

Minutes

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board

15 March 2022

2pm to 4:30pm via Teams Meeting

Chair: Julie Rogers

1. Introductions and apologies

Statutory

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Julie Rogers (JRo) – Chair	Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud, Thurrock Council	Attended
Jenny Barnet (vice chair)	Essex Police CHSUPT	Apologies
Cllr R Gledhill	Portfolio Holder	Apologies
Cllr G Collins	Member for Police Fire Crime Panel	Attended
Cllr J Redsell (JRe)	Chair of Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Apologies
Terry Fisher	A/District Commander	Attended
Russell Freeman	ECFRS	Apologies
Ian Adams	ECFRS	Apologies
Cheryl Wells	Strategic Lead – Emergency Planning, Resilience and Community Safety	Attended
Martin Lucas	The Probation Service	Attended
Stephen Mayo	CCG	Apologies
Alfred Bandakpara-Taylor	CCG	Apologies

Non Statutory

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Jo Broadbent	Director Public Health	Attended
Ewelina Sorbjan	Assistant Director – Housing	Apologies
Joanne Davies	Housing	Attended
Sareena Gill	Public Health	Attended
Bosa Osunde	Safeguarding Adults	Apologies
Malcolm Taylor	Children’s Services, TBC	Attended
Clare Moore	Strategic Lead, CSC	Apologies
Kev Malone	Public Health / Thurrock DAAT	Attended
Howard Oldstein	Centre Director, Lakeside Shopping Centre	Apologies
Sheila Coates	SERICC	Apologies
Greg Myddleton	OPFCC	Attended
Sandra Valentine	DWP	Attended
Kristina Jackson	CVS	Apologies

Invited

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Priscilla Bruce-Annan	Thurrock LSCP	Attended

Ex Officio

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Michelle Cunningham	Thurrock Community Safety Partnership	Attended
Mikaela Burns	Public Realm Business Support	Attended

1.1 Attendees were reminded of confidentiality and disclosure agreement.

1.2 Items for urgent AOB.
None noted.

2. Minutes.

2.1 Minutes from 16/12/21.

The minutes were approved as a true record and the Board agreed for them to be published.

2.2 Outstanding Actions.

The action log was reviewed, and updates were recorded.

2.3 Matters Arising.

Julie updated that Knife Angel was a creative piece that is made from knives, which would be a good talking point at Lakeside and would provide a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of violent crime. Julie sought the views of board members whether work should begin to resurrect that statue at Lakeside Shopping Centre running alongside community events highlighting the dangers of carrying knives.

Terry confirmed that he agreed with the initiative as knife crime is an increasing problem and knives are often the weapon of choice used in violence across Essex.

Greg highlighted the practicalities that go into organising for the Knife Angel statue to visit the Borough as there could potentially be a long lead time. Greg updated that the Knife Angel will be in Southend in September 2022 and Harlow in 2023.

Cheryl updated that Southend were trialling new equipment to detect weapons and knives and queried if there was an option for Thurrock to trial the equipment as well. Terry stated that he was not aware of that equipment but would explore it further.

Cllr Collins queried if there was a particular reason for knife crime or demographic represented within the statistics. Terry advised that knife crime has been a significant problem over the last decade in the UK as they are easily obtained by individuals. Terry stated that knife crime is not a significant problem in Thurrock but that knives are being used. The rise in violent crime is being taken very seriously with joint operations organised.

3. Performance and Incidents of Note.

3.1 Essex Police Crime Performance Report – Shared **RESTRICTED.**

Terry gave an overview of the Essex Police Crime Performance as follows:

- ASB is down by 42.7%
- Violence against the person is up by 6.1%
- Sexual offences are up by 48.5%
- Robbery is up by 0.6%
- Theft offences are up by 18.9%
- Racial/ religiously aggravated offences are up by 34.2%
- Domestic abuse is up by 0.9%
- Overall, all crime is up by 11.2%

3.2 Incidents of note.

1. A stabbing took place in Charles Street, Grays on 23 February where a 19-year-old man was in a life-threatening condition and was treated in hospital. The individual did not want police intervention and the investigation is ongoing.
2. A car was driven the wrong way down the A13 on 19 February and collided with vehicles. The two suspects were pursued on foot and were arrested. Both suspects are local and reside in the Thurrock area and are currently on police bail.
3. A fire occurred at Kier Hardie Tower Block in Grays on 27 February. The building was not evacuated but some residents expressed their concern about the incident.

