

# Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee

Date: 1 July 2019

Time: 4.00pm

Venue Hove Town Hall, - Council Chamber

Members: **Councillors:** Knight (Chair), Moonan (Deputy Chair), Powell (Opposition Spokesperson), Simson (Group Spokesperson), Bagaeen, Deane, Ebel, Evans, Hill and McNair

Invitees: CCG Representative; Sussex Police Representative; Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, MBE Police Engagement Group; Joanna Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project

Contact: **Kat Hoare**  
Democratic Services Officer  
01273 291064  
kat.hoare@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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# AGENDA

## 1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) **Declarations of Substitutes:** Where councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same political group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) **Declarations of Interest:**
- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
  - (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
  - (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

- (c) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

*Note: Any item appearing in Part Two of the agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the press and public.*

*A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls and on-line in the Constitution at part 7.1.*

## 2 MINUTES

7 - 14

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Penny Jennings

Tel: 01273 291065

## 3 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

#### 4 CALL OVER

- (a) Items 7-11 will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

#### 5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** To receive any petitions presented by members of the public to the full Council or at the meeting itself.
- (b) **Written Questions:** To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
- (c) **Deputations:** To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### 6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

15 - 16

To consider the following matters raised by Members:

- (a) **Petitions:** To receive any petitions referred from Full Council or submitted directly to the Committee;  
  
Hove Carnegie Library: To consider the Petition from Christopher Hawtree presented to Full Council on 28 March 2019 ( see attached);
- (b) **Written Questions:** To consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** To consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Full Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

#### 7 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS- NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

17 - 24

A report of the Monitoring Officer (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Kat Hoare  
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 01273 291064

#### 8 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

25 - 38

A report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Jo Player  
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 01273 292488

**9 FIELD OFFICER SERVICE : PROGRESS REPORT 39 - 52**

A report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Annie Sparks

Tel: 01273 292436

Ward Affected: All Wards

**10 VICTIM BLAMING PLEDGE 53 - 58**

A report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing (copy attached)

Contact Officer: Jo Player

Tel: 01273 292488

Ward Affected: All Wards

**11 BHCC THIRD SECTOR COMMISSION 2020-2023 TO FOLLOW**

A Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing (copy to follow)

Contact Officer: Emma McDermott

Tel: 01273 296805

Ward Affected: All Wards

**12 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL**

To consider items to be submitted to the 25 July 2019 Council meeting for information.

*In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting*

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### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Kat Hoare, (01273 291064, email [kat.hoare@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:kat.hoare@brighton-hove.gov.uk)) or email [democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

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- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.



**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 11 MARCH 2019**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Daniel (Chair) Marsh (Deputy Chair), Nemeth (Opposition Spokesperson), West (Group Spokesperson), Cattell, Greenbaum, A Norman, K Norman and Peltzer Dunn

**Invitees:** Joanna Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project and Anusree Biswas Sasidharan BME Police Engagement Group

**PART ONE**

**54 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**54a Declaration of Substitutes**

54.1 Councillor Greenbaum stated that she was in attendance in substitution for Councillor Phillips.

**54b Declarations of Interest**

54.2 Councillor West sought referred to Item 47 on the agenda, seeking clarification and sought legal advice in respect of this matter as he sat on the Board of Trustees of two organisations which might be recipients of funding in future. It was confirmed that this did not constitute a prejudicial interest. It would however, be appropriate for him to declare an interest when any further report came to Committee if those organisations were in receipt of funding at that time. On that basis Councillor West remained present at the meeting during its consideration and any discussion thereon.

**54c Exclusion of the Press and Public**

54.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("The Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, that there would be disclosure to them of confidential information, (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information as defined in section 100(1) of the Act).

54.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

**55 MINUTES**

- 55.1 **RESOLVED** - That the Chair be authorised to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019 as a correct record.

**56 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS**

**International Women's Day**

- 56.1 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, stated that she wanted to start with a big thank you to all the womens' groups in the city including the council's own women's network for their inspirational events to celebrate women on International Women's Day.

**LGBT History Month**

- 56.2 The city had had another successful LGBT History month and the council with its partners in the public and community and voluntary sector would be running the city's gender pronoun awareness campaign, supporting International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, a moment to celebrate transgender people and the courage it took to live openly and authentically, while also raising awareness around the discrimination trans people still faced.

