

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Cabinet 15 November 2021</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Safety Strategy</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Sarah Hayward - Interim Corporate Director Sustainable Communities, Regeneration &amp; Economic Recovery</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Business Recovery</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<p><b>COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2020-2024</b></p> <p>Delivering for Croydon, ensuring that safety and communities are at the heart of our delivery and map the progress made on the renewal of the Community Safety Strategy. <a href="#">Council's priorities</a></p>	
<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b></p> <p>There are no financial implications.</p>	
<p><b>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: This is not a Key Decision.</b></p>	

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Community Safety Strategy, Appendix 1 hereto.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides the recommendation of the Community Safety strategy to full Council.

## 3. THE ROLE OF THE SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP (“SCP”)

- 3.1 The Safer Croydon partnership (“SCP”) covers community safety. It acts as the statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) for Croydon, as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership includes the council, police, fire services, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, community and voluntary sector organisations. The Safer Croydon Partnership works to cut crime, help neighbourhoods fight disorder and reduce reoffending.

- 3.2 This are a number of multi-agency programme boards that have delegated responsibility on behalf of the Safer Croydon Partnership, The purpose of the boards is to coordinate the delivery of actions that supported the strategic aim of the partnership in accordance with the 2017 – 2021 Safer Croydon Community Safety Strategy. The Boards will continue to play a role in co-ordinating the delivery of the proposed Community Safety Strategy 2022-2024

#### **4. SAFER CROYDON PARTNERSHIP: STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 On a yearly basis, the Violence Reduction Network lead on producing the evidence-based data product for the SCP – the Strategic Assessment- which gives an overview of the current and long-term issues affecting or likely to affect a specific area or borough.
- 4.2 The Strategic Assessment is used to make inferences and provide recommendations for prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance priorities as well as to inform the future partnership strategy. This assessment must address specific elements in relation to crime and disorder (which encompasses anti-social behaviour) including the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and reoffending so that the SCP can fulfil its statutory duty to produce a plan or strategy which deals with the reduction of the issues mentioned above. The Strategic Assessment is used to formulate the Community Safety Strategy which provides direction for the partnership in deploying resources efficiently to reduce crime and ASB in the borough and achieving other statutory objectives around reducing reoffending and reducing the misuse of substances such as drugs and alcohol.

#### **5. STRATEGY**

- 5.1 The current Community Safety Strategy runs from 2017 to 2020. The strategy was further extended in 2020 for an additional year and is due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- 5.2 Croydon adopted a public health approach to reducing violence in June 2019 and has established a violence reduction network which has started to implement that approach. This new Community Safety Strategy 2022-2024 has focused on the Public Health approach to Violence Reduction by putting evidence at the heart of the strategy and actively involved a greater number of people and partners in the proposed solutions to reduce violence in the borough.

#### **6. KEY THEMES**

- 6.1 Taking the findings of the evidence-based data strategic assessment for 2020 and 2021 as well as other sources of evidence such as information from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), feedback from partners at the Safer Croydon Partnership, information from the SCP Programme Boards as well as feedback the voluntary and community sector (VCS) have fed through a number of key themes were identified, these included:

- Domestic abuse  
Including how we can better support victims, challenge perpetrators and support them to change, and help people thrive once they've left violence.
- Protecting young people from violence and exploitation  
Including ensuring children's voices are heard and the partnership are protecting young people from violence and exploitation.
- Disproportionality in the criminal justice system  
Some people are treated differently by a range of public institutions, and this can have an impact on how they experience violence.
- Resilience, trauma and trust  
Different people have different protective factors, ranging from personal resilience to trust in other people and organisations. We need to understand how to foster the protective factors in individuals and communities.
- A focus on high priority neighbourhoods  
The strategic assessment identified nine priority areas in the borough which the Partnership should focus on because they are high in crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and the causes of crime.

6.2 The themes identified have been addressed in the draft Community Safety Strategy 2022-2024, Appendix 1, and will contribute to delivering against the following Council Corporate Plan themes and objectives;

- Everyone feels safer in their street, neighbourhood and home;
- People live long, healthy, happy and independent lives;
- Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential

## **7. ENGAGEMENT**

7.1 The development of the new Community Safety Strategy was a genuinely collaborative approach with all parts of SCP having an input. In addition, and the development process included views and ideas from residents, communities and partners external to the SCP who were engaged with.