3.3 Operations.

Terry advised that Operation Caesar has continued to run a number of successful operations over the last four weeks. There was a video of police officers pursuing a bike in Chadwell Heath, where the rider ran onto the football pitches and was tackled to the floor and escorted away.

Julie queried the timeline of when the vehicles will be available that were procured by funding from Thurrock Council. Terry advised that the procurement process had started with the bikes being purchased. Once they arrive, they are required to be built in the Essex Police workshop. Terry added that officers have been identified who will undertake the training on how to use them. The aim is for them to be available in the summer with joint comms being planned for the launch.

4. PFCC Update.

4.1 PFCC Panel Update.

Cllr Collins advised that the precepts were raised and went through without any comment or incident.

4.2 Police and Crime Plan.

Greg provided a presentation on the Police and Crime Plan. The programme began initially to co-locate a number of agencies within one shared space to follow a model of Community Safety hubs in each area. It was recognised over time that they need to be adaptive and aligned with what the local partnership looks like, for partners to come together to work more closely and share information and data as required. Greg stated that the hubs have been impacted by COVID as they have been limited or closed during the measures restrictions as a result of the pandemic.

Greg advised that there are 12 Community Safety Hubs within Essex with Thurrock and Harlow being the only authorities which do not have the hubs currently, although there are plans to address that. Brentwood are launching a new hub this week as shared space was made available following the renovation of their Town Hall. Greg updated that planning has begun to organise a learning event to determine what works well, what does not work so well and good practices which can be tailored and mirrored across the County.

Julie advised that work is taking place in Thurrock to relocate the CCTV room and bring together all enforcement officers to a shared place to create a community hub. David Kleinberg is leading on the project and the timeline is for it to be delivered this year.

Action: Julie to pass Martin's details to David to be involved in the process going forward to include the Probation Service within the shared space.

5. Delivering Safer Communities.

5.1 Strategic Assessment.

The Strategic Assessment was discussed in detail.

The wording in relation to priority 1 "Tackling the disproportionality of Violence Against Women and Girls" was challenged and a request for men and boys to be added. Rationale for this was expressed by Dr Jo Broadbent as there is a disproportionality and has a detrimental impact on women's health, Greg added that this wording aligns to the Police and Crime Plan and Terry advised the need to understand and accept that VAWG primarily affects women.

The Board voted and agreed the wording of the priorities as presented at the meeting by Michelle Cunningham.

Michelle advised that the text in green would not be published in the

public domain. The Board also agreed with the local risks that has been identified in the assessment.

Action: All to confirm if any other text needs to be changed to green and not be published in the public domain.

Cllr Collins queried if there had been any noticeable tension between the Russian and Ukrainian communities within Thurrock. Terry advised that the community tensions are being monitored as there is a big European culture in Thurrock but nothing of note has been raised or concerns posed. Nationally, there has been an increase in anti-Russian sentiment and increased support for the minor left-wing groups that have taken action against Russian properties. Terry added that work is taking place alongside the IAG to assist and support the local communities but at present there is no concern in Thurrock.

Malcolm stated that the feedback from schools is that there is a lot of misinformation on social media, with guidance and support materials being provided to continue the conversations on the motives of those sources and why the information could be portrayed in a certain way. There were concerns from schools on how they provide information in a balanced manner with pupils and families with Russian and Ukrainian backgrounds. Schools are having assemblies and extra PHSE lessons to explain the situation and give a balanced view on what is happening.

5.2 Delivery Plan.

Michelle advised that the plan has not yet been finalised. The plan will be taken to the Executive meeting for sign off as they will be responsible for delivering the plan. The plan will be shared with the Board once it has been agreed at the Executive.

5.3 Updated Risk Assessment.

The risk assessment was reviewed by the Board. Julie questioned whether the risk assessment should be updated to reflect the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Cheryl advised that the Essex Resilience Forum have called a Tactical meeting to discuss the conflict and the response will be dependent on the number of people that will be housed in Thurrock. A project group has been set up to manage and monitor the situation as it progresses.

The group will also report into the Thurrock Tactical Co-ordination Group which meet on a fortnightly basis. Michelle added that it is a risk as a local response but is no different to any other community that is managed in the borough. If it is deemed as an issue nationally, it would be managed through the CT.

Action: Michelle and Terry to have a discussion offline regarding the conflict, linking in with Children's Services. This risk will be managed through the Executive meeting risk log.