**BME Volunteer Fair**

- 56.3 The Chair stated that she was very pleased to announce that the council was supporting the Trust for Developing Communities who would be hosting the first BME volunteer fair in the city, solely focused on our BME communities and providing information and on the spot sign up to volunteering opportunities with a wide range of organisations including the council.

**Modern Slavery Co-Ordinator**

- 56.4 Lastly, the Chair wanted to advise the Committee that the council had appointed a modern slavery co-ordinator who would be working across the council to ensure staff had the skills and confidence to identify and support victims to reveal and report their situation and get the support they needed.

- 56.5 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the Chair's Communications be noted and received.

**57 PRESENTATION(S)**

- 57.1 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed Jo Gough notation of RISE who gave a presentation in relation to the perpetration of domestic abuse, the trauma it created and the ways in which RISE sought to support victims and to address these issues. Ms Gough explained that "trauma" could be categorised as an emotional shock following a stressful event or a physical injury which could lead to long term neurosis. Coercive control was often a feature in creating trauma and was characterised by an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that was used to harm, punish or frighten their victim.



57.2 It was a staggering fact that in 2017 alone 184 people had died in Europe as victims of terrorism, 3,000 women had died as a result of femicide (domestic violence). Ms Gough went on to explain that there were three distinct stages of recovery and outlined work carried out to assist those referred to them in the recovery process. Ms Gough concluded her presentation by explaining that RISE a Brighton and Hove Based Sussex wide service had been in existence for 25 years and detailed the broader based work carried out by the organisation and their continuing ethos going forward to foster freedom from abuse and violence.

57.3 The Chair and Members thanked Ms Gough for her informative presentation and commended the on-going support for victims and valuable work carried out by RISE.

57.4 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

## **58 CALL OVER**

58.1 All items appearing on the agenda were called for discussion with the exception of the following items which were agreed without discussion:

Item 61 – Progress Update on Implementation of International Migrant Needs Assessment Recommendations; and

Item 65 - The Role of Public Libraries in Communities.

## **59 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

59.1 It was noted that a petition had been forwarded from the meeting of Full Council held on 31 January 2019 in relation to Hove Carnegie Library Pages 21 and 22 of the Agenda referred and Mr Hawtree the Lead Petitioner was invited to speak to his petition set out below:

“We, the undersigned Carnegie readers, who have endured over three years’ anxiety about our Library, are now aghast to find that the Council’s current Administration proposes our libraries’ reduction be a swingeing “242,000. We request that this be halted while Councillors explore the return in-house of bibliographical services – such as a book selection - to our esteemed librarians.”

59.2 The Chair, Councillor Daniel responded in the following terms:

“Thank you for presenting the petition, it is good to know that people support and value their public libraries, as does this administration which has kept all the libraries open and doubled libraries’ opening hours to increase accessibility.

The proposed £242,000 savings was reduced to £121,000 in Budget Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February in order to help safeguard the future of our libraries.

In regard to bringing bibliographic service in-house, the council would have to recruit specialist staff to run an in-house bibliographic service and this would cost considerably

more than the £65K we current pay Bertram's. This cost has already reduced by 13% down from £75k in 2010.

In regard to book selection, it is worth noting that the Library Service already retain the responsibility for book selection, and carry out this role in a number of ways. This includes creating purchasing profiles for obvious book-buying such as getting the latest publications from top-selling authors, as well as selecting some of the more esoteric or locally focused stock themselves."

59.3 Councillor West welcomed the response given and the steps which had been taken to seek to safeguard the library offer available. He considered it would be helpful however if Members could be briefed on how budgets would be managed going forward and services would continue to be supported.

59.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred in that view stating that inclusion of details relating to book choices, options and customer satisfaction would be welcomed. Whilst much had been done he considered that some "problems" in respect of Hove Library remained to be solved.

59.5 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the petition be noted and received and that a further report be provided ideally to the scheduled July meeting of the Committee (Item 65 also refers).

