

SAFER WOKING PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Executive Summary

This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2023-26.

The plan for 2023-26 remains very similar to previous plans with 5 key priority areas of: Anti-Social Behaviour; Crime; Drugs and Alcohol, Reducing Reoffending and Preventing Violent Extremism.

The draft plan proposals were considered by the Community Safety Task Group at its meeting on 8 March 2023 where it was approved in principle for publication subject to scrutiny by this Committee. The Joint Committee has previously agreed to delegate approval, in consultation with the Chair of the Community Safety Task Group, to make any minor amends as a result of scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that the Partnership Plan may be published as promptly as possible after this meeting. Should the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have any significance issues of concern, the matter will be referred back to the Community Safety Task Group to consider prior to publication.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE That

the Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2023-26 be noted.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers: None

Reporting Person: Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Officer
Email: Camilla.Edmiston@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3080

Contact Person: Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Officer
Email: Camilla.Edmiston@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3080

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ellen Nicholson
Email: cllrEllen.Nicholson@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Melanie Whitehand
Email: cllrMelanie.Whitehand@woking.gov.uk

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2023-26. A local assessment supported the decision making on the priorities for the plan, as well as other data, such as crime and anti-social behaviour, Surrey and officers' knowledge and experience. Public consultation information was also taken into consideration.
- 1.2 The Police and Justice Act 2006 gave local authorities responsibility for considering crime and disorder matters. On 6 December 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a recommendation in a report on a suggested scrutiny agreement. This agreed that each new Safer Woking Partnership Plan would be brought annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for appropriate scrutiny.

2.0 Development of the Safer Woking Partnership Plan

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a new duty on the police and local authorities to work together to develop and implement three-year strategies to tackle crime and disorder. These strategies are now based on an annual strategic assessment which aims to provide partnerships with intelligence and evidence of the priorities and problems for their partnership that will inform effective and responsive delivery structures.
- 2.2 Annual assessment work identifies current and possible future crime, disorder and substance misuse issues from sound evidence and analysis of data obtained via Surrey and relevant agencies. Locally officers have considered appropriate data and information which, when coupled together with their knowledge and experience, has led us to agree to carrying forward the current key priorities, with some minor amendments, for the production of the draft Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2023-26 Priorities and Action Plan (see Appendix 1). The background information regarding the partnership and legislation has now been separated from the action plan for simplicity and can be found attached (see Appendix 2).
- 2.3 The plan has 5 key priority areas as follows:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour - includes identifying and supporting victims and addressing key hotspot locations and problem individuals;
 - Crime - targeting crime prevention for fraud, domestic abuse, child exploitation (a national and local priority), hate crime and serious organised crime, while supporting victims appropriately;
 - Drugs and Alcohol - addressing the priorities contained in the Surrey Substance Misuse Strategy;
 - Preventing Violent Extremism - awareness raising and training for frontline staff;
 - Reducing Reoffending - focusing on the support and development of the current multi-agency approaches with suitable interventions targeted at the most prolific offenders.
- 2.4 Following scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the final plan will be published on the Woking Borough Council web site, unless there is a significant issue in which case the matter will be referred back to the Community Safety Task Group for further consideration. The implementation of the plan will be monitored by the Community Safety Task Group of the Joint Committee with quarterly action plan reports. The quarterly reports will continue to be circulated to all borough and county members.

3.0 Corporate Strategy

3.1 There was a recent programme of community engagement roadshows and a survey that has helped in the development of our Corporate Strategy. This partnership plan will enable us to respond to the following that were identified through this consultation:

- Make the borough a safe place for everyone
- Support older and vulnerable people in our community
- Ensure that all of our towns and villages are thriving places.

4.0 Implications

Finance and Risk

4.1 It is anticipated that the work on the implementation of the partnership plan can be accommodated within existing resources and funding, but it may include bidding for funding for specific projects.

4.2 There are no known implications for risk.

Equalities and Human Resources

4.3 There are no known equality implications.

4.4 It is currently anticipated that the implementation work can be accommodated within existing staffing resources.

Legal

4.5 The production of the strategic assessment and the publication of the partnership plan fulfil some of the statutory requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

4.6 Much of the work within the plan supports our responsibilities under Safeguarding.

5.0 Engagement and Consultation

5.1 The community engagement platform was used to carry out a survey of residents on crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety. In total 189 questionnaires were completed from residents across the borough. This was used to inform the decisions on priorities and the action plan for the Safer Woking Partnership Plan. Some summary information is provided in Appendix 3.

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