designated Crime and Disorder Committee in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006.

1.4 This Annual Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Report fulfils part of the Council’s statutory duty and the 2006 Regulations, to scrutinise crime and disorder matters.

1.5 Annual updates will be presented to the General Public Services and Community Engagement committee, alongside the proposed Community Safety Partnership priorities for the forthcoming year.

1.6 The Committee may invite representatives from the Responsible Authorities Group (Three Rivers Community Safety Board) to provide further insight or to review specific projects or decisions where appropriate.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That:

Members of the Committee consider and comment on the Community Safety Annual Report.

That public access to the report be immediate.

That public access to the decision be immediate.

Report prepared by: Rebecca Young, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Michelle Wright Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager and Jemma Duffel Community Safety Officer.

3. Details

3.1 The Annual Community Safety Report outlines the good partnership work for 2025-2026 based on the strategic priorities and how each priority has been achieved.

3.2 The CSP priorities are reviewed annually and shaped by analysis of local crime data from the previous year, alongside an understanding of emerging concerns, community-identified trends, and police priorities. This approach ensures that the CSP's work reflects both evidence and lived experience, considering not only the prevalence of different crime types but also their impact on the wellbeing and confidence of the local community. The following six priorities, in no specific order were agreed for 2025-2026.

- Burglary
- Theft of and Theft from a Motor Vehicle
- Robbery
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse & Violence against Women and Girls
- Hate Crime and Prevent

3.3 Each priority is supported by clear objectives, with corresponding actions developed and delivered by the Community Safety Partnership, under the oversight of the Community Safety Coordinating Group and Community Safety Board. The information below provides a summary of the key outcomes.

4. Burglary

4.1 Burglary offences have reduced from 54 to 52 in quarter 4. Family gold-specific burglary offences have reduced from 3 to 1 in quarter 4. In a separate year-to-date comparison, 36 offences have been recorded in hotspot areas, down from 49 in the previous year 2024-2025, further evidencing a sustained downward trend.

4.2 Herts Connected continues to be used as a key tool for disseminating burglary alerts and prevention messaging to the public. Ongoing partnership work with One Vision is increasing engagement with unheard communities, expanding the reach of prevention messaging, and improving inclusivity in communication.

4.3 The Police Crime Prevention Team and One Vision supported an engagement at the end of 2025 in Moor Park. Providing reassurance and tailored burglary prevention advice to residents. The engagement forms part of Operation Guardian the Operation that covers all burglary prevention, support and enhanced high-visibility.

4.4 The presence of the new nine Community Safety CCTV cameras installed across the district aid to the detection of burglary and crime. The new cameras have also played a key role in supporting investigations, including assisting in the identification of several prolific offenders. This investment strengthens our wider community safety approach and enhances our ability to protect residents through timely, evidence-based interventions.

4.5 The council continue to send out seasonal community safety communication messages, to our residents with advice around keeping safe. The annual 12 days of Christmas Community Safety Campaign is promoted to raise awareness and heighten security over the Christmas period.

5. Theft of and Theft from a Motor Vehicle

5.1 Performance continues to improve relating to Theft of Motor Vehicles (TOMV) which has fallen by 7 incidents overall in the last year. When emerging hotspots relating to TOMV are identified by Police, bids are submitted to ensure appropriate tactical activity takes place to support local patrols. Police Cadets have supported this work through Operation Handle, conducting car-door handle checks in previously affected Theft from Motor Vehicles locations/areas to promote vehicle-locking and reduce vulnerability. Crime prevention activity around vehicle security remains a core part of policing. Vehicle related prevention advice is routinely delivered during town-centre pop ups, door knocks and the Safer Streets initiative.

6. Robbery

6.1 Policing activity to address robbery and shoplifting continues to be proactive and intelligence-led. Operation Odum remains the primary response to these offences, targeting key hot-spot areas using a mixture of overt and covert tactics. This operation has recently achieved positive outcomes, including the identification of several key shoplifting offenders. Crime prevention advice is consistently delivered during town-centre pop-ups and door-knock engagements. Ongoing partnership work includes applying for funding to implement Shop-Watch. Shop-Watch is a community-based crime prevention partnership where local retailers, businesses, and police work together to reduce retail theft, antisocial behaviour, and crime. It uses shared communication such as radio networks, Apps, and CCTV links to alert members about active suspects and enhance staff safety along with preventing, deterring and detecting shoplifting and business robbery.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour

7.1 From April 2025 to the present, 80 ASB cases have been reviewed at the Anti-social Behaviour Action Group covering a range of issues including neighbour disputes, ASB or crime linked to specific properties, ASB or crime affecting the wider community and vulnerable persons.