**59b Written Questions**

59.6 There were none.

**59c Deputations**

59.7 There were none.

**60 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

**60a Petitions**

60.1 There were none.

**60b Written Questions**

60.2 There were none.

**60c Letters**

60.3 There were none.

**60d Notices of Motion**

**End Victim Blaming: Pledge**

- 60.1 The Committee considered the Notice of Motion put by Councillor Daniel at the meeting of Full Council held on 31 January 2019.
- 60.2 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed the positive response which the Notice had received when placed before Full Council and stressed the need to highlight this issue. In forwarding it to this Committee of which she was Chair she was requesting Member support to bring forward a report on this subject to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 60.3 Councillor Cattell, stated that she fully supported this; as a volunteer on a domestic abuse helpline she had been contacted by numerous women who had suffered from abuse and had been left traumatised and required specialist training and support. She hoped that the motion would be supported unanimously.
- 60.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Notice of Motion be noted and received; and  
(2) That the Committee receive a report to a future meeting detailing how the Victim Focus pledge can be fulfilled to challenge and reduce victim blaming of people who have experienced trauma, abuse or crime in our organisation.

**61 PROGRESS UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT NEEDS ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 61.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing summarising the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the International Migrant Needs Assessment published in January 2018 as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The recommendation set out in the report was agreed without discussion.
- 61.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee notes the findings of this update report.

**62 UPDATE ON THE VIOLENCE VULNERABILITY AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

- 62.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to provide an update on the city's Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) Strategy and the associated VVE Action Plan. The report gave a detailed update on the work undertaken since March 2018 and a briefing on the work planned for 2019-20.
- 62.2 It was noted that the Committee had last received a report on this subject in March 2018 when Members had been briefed in relation to the current threat in relation to Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation and gang activity relating to the emerging County Lines phenomenon. It had also outlined the strategy being adopted by the Community Safety Partnership to disrupt that activity and to support people in exiting their involvement in such activity.
- 62.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed the report stating that it was important for this problem to be addressed head-on and to have robust strategies in place to address it, particularly in order to support those who were vulnerable and who were trying to break

from cycles of involvement in these activities. It was important for those coming forward to be treated as victims rather than as perpetrators of crime.

- 62.4 Councillor Cattell, welcomed the report which showed that a pro-active approach was being taken to this issue which had spread out from London. It was good to note that dealing with issue was very much on the Police' agenda and that partners were adopting a collaborative approach in information sharing and to tackling this problem.
- 62.5 Councillors, A Norman and West also welcomed the report. Councillor Peltzer Dunn also considered that it was a positive report but considered that it would be helpful if the Action Plan could be set out in a slightly different format in future which would make the information set out more clearly.
- 62.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the reported progress in relation to the VVE Strategy and Action Plan; and

(2) That the Committee agree that a further progress report be submitted to NICE Committee in Autumn 2019.

**63 DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY**

- 63.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing seeking approval of the proposed framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and VAWG Strategy for Brighton and Hove and East Sussex and to update the committee on the planned development work to finalise the Strategy 2019-2024 and associated governance and action plan. The strategy was a partnership strategy to which the Council signed up via the Community Safety Partnership, recognising domestic and sexual violence and abuse including harmful practices as one of the partnership's priorities.
- 63.2 Councillor West sought clarification of the of the status of the document and recommendations set out in appendix 2 to the report.
- 63.3 Dr Sasidharan, Police BME Engagement Group welcomed the fact that a wide range of partners had been involved in drawing up the strategy and that all stakeholders had been pro-active.
- 63.4 The Chair, Councillor Daniel stated that she particularly welcomed the input in relation to mental health issues and recognition of the impact abuse had on the mental as well as physical health and well-being of victims and the valuable input and feedback which had been used going forward; also recognition of issues for those with learning difficulties in accessing services.
- 63.5 Ms Martindale stated that it was important to ensure that all relevant bodies had access to the gateway and it was confirmed that measures were in place to seek to ensure that happened.
- 63.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee approves the Strategy Framework as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and

(2) That the Committee notes the planned further stakeholder engagement work as set out Appendix 1 to develop the full Strategy and Action Plan.

