

Three Rivers District Council

Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

June 2024

Michelle Weight	Rebecca Young	02/06/2024	
Lead Member Name: Andrew Scarth	Area of Responsibility: Community Safety		
CMT Date:	11 June 2024		
JLT Date (if applicable):	1 July 2024		
REASON FOR REPORT			
Reason	JLT/CMT Feedback for Officer and further instructions		Recommendation to JLT/CMT:
Community Safety Partnership (CSP) scrutiny			Opportunity to comment on CSP performance
Consultees consulted	Finance Yes/No Date:	Legal Yes/No Date:	Head of Service/Other Yes/No Date:
Consultees to be consulted following CMT before report publication	Chief Executive	Shared Director of Finance	
PROPOSED ROUTE FOR FURTHER APPROVAL			
			Date
Committee			23/07/2024
Council (if required)			n/a

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES, COMMUNITY SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

**PART I
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT
(ADSPH)**

1 Summary

- 1.1 In April 2009 the Government introduced the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 and brought into force sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 places a duty on all local authorities to establish a crime and disorder scrutiny committee.
- 1.2 It required every local authority to designate a committee to review and scrutinise the activities of Community Safety partnership. The committee may examine the activities of partners but only in so far as these relate to the partnership. The Committee can invite members of the Responsible Authorities, Three Rivers Community Safety Board, to review certain projects or decisions if it chooses to.

- 1.3 Three Rivers District Council already had in place a Leisure and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee which carried out this function by receiving the annual community safety priorities.
- 1.4 Since 2018 the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee and subsequently Climate Change, Leisure and Communities Committee has received updates on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.5 This Annual Community Safety Partnership Report forms part of our duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Regulations 2006 to scrutinise crime and disorder.
- 1.6 Regular, annual reports will now be taken to the new General Public Services, Community Safety and Infrastructure Committee along with the Community Safety priorities for the future year.

2 Details

- 2.1 In March 2023 Three Rivers Community Safety Board agreed the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership to work towards during 2023-2024.
- 2.2 The priorities are reviewed annually and based on local crime data for the previous year. Consideration is given to local concerns and trends, police priorities set through community consultation, and taking into consideration the impact of a crime type on the local community.
- 2.3 The agreed priorities for 2023-2024 were as follows.

2.3.1 Violence

2.3.2 Vulnerable People

2.3.3 Burglary

2.3.4 Motor Vehicle Crime

2.3.5 Fraud & Scams

2.3.6 Hate Crime & Counter Terrorism

- 2.4 Each priority had set objectives, against which actions were set and completed by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.5 The information below summarises some of the outcomes achieved by the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the objectives.

2.6 Priority 1: Violence

To provide support for young people

To raise awareness

To provide workforce development

To prevent and tackle domestic abuse

To provide reactive intervention

- 2.6.1 South West Herts Youth Action Panel (YAP) has been coordinated and managed by Three Rivers District Council and the panel continues to receive referrals directly to understand concerns and explore opportunities for supporting young people at risk of serious violence.
- 2.6.2 The 'No More Service' via Stevenage, provides one to one support for young people at risk of serious violence and referred into YAP. The countywide project has been supported by Three Rivers District Council since 2017, funding has been secured for both 2024 and 2025.
- 2.6.3 Funding was also secured via the PCCs Office to deliver two youth violence awareness events, one for parents and one for Year 6 pupils (age10+). The events shared the dangers of knife crime and youth violence. This event was attended by 35 parents and over 200 children. The feedback from those attending was good and set the way for Three Rivers to expand this event in the future.
- 2.6.4 Workforce development was encouraged for professional women to attend a day of training to work with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. The programme was delivered by the Change Project and increased confidence to engaging perpetrators in interventions.
- 2.6.5 Three Rivers District Council became White Ribbon accredited as part of its commitment to end violence against women and girls in 2023. The white ribbon flag was raised on white ribbon day (25th November 2023) at Three Rivers House. Funding was secured by Three Rivers Community safety team to fund a police self-defence project for female residents, sessions for teenage girls and female adults. The classes were fully booked and extremely successful.
- 2.6.6 Herts Mind Network's Domestic Abuse Caseworker contract ended in March 2024. Three Rivers had funded this post for the last 4 years. The service level agreement will not be extended following Herts Mind Network securing the County commissioned contract to deliver the domestic abuse service in Three Rivers and Watford and the rest of the County. There will be no disruption to services in Three Rivers and we have been successful in the appointment of our own Domestic Abuse Caseworker based within our housing team.
- 2.6.7 Domestic abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Support services were promoted, for 16 days of Activism, through a Countywide project in 2023-2024. Promotion was agreed through a working group and each district was responsible for the creation and promotion of one aspect that would be agreed and shared Countywide. Three Rivers delivered the 'Orange the world' campaign. The project was cost effective and efficient and continue as a Countywide project moving forward. A number of staff took part in wearing orange to work for the day.