7.2 The council takes a holistic approach when responding to ASB. This involves working closely with relevant partners and social landlords to understand the root causes of the behaviour, considering both supportive and enforcement interventions where appropriate.

7.3 Public information on ASB has been updated on our website, including an ASB toolkit for residents. Additionally, a QR code has been introduced for the ASB survey, enabling residents to provide feedback and supporting the collection of evidence for ASB cases more swiftly.

7.4 A revised ASB Case Review process is now in place. Between April 2025 and the present, the council received six formal requests for ASB Case Reviews. Positives stemming from the ASB Case Reviews are by way of an agreed partnership and victim centred action plan. Beacon Victim Care forms part of our ASB Case Reviews.

7.5 The Youth Action Panel (YAP) continues to play a key role. The panel brings partners together to discuss and manage young people within Three Rivers and Watford who are considered at risk either as perpetrators, victims, or those at risk of becoming either. Since April 2025 to the present day, 21 new referrals for young people have been received and accepted at YAP for multi-agency discussion and support.

7.6 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) continues to take an active role in youth safety education, participating in multi-agency workshops coordinated by Child Safety Media and

hosted at Watford Football Club. Between 1–9 July, these sessions reached over 600 primary school children and covered topics including personal safety, knife crime, online harms, CPR, and fire safety.



7.7 Community engagement remains one of our ASB objectives. There is a wealth of events and engagements that take place year on year and form part of the council's communications plan. Community Safety Clinics are held regularly across Healthy Hubs and temporary accommodation sites, providing direct support to residents.

7.8 ASB Awareness Week 2025 was a success and supported by targeted social media campaigns. During the week, the council and partners held a pop-up at Three Rivers House where residents could drop in to speak to officers for advice and support. A second event, in partnership with Watford Borough Council, Police and the Canal and River Trust, carried out canal-side outreach walk. This outreach aimed to raise awareness of reporting ASB, engage harder-to-reach communities, provide advice, and support, and promote community safety, well-being, and longer-term support pathways.

7.9 The Safer Streets initiative has commenced and continues quarterly across the district, organised by the council and supported by Hertfordshire Police, the Fire Service, and local housing associations. The initiative focuses on engagement, prevention, and intelligence gathering to improve community safety.

7.10 A total of 67 properties were reached through the last Safer Streets with the engagement taking place in Rickmansworth, demonstrating strong outreach and increasing residents' awareness and sense of support. Although delivery will continue throughout 2026/2027, Key outcomes for 2025/2026 include:

Herts Connected: 13 residents successfully signed up, improving access to local services and support.

Adult Safeguarding: 1 referral was completed, demonstrating the initiative's ability to identify vulnerable adults and take appropriate action.

Police Intelligence: 3 submissions were passed to Hertfordshire Police, contributing to crime prevention and wider community safety efforts.

HFSV: 4 referrals or signposts were made, identifying individuals who could benefit from specialist support.



7.11 The Police continue to make effective use of ASB powers to address anti-social behaviour and crime. Over the past year, 12 Closure Orders have been secured, by Police and supported by the council. The council continue to enforce their powers to combat persistent anti-social behaviour.

7.12 The council's Community Safety Conference took place on 10 March 2026. The event was attended by over 50 partner agencies, the theme this year was Children and Young People and saw presentations and displays from Herts Young Homeless, Services for Young People, Parallel Lives and the Child Criminal Exploitation and Diversion Team.



7.13 The council and Thrive Homes fund the Community Support Service delivered by Herts Mind Network (HMN). The support worker manages cases referred through both the Housing department and the ASB Action Group (ASBAG). During 2025/2026, the service has

supported over 60 residents, helping them to sustain their tenancies, seek employment opportunities and build essential skills. In addition, HMN provides regular input into the district's wider community safety and wellbeing activity, contributing to monthly pop-up clinics at the Healthy Hub and holding an integral role within ASBAG and the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Forum. The service remains consistently engaged in all relevant partnership meetings and local initiatives, ensuring a coordinated, multi-agency response to support those most vulnerable.

7.14 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service conduct weekly arson patrols in hotspot areas and have installed Fire Stoppers information boards. In December 2025, Fire and community partners also engaged with the local boating community along the Union Canal, offering fire safety and security advice.