#### **64 A REVIEW OF 'POVERTY PROOFING THE SCHOOL DAY' PROGRAMME**

- 64.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Skills outlining the implementation of “Poverty Proofing the School Day” which had been implemented across the City and which went on to outline follow up actions which were to be put into place as follow up action.
- 64.2 Young people who had been involved in the project at Longhill School gave a brief presentation to the Committee highlighting the work they had been involved in and outlining the value which it had had for them.
- 64.3 It was noted that take-up of the project had been positive and gave testament to the concern and commitment Brighton and Hove School Leaders had for pupil and student wellbeing, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sharing examples of good practice had been a key outcome from the project and means by which that would be carried forward were referred to. A self-evaluation tool was being developed which would enable schools to keep their current practices under review.
- 64.4 Councillor Marsh commended the work which had been carried out stating that she had visited a school in her ward recently and had been impressed by the work which had been undertaken. Councillor Cattell noted that this had been a very successful project and that it was pleasing to note the valuable work and input provided by the pupils themselves.
- 64.5 Councillors West and Peltzer Dunn concurred with the comments made by Councillors Cattell and Marsh and considered that it was important for Members to continue to receive periodic updates on this issue and to provide input.
- 65.6 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee note the work of schools in this area and the positive response from many school leaders to “Poverty Proofing the School Day.”

#### **65 THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN COMMUNITIES**

- 65.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods Communities and Housing updating Members on the role of public libraries in achieving strategic outcomes for local communities illustrating how the direction of travel for libraries tied in with and went beyond the Neighbourhoods and development work championed by this Committee. The recommendations set out in the report were agreed without discussion.
- 65.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That Committee members note the direction of travel for Libraries in the city; and
- (2) That Committee members request a report on the development of the new Libraries Plan for 2020-24 be brought back to them in Autumn 2019.

**66 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL**

66.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6.35pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

**Subject:** Hove Carnegie Library Petition  
**Date of Meeting:** 1 July 2019  
**Report of:** Executive Lead, Strategy, Governance and Law  
**Contact Officer:** Name: Kat Hoare Tel: 291064  
E-mail: Kat.hoare@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- calling a referendum

**3. PETITIONS**

**3. (i) Hove Carnegie Library**

To receive the following petition signed by 105 people, led by Christopher Hawtree presented by Councillor Andrew Wealls to Full Council held on 28 March 2019:

*"Although we, the undersigned, are glad that Councillor Daniel has honoured the initial promise that the splendid room at our Carnegie Library let to the private music college will be open to all readers in the college holidays, we remain aghast that this public space is largely lost to us. We seek its complete return to us as it is little used by the college*

*and nets just £10,000 a year. This can readily be done as it is on an annually-renewed contract.”*



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Constitutional Matters</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2019</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Kat Hoare</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 291064</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Kat.hoare@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 To provide information on the committee's terms of reference and related matters including the appointment of its Urgency Sub-Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the committee's terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be noted; and
- 2.2 That the establishment of an Urgency Sub-Committee consisting of the Chair of the Committee and two other Members (nominated in accordance with the scheme for the allocation of seats for committees), to exercise its powers in relation to matters of urgency, on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be approved.
- 2.3 That the Committee agrees that one representative each from Sussex Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group and two representatives from Community Works in the areas of equalities and neighbourhoods are invited to attend all meetings in an advisory capacity.
- 2.4 That the Committee agrees to invite further specialist community representatives to attend meetings on an issue by issue, ad-hoc basis

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Article 6 of the constitution, incorporates a schedule of all the Committees/Sub-committees established in the new constitution together with a summary of their respective functions.

**The Neighbourhoods Inclusion Communities & Equalities Committee –  
Terms of Reference**

- 3.2 A copy of the terms of reference for the committee is attached in Appendix 1. These should be read in the context of the 'Introduction and General Delegations'

included in the Scheme of Delegations to Committees and Sub-Committees at part 4 of the constitution.

### **Membership**

- 3.3 The membership of the committee is set at 10 Members of the council. In addition, it is proposed that one representative each from Sussex Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group and two representatives from Community Works in the areas of equalities and neighbourhoods attend all meetings in an advisory capacity. Furthermore, the Committee will invite other community representatives to attend meetings on an issue by issue, ad-hoc basis. The representatives will not be voting members of the Committee.
- 3.4 The arrangements for substitute Members to attend meetings of Committees/Sub-Committees, as set out in the Council Procedure Rules 18 to 24.

### **Programme Meetings**

- 3.5 Ordinary meetings of the Neighbourhoods Inclusion Communities & Equalities Committee are scheduled to take place on the following dates during 2019/20:

Monday 1 July 2019  
Monday 7 October 2019  
Monday 2 December 2019  
Monday 20 January 2020  
Monday 9 March 2020

- 3.8 Meetings of the Committee will normally be held at Hove Town Hall and will start at 4.00 p.m.