2.7 Priority 2: Vulnerable people

To improve access and support for complex needs

To tackle Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

- 2.7.1 Herts Mind Network Community Support Service (CSS) continued to support residents with complex mental health and wellbeing needs during 2023-2024. Due to staff shortages during 2023-2024 MIND fell short of their expected target of 150 referrals, completing 90 under very difficult circumstances. Capacity may change moving forward as funding sources previously supporting the project

significantly reduced over 2023-2024. The needs of clients are becoming more complex for a large number of referrals and clients will need to be supported for longer. We are keen that this service remains for the residents of Three Rivers given the amazing outcomes including debt advice, support in helping with forms, sustainment of tenancy.

- 2.7.2 The Anti-social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG) remains the heart of partnership working regarding the monitoring and managing Anti-social behaviour. The group continues to be well attended by a number of support agencies including statutory and voluntary organisations. Over 15 cases of medium to high risk are dealt with per monthly meeting. Actions to best support residents, both victims and perpetrators of ASB are agreed and monitored and repeat offenders are escalated appropriately. ASBAG has heard 131 cases in 2023-2024.
- 2.7.3 A joint initiative between the council and two of our largest registered housing providers took place in October 2023. Where four 'hot spot' areas were identified as areas where abandoned rubbish and flytipping was being caused. A large skip was delivered and staff from the Strategy and Partnerships team supervised as residents were encouraged to bring out their rubbish. The Three Rivers Health team handed out information leaflets as part of October being Breast Cancer Awareness month. A number of residents welcomed this initiative and filled the skips with rubbish that had been left in their individual flat stairwells and communal areas.

2.8 Priority 3: Burglary

To raise awareness and reduce vulnerability to burglary.

- 2.8.1 Proactive and reactive operations have been delivered to tackle burglary within Three Rivers. Operation Guardian was carried out by Herts Constabulary, to deliver preventative advice and attend community events to increase awareness. Three Rivers are one area of the county whereby burglary stats have fallen and the arrests and remands of three prolific burglars acting in our area has seen a big decline in further reports.
- 2.8.2 Safe and Well visits conducted by the Fire Service include information and advice to reduce vulnerability to crime. A total of 993 visits were carried out.
- 2.8.3 Three Rivers Neighbourhood Policing Team's and Neighbourhood Watch attended multiple events across the district over the last year including Neighbourhood watch attending Rickmansworth Festival and gave out safety advice to reduce vulnerability to burglary. Three Rivers Community Policing team carried out a Bike marking event in August 2023 to help identify stolen property.
- 2.8.4 The online watch link (OWL) has over 21,000 residents in Three Rivers signed up to receive messages, the service provides a fast and efficient way of reaching residents and relaying information advice and guidance quickly. This service has changed and is now known as Herts Connected. One of our new priorities is to support getting even more residents of Three Rivers signed up to this service.

2.9 Priority 4: Motor Vehicle Crime

Tackle and reduce catalytic converter thefts.

Reduce theft of or from a motor vehicle

2.9.1 Police carried out Operation Tafferal a cross border action, working in collaboration to disrupt cross border activity by analysing intelligence to target offenders around Catalytic Converter thefts.