7.15 Work with Trading Standards remains proactive, with 3 under-age test purchase attempts at local retailers this year, all refused, and call blockers installed for four vulnerable residents. A Closure Order was also secured for a local vape shop following repeated issues. A further Trading Standards operation in October resulted in no illegal sales recorded.

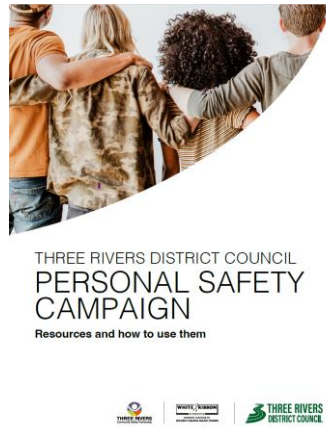
7. Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls

8.1 The Three Rivers Domestic Abuse and VAWG Forum works to ensure that our community feel safe, informed, heard, and supported, this is achieved through collaboration, which is managed through our multi-agency community projects, joint training ventures, and countywide approach to 16 days of Activism. Three Rivers District Council continues to proudly hold the White Ribbon Accreditation and welcomed a growing number of supporters and ambassadors who stand with us in the commitment to end male violence against women. The White Ribbon Delivery Action Plan is on schedule with all actions complete. This year saw an increase in male staff stepping forward as ambassadors, and our internal policies and procedures have been refreshed to reflect new legislation and best practice. Through this action plan the council has adopted a new Domestic Abuse Policy in 2025.

8.2 Each year, the global spotlight shines from 25 November to 10 December during the 16 Days of Activism. Three Rivers CSP once again stood proudly in solidarity:

8.3 The White Ribbon flag was raised above the district, and our Personal Safety Campaign was posted everyday through our social media.





8.4 We closed the year with a well-attended training afternoon delivered by The Centre for Domestic Abuse, focusing on “going the extra mile” for those affected by domestic abuse in all its forms. Professionals from both Watford and Three Rivers took part, and the positive feedback reflected the value of shared learning and continued professional development.



9. Hate Crime and Prevent

9.1 The Police Hate Crime Officer continues to manage investigations efficiently in line with force policy, pursuing positive outcomes through evidence-led case files. A major focus has been the expansion of Third-Party Reporting Centres with a total of 7 centres across the district with Hate Crime Training being delivered in September 2025. Members of the public, professionals and visitors to the district can report a Hate Crime using to link. <https://www.report-it.org.uk/> this can be found on the council website along with additional information [Hate crime | Three Rivers District Council](#)

9.2 Police have attended school sessions and community events. A school poster competition has been run, with winning posters displayed across the CSP. Hate Crime reporting continues to be encouraged through Constabulary social media channels and face-to-face engagement. Hate Crime Awareness Week 2026, ensures continued focus on awareness, prevention, and community confidence.

9.3 The council’s Prevent Delivery Plan, is in place and functions as a live, working document with a number of objectives that the council evidences their involvement in prevention and awareness. The Council agreed for Herts County Council (HCC) to review their current Prevent arrangements in 2026. Prevent is a standing item at the Community Safety Coordinating Group with regular updates provided to partners.

9.4 All Prevent-related incidents within the district are recorded and shared with HCC. These have been in the form of graffiti which is managed and removed swiftly when on council furniture or property. Prevent training takes place every two years with the next session due to take place in September 2026.

10. Community Safety Priorities agreed for 2026 – 2027:

- Burglary
- Retail Crime
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and girls
- Hate Crime and Prevent

10.1 Priorities are based on a number of factors, including the count of crimes, local police priorities and thoughts and concerns. Motor Vehicle theft is not a priority for 2026-2027 due to positive outcomes and interventions and a drop in incidents. Robbery forms part of Burglary and Retail Crime which are priorities for the next 12 months. A Community Safety Action plan has been developed to deliver against these priorities and will be overseen by the Community Safety Coordinating Group.

11. Options and Reasons for Recommendations

11.1 To comply with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Regulations 2009

11.2 To invite Members of the Committee to comment on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

12. Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

12.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed budgets. The Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009 grants local authorities' powers for scrutiny of crime and disorder.

13. The impact of the recommendations:

13.1 To meet the statutory requirement for Three Rivers District Council to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership

14. Financial, Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

None specific

Background Papers

Not Applicable

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Not Applicable