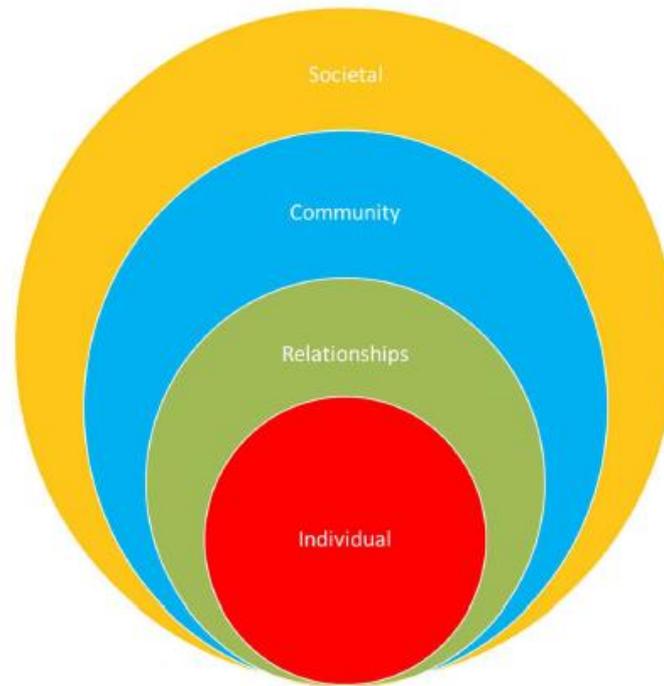
7.2 Voluntary sector partners that are either involved directly in violence and safety work, or those who help support people to divert people from crime and violence or support people and communities in its aftermath were also engaged with.

7.3 Representatives from all the programme boards which tackle specific themes (Youth Crime Board, Reduce Reoffending Board, Counter Extremism and Prevent Board, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence) were also actively involved in the process. The engagement took place over a number of months and a variety of meetings where partners on the SCP discussed key themes, what the SCP and constituent partners are currently doing, what needs to be done and key actions for the new Community Safety Strategy. Partners were also asked to provide written feedback as part of the process.

- 7.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board also held a “Knife Crime Workshop” where discussions were held on what was working well and what areas needed improvement.
- 7.5 Two surveys were designed so that the views of local residents on key themes could be heard. Both surveys were circulated by the partnership and completed by a range of residents within Croydon. The purpose of the surveys was to hear resident’s views on where they felt safe geographically in the borough (wards), what settings they feel unsafe in (Public transport, public spaces), if they have experienced/ witnessed any violence, whether they would they report incidents to the partnership members and what could be done to improve their safety.
- 7.6 One survey centred on young People & Crime and was completed by young residents aged up to 25 years old. The purpose of the survey was to identify what areas people felt unsafe in and how we could improve safety in areas. In the last six months, 451 responses have been received. The survey was circulated by the Director of Education, Youth Offending Service (YOS) and the partnership. The Youth Engagement team also conducted surveys with young people when they carried out their outreach work.
- 7.7 The second survey focused on safety for women and girls which also identified areas where residents did not feel safe and what would need to take place in order to improve their safety. 1,245 responses have been received in the last six months. The survey was circulated by the Family Justice Centre (FJC), partners who work with the community to address Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence as well as violence against women and girls. There was a degree of duplication with the surveys due to the age of respondents but responses were not double counted. There was a degree of overlap because both surveys covered girls which could have potentially fallen within the earlier survey but this did not entail us double counting responses.