6. Priority 2 – Tackling Gang Related Violence.

6.1 LCSP Thematic Review.

Priscilla updated that the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) commissioned an Independent Thematic Review and a Deep Dive Case Audit following an incident in Thurrock involving two teenaged males in March 2021. Independent Author of the Thematic Review is Dr Russell Wate, Queen's Police Medal (QPM). In March 2021 a 15-year-old male was stabbed 3 times by a 14-year-old male in Thurrock. The victim sustained serious injuries. The child perpetrator has since been convicted and sentenced. In line with WT2018 a Rapid Review was held, but unusually not on the victim but on the perpetrator, as he was known to services. The case did not meet the criteria for a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) as abuse or neglect was not known or suspected at the time of the incident. The case met the criteria for a Local Practice Review. This was ratified by the LSCP Statutory Partners and Independent Chair.

In Thurrock there is a strong commitment from all agencies and individuals to tackle serious youth violence. The structures, processes, and procedures that are currently in place, and those proposed actions, are addressing, where possible, serious youth violence.

The child perpetrator's case was unique. He had received extensive support from a multitude of agencies. Although there were concerns of information sharing being insufficient, there was a strong desire from professionals to work together. There was good attendance at multi-agency meetings and frequent communication between professionals. No practice or system failings were identified, and it is acknowledged that this incident was unforeseen.

Draft recommendation areas are Improvements in information sharing, Threshold and Pathway development in relation to Contextual Safeguarding, work on transitional safeguarding approach, develop more creative work to engage and educate young people and families around Social Care involvement, consideration around housing services in Thurrock's use of temporary accommodation for children subject to, or involved in, serious youth violence and work with secondary schools on permanent exclusions and work with primary schools to identify children at risk earlier and awareness programmes for children.

The draft learning report that covers the Thematic Review and Deep Dive Case Audit is with the Statutory Partners for comment and considerations around publication. Once a decision is made any learning and recommendations will be shared.

6.2 Drivers of Violence Assessment and Actions.

Michelle advised that it was a useful exercise which was presented at

the Violence and Vulnerability Board. This will be picked up and monitored as part of the bigger action plan within that Board meeting.

6.3 Summary Report of Community Listening Project on Youth Violence.

Michelle advised that this work was conducted by the Violence and Vulnerability unit who surveyed young people in Thurrock as part of the Red Balloon project covering Tilbury and Grays:

- Top concern was knife crime/getting stabbed, followed by theft, big groups, shootings and being raped
- Some mentioned they felt there wasn't much youth violence in Thurrock
- 50% said worried about being exploited by gangs
- 88% said felt safe went out with friends (noted time of day not qualified), this was higher than the average of 65% for Essex
- Questioned on what would help them feel safe 43% being with friends, 17% trusted adult in area
- Questioned on what made them feel unsafe – 26% poor lighting and 21% being alone

Greg updated that the Safer Streets Round 4 Funding had opened on 14 March and would be open for bids until 13 May, with a focus on VAWG and ASB. A meeting has been scheduled with colleagues at Essex Police to review data to identify whether there are particular locations that have not received funding which could benefit this time round. The Home Office have extended the funding to be over two financial years with £750k being the maximum bid amount for each area. There also needs to be a 50% match funding of their contribution which could form as an officer or support in kind.

7. **Priority 4 – Re-offending.**

7.1 Addressing disproportionality with remand/ custody cohort.

Martin advised that the Probation Service have powers to recall people back to custody if there is a reason to believe that re-offending could occur, or the risk has increased. An investigation took place following a complaint from a mother who had indicated that the decisions to recall the young black male was discriminatory due to his race. On this occasion there was no evidence to uphold that element of the complaint. Martin added that the Probation Service have three teams in South Essex and following the assessment it found that the proportion of black men that were being recalled was higher in Thurrock than the other areas.

Martin queried if there was other work being undertaken locally to look at the disproportionality and any trends that had been identified. Martin stated that he would welcome conversations and reflections on the matter outside of the meeting.

Action: Martin to liaise with Clare Moore in Children's Social Care as it

was also highlighted from the YOS team with work being undertaken to tackle and review the pathway of young offenders.

7.2 SET Reducing Re-Offending Strategy.

The Strategy was reviewed at the meeting. The Board agreed that the strategy would be adopted as Thurrock’s strategy and would be underpinned with the specific action plans. Martin advised that the Strategy is being signed off at the Reducing Re-Offending Board.

7.3 Thurrock Reducing Re-Offending Plan.

The Plan was reviewed at the meeting. The Board agreed that the plan would be adopted as an ongoing document.