2.9.2 Three Rivers Operation Scorpion officers conducted proactive patrols around the district as part of Operation Pandilla. Operations have been coordinated and delivered to tackle theft of and from motor vehicles.

2.10 Priority 5: Fraud and Scams

Raise awareness in the community on scams and fraud prevention.

Reduce vulnerability in the community to cybercrime.

2.10.1 Opals held their annual events in September 2023 raising awareness to reduce susceptibility to fraud and scams. Opals were supported by the Fire service at several events.

2.10.2 Safe and Well visits conducted by the Fire Service include information and advice to reduce vulnerability to crime. There were 993 visits carried out in 2023.

Trading standards have carried out talks on Scams and Rogue traders at multiple locations in the district. There has been 12+ countywide initiatives engaging with amongst others, adult care services, Councilors and Members and other carers/volunteer groups which all support those most vulnerable to Scams and Rogue Traders across district. There were also 9 direct interventions with Three Rivers residents who had been victims or potential victims of scams. Cybercrime social media and community events have taken place in February and October 2023, and remain a priority given the move to Artificial Intelligence.

2.11 Priority 6: Hate Crime and Counter Terrorism

Workforce development to ensure all relevant staff are equipped to respond to concerns.

Monitor threats.

Increasing community confidence in reporting

Increased support and education on community cohesion and integration in schools and the community.

Ensure community venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists.

2.11.1 Training continues to be available on prevent and hate crime and is available to all via the Government website. The new Prevent Duty stopped delivery of prevent training for a short period during 2023 but dates are now booked in to deliver to Council staff, Members and partners in September 2024.

2.11.2 All three Healthy Hubs became Hate crime reporting stations during 2023.

2.11.3 The Community Safety Partnership works closely with Hertfordshire County Council's Prevent team to understand local issues that may impact on residents. This information is shared with partners and appropriate and proportionate action taken. Three Rives has its own Prevent Delivery Plan.

2.11.4 Three Rivers Continues to deliver multiple local events to support the whole community. In 2023 we saw events in relation to Black History Month, Pride, Holocaust Memorial Day, Eid and Windrush day.

3 Community Safety Priorities

3.1 The Community Safety priorities which were agreed for 2024-2025 by the Community Safety Board in April 2024 are listed below.

3.2 The Community Safety Priorities change year on year, based on what has been reported to Police and Three Rivers local profile data and Intel.

- **Burglary**
- **Theft of and Theft from Motor Vehicle**
- **Robbery (shop lifting)**
- **Anti-social Behaviour, Youth Crime**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Violence against Women and Girls**
- **Hate Crime**

4 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

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

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

5 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

5.1 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.

5.2 The impact of the recommendations is:

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

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None Arising

7 Staffing Implications

8 None Arising

9 Equal Opportunities Implications

9.1 EQIA is attached at Appendix A.

10 Community Safety Implications

The Annual Report shows the work of the Community Safety Partnership which works to reduce crime and disorder and increase feelings of safety.

11 Public Health implications

None Arising

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

None Arising

13 Communications and Website Implications

None Arising

15 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

15.1 The Council has agreed its 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.

15.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Community Partnerships service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
To fail to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership.	The CSP fails to achieve its plans.	Produce annual report for the committee to review and comment on.	Tolerate	4

15.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Likelihood	Low	High	Very High	Very High
	4	8	12	16

	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
	Impact			
	Low -----> Unacceptable			

Impact Score

- 4 (Catastrophic)
- 3 (Critical)
- 2 (Significant)
- 1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

- 4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
- 3 (Likely (21-79%))
- 2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
- 1 (Remote (≤5%))

15.4 In the officers’ opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

16 Recommendation

16.1 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:

Michelle Wright, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, Jemma Duffell, Community Safety Officer.

Data Quality

Data sources:

Three Rivers Community Safety Action Plan

Data checked by:

Rebecca Young, Head of Strategy and Partnerships

Data rating: Tick

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	x

3	High	
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