## **8 PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**

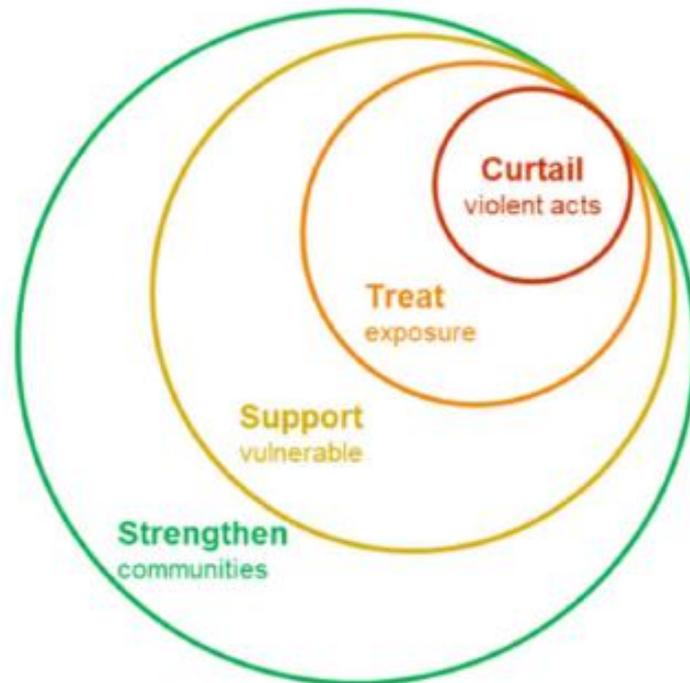
- 8.1 The borough’s Violence Reduction Network (VRN) has adopted the public health approach in reducing violence. This is also used by the London-wide Violence Reduction Unit which was set up by the Mayor of London in late 2018, who adopted it from Police Scotland where it was first used to reduce violence in 2005 and it was proven to be very effective. The public health approach involves a holistic view of both violence and coercion. It adopts an ecological framework based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels.



## 8.2 The ecological framework of the public health approach:

- These include economic and social policies that maintain socioeconomic inequalities between people, the availability of weapons, and social and cultural norms such as parental dominance over children and cultural norms that endorse violence as an acceptable method to resolve.
- The contexts in which social relationships occur, such as schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces, also influence violence. Risk factors here may include the level of unemployment, population density, mobility and the existence of a local drug or gun trade.
- Family, friends, intimate partners and peers may influence the risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. For example, having violent friends may influence whether a young person engages in or becomes a victim of violence.
- Personal history and biological factors influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence including being a victim of child maltreatment, psychological or personality disorders, alcohol and/or substance abuse.

## 8.3 A more practical way of showing how the VRN adopts this ecological framework in reducing violence is by embedding the following core actions in its approach shown in the figure below as used by Waltham Forest:



- Curtail violent acts at source, pursuing perpetrators and enforcing action.
- Treat those who have been exposed to violence to control the spread.
- Support those susceptible to violence due to their exposure to risk factors.
- Strengthen community resilience through a universal approach.

8.4 To achieve this there must be a holistic networked approach to tackling violence involving a wide range of relevant partners. It is also vital that data is at the heart of how the VRN and the partnership will operate. The proposed Community Safety Strategy which is attached continues to focus on our Public Health approach to Violence Reduction

## 9. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

9.1 On 7 September 2021, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee reached the following conclusions:-

- The Committee was strongly supportive of the broad themes identified for the new strategy, agreeing that these were the correct ones for Croydon.
- However, it was acknowledged that it would be a challenge to translate the strategy to an operational level that made a difference to the public in Croydon.
- The Committee was satisfied that there was evidence to indicate there was strong partnership working amongst the partners in the Community Safety Partnership.
- The Committee was encouraged that there was an acknowledgment of the importance to the delivery of the strategy of having both measurable and achievable targets.

- It was agreed that the Committee would look to review the Community Safety Strategy after twelve months to ensure that it was having the intended impact, that the targets were effective in managing delivery.

## **10 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The Interim Director of Finance has confirmed that there are no financial aspects to this strategy.
- 10.2 Approved by: Matt Davis, Interim Director of Finance.