7.4 DAAT Update.

Keve updated that Adult Services are producing good performance and working well with the multiagency partners. More work is being undertaken with Adult Social Care with the Assertive Outreach service and complex needs adults. Keve stated that young person’s complexity is high, but the caseload remains low. Work is ongoing with the provider to find a solution to address recruitment issues.

8. Priority 5 – Counter Extremism and Terrorism.

8.1 Situational Risk Assessment.

Cheryl advised that on 9 February the National Threat Level was downgraded from Severe to Substantial meaning that an attack is **likely**. There remains no greater risk to Thurrock than other areas of the UK. She updated the Board on the detail within the assessment.

9. New Priority – 2022/23 Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery.

9.1 Modern Day Slavery Strategy.

Michelle shared the draft strategy and advised that the Adult Safeguarding Board and CSP Executive agreed the strategy and wanted to take ownership and adopt it jointly as a partnership between the Adult Safeguarding Board, Community Safety Partnership Board, and the Children’s Safeguarding Board. The Board agreed to adopt the board as a collective ownership between the boards mentioned above.

10. Funding Update.

10.1 Report on Spend.

Michelle advised that the CSP had £43,232 available to allocate this funding year, of which just under £25k is grant fund from PFCC. The remainder is Council funded. In addition, Environment has contributed £17k for the Essex wide commissioning of the IDVA post within the MASH. Additionally, £14,400 was carried forward towards violence and vulnerability work. The funds were allocated and spent as follows.

Priority	Allocated	Spend	Work delivered
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VAWG	5000	3361	Training and awareness – awareness plans still in place to spend before end of year
Hate Crime	2000	Nil	Community event with TLS cancelled due to COVID
V & V (gang)	13754	13754	Mentoring through crew project. GTM intel gathering
Crime Prevention	2450	2450	No cold calling signs and stickers (scheme to relaunch sheltered next year)
CSE	5000	5000	ANTSER training
ASB	3600	3815	CCTV – 2 mobile moves and support for safer streets
ASB	10750	12250	Op Caesar – quad bikes and drone op planned
ASB	10976	6909	Op Irish lions 2376 for police ops, 8600 allocated to EEO, predicted 4k underspend
Community engagement	5520	5520	CSEO providing weekend cover – detailed evaluation provided to Exec

10.2 Safer Streets Grant Update.

Michelle advised that the Safer Streets funding for Grays is as follows.

Project	Allocated	Spend	Commentary
CCTV	89,629	89,629	Additional 14 Cameras with tannoy capability
Street Lighting	56,000	42,311.22	6 out of 10 improvements delivered
Solar Lighting	101,749	111,925	50 solar lights in parks and riverfront. Additional 5 in Grays Park from street lighting underspend
CS Enforcement Officers	86,122	86,122	2 officers employed for 7 months – results all collated by KPIs and 3-month extension
Community Engagement	40,000	39,989.05	This included £13,520 contribution to shop radios. 6 engagement events will have been held plus adults safeguarding event supported
Security for Café in park	0	3500	Street lighting underspend enabled CCTV and alarm

In addition, outside of CSP funding for the following.

Project	Allocated	Spend	Commentary
Business Watch	2,000	2,000	Before > 80% felt very or somewhat unsafe working in the high street, after >60% felt somewhat or very safe
Crime prevention e-learning training package	40,000	40,000	This is in development by external company – 600 licenses across Essex
Essex Fire Safe and Well visits	1,500	1,500	Merchandise purchased and all events supported
Project officer (admin costs)	15,000	NIL	Not recruited – reallocated to Op Overwatch

11. **Further agenda items**

Action: Michelle to review the forward plan and include future agenda items.

12. Any other business.

There was no other business raised.

Meeting Dates	Items for Discussion
2pm to 4:30pm	
June 2022	
September 2022	
December 2022	

Priority:	Meeting	Lead
1. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls	June	Ewelina, Jo, Sheila, Michelle
2. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:	June	Ewelina, Jo, Sheila Michelle
3. Violence and Vulnerability:	Sept	Jo & Clare
4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism:	Sept	Cheryl
5. Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime	Dec	Terry
6. Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims -	Dec	Terry, Ewelina, Michelle
7. Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime	March	Bosa
8. Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement	Dec	Terry & Michelle
9. Tackling Offending	March	Martin & Clare (YOS)
In addition:		
Information sharing sign off (review due CCG)	June	Michelle
Priorities draft agreement	Dec	Michelle
Strategic assessment – sign off	March	Michelle
Delivery plan – sign off	March	Michelle