## **11. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that Community Safety Partnerships, formerly known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to help tackle crime and reduce reoffending. Community Safety Partnerships are made up of representatives from 'responsible authorities' including: police, probation service, local authorities, health, fire and rescue authorities who are responsible for developing strategies for reducing crime and offending in their areas. There has also been a mutual duty on Police and Crime Commissioners and Community Safety Partnerships to cooperate on reducing crime and offending under provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 11.2 In summary, the responsible authorities have a statutory duty to work together to: reduce re-offending; tackle crime and disorder; tackle anti-social behaviour; tackle alcohol and substance misuse; and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment. Community Safety Partnerships may also work with any other local partners they wish to, including business representatives and the voluntary and community sector. In carrying out their statutory duties, Community Safety Partnerships also have further obligations including: setting up a strategic group to direct the work of the partnership; to regularly engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them; to set up protocols and systems for sharing information; analyse a wide range of data, including recorded crime levels and patterns, in order to identify priorities in an annual strategic assessment; set out a partnership plan and monitor progress; produce a strategy to reduce reoffending; and commission domestic violence homicide reviews (under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004).
- 11.3 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended provides that the responsible authorities for a local government area shall, formulate and implement, in accordance with section 5 of that Act and regulations published thereunder—(a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area. In this regard, the relevant regulations are The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, as amended. ("The Regulations").

- 11.4 The Regulations provide that for each area there shall be a strategy group whose functions shall be to— (a) prepare strategic assessments; and (b) prepare and implement a partnership plan, for that area on behalf of the responsible authorities. In this context, the Safer Croydon Partnership fulfils this role of strategy group and the partnership plan is referred to as the Community Safety Strategy.
- 11.5 The regulations provide that the partnership plan shall set out—
- (a) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending, crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in the area ;
  - (b) the priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the year prior;
  - (c) the steps the strategy group considers it necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
  - (d) how the strategy group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities; (e) the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities; and
  - (f) the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its obligations under regulations 12, 13 and 14 which pertain variously to community engagement and publication of a summary of the partnership plan.
- 11.6 The strategy group is required to publish in the area a summary of the partnership plan in such form as it considers appropriate, having regard to the need to bring it to the attention of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable.
- 11.7 As various work streams which form part of the proposed strategy are brought forward, further legal consideration may be required on the implementation of the recommendations in the report.

Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

## **12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 12.1 There is no human resources impact from this decision. If any should arise this will be managed under the Council policies and procedures.
- 12.2 Approved by: Jennifer Sankar, Head of HR Place & Housing on behalf of the Director of Human Resources.

## **13. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 13.1 An Equality Analysis Form has been completed and reviewed by the Council's Equalities Manager to ensure that strategy is in accordance with the Equalities

Act 2010. The Equality Analysis ensured that the appropriate steps have been considered to ensure the strategy would not have a negative impact on those who have protected characteristics. It predominantly highlighted that the strategy is informed by the data-led Strategic Assessment, the relevant partners under the SCP and community feedback through resident surveys. The strategy includes and supports the priorities of other local and pan-London strategies too which were listed in the analysis. Altogether, this provides a holistic approach in improving the safety of the community inclusive of protective characteristics, ensuring to eliminate potential negative impact.

13.2 Approved by: Denise McCausland, Equalities Manager.

## **14. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT**

14.1 There is no climate change impact, there is no environmental impact because behaviour that adversely affects the local environment is also under the umbrella of crime and disorder functions detailed below.

## **15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

15.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 says that without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. This duty requires the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and re-offending in its area.

15.2 By Section 6 of the same Act the Council and its partners are required to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.

15.3 Therefore there are two duties. The first is to formulate and implement a crime reduction strategy. This is about crime which already exists. The second is crime and disorder prevention.

15.4 Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews and this came into effect on 13th April 2011. Tackling domestic abuse remains a priority for the Partnership. The Partnership want to support victims better, challenge perpetrators and support them to change, and help people to thrive once they have left abusive relationships

15.5 An additional theme of the strategy is ensuring children's voices are heard and the partnership are protecting young people from violence and exploitation. Between 2014 and 2016 a number of pieces of legislation were introduced, including the Care Act 2014, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Serious

Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. Legislation introduced duties including new reporting, referral and decision-making mechanisms, staff awareness requirements and impacts on contract management in the work of relevant organisations.

- 15.6 Associated with the above mentioned theme, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on local authorities “when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”

## **18. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

### **18.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF ‘PERSONAL DATA’?**

**NO**

### **18.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

**NO**

- 18.3 Approved by: Sarah Hayward, Interim Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery.

---

### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Christopher Rowney, Head of the Violence Reduction Network.

### **APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

Appendix 1 - Draft Community Safety Strategy 2022 - 2024

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.