### **Urgency Sub-Committee**

- 3.9 The Constitution states that each Committee of the Council except the Audit & Standards Committee may appoint an Urgency Sub-Committee to exercise its powers. The membership of such Urgency Sub-Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, and two other Members nominated by the Group Leader or Leaders as appropriate to meet the requirements for the allocation of seats between political groups. Under current allocations this would mean an urgency sub-committee will consist of one Member from each of the three political groups on the Council.
- 3.10 Such Urgency Sub-Committees may exercise their powers in relation to matters of urgency on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. Every decision of each Urgency Sub-Committee shall be reported for information to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee as appropriate.'

## **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The council's constitution provides for the appointment of the sub-committees and urgency sub-committees and it is for the Committee to determine this action

and it could decide not to make such appointments. However, this would be contrary to the wishes of the council and is not therefore regarded as a viable alternative option.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 All Members considered and approved the constitution and the changes therein on the 13 December 2018.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The recommendations are being put forward in line with the requirements of the constitution.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 No direct financial implications. Any costs arising from arrangements for an Urgency Sub-Committee are expected to be met from within existing resources.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis*

*Date: 12/06/19*

### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The Council's constitution complies with the legal framework set out in the Localism Act 2011, the Local Government Act 2000 and other relevant legislation.

*Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert*

*Date: 13/06/19*

### Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 There are no equalities implications arising from the report

### Sustainability Implications:

- 7.3 There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

### Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.4 None

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Neighbourhoods Inclusion Communities & Equalities Committee Terms of Reference

## **Background Documents**

1. The Constitution

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES AND EQUALITIES COMMITTEE**

### **Explanatory Note**

This committee has overall responsibility for co-ordinating the Council's approach to communities, neighbourhoods and the third sector, including all matters relating to libraries, community safety and resilience, equalities and inclusion. The Committee discharges its functions by either making decisions itself or, as necessary, making recommendations to the most appropriate body. Some of its terms of reference overlap with other committees. Where this is the case, the relevant committees have concurrent delegations. It consists of 10 Members, but it may invite representatives from communities, LATs and others to attend as invitees with speaking rights.

### **Delegated functions**

To discharge the Council's functions relating to libraries, community safety, neighbourhoods and community development including councillor budgets and also the Council's customer-facing services, the third sector, street homelessness, equalities and fairness, as well as the development of proposals in relation to its front-line enforcement functions. The Committee exercises its functions with due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, while co-ordinating the Council's delivery of its statutory Prevent duty imposed by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

#### **1. Community safety**

To discharge the Council's functions regarding community safety, crime and disorder and associated matters in particular where these require member-level engagement and consultation with the community.

NOTE: The committee will work in conjunction with the Safe in the City Partnership and the work of the two bodies will be co-ordinated to ensure that they complement each other and avoid duplication where possible.

#### **2. Crime and Disorder Committee**

To be the designated Crime and Disorder Committee as required under the Police and Justice Act 2006.

#### **3. Neighbourhood and community development**

- a) To consider options and develop proposals for neighbourhood arrangements, including capacity building, use of assets and devolving powers and services to neighbourhoods and making recommendations to the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee.

- b) To monitor and review the operation of any neighbourhood based delivery of services and make recommendations as necessary.

**4. Development of proposals relating to the Council's frontline enforcement functions.**

To develop and oversee proposals for Field Officers and the vision for the provision of integrated support to the Council's frontline enforcement functions.

**5. Active Citizenship and Community Resilience**

- a) To develop, oversee and make decisions regarding the proposals to increase active citizenship and make recommendations to Policy, Resources and Growth Committee.
- b) To develop, oversee and make decisions regarding the proposals to improve community resilience and make recommendations to Policy, Resources and Growth Committee.

**6. Community and voluntary sector, including social impact bonds**

- a) To develop, oversee and make decisions regarding the implementation of the Council's Communities and Third Sector Policy, investment in and support to the community and voluntary sector.
- b) To exercise the Council's functions in relation to social impact bonds delivered by the community and voluntary sector.

**7. Councillor budgets**

- a) To develop the Council's approach to councillor budgets within the framework set by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee.
- b) To oversee all aspects of the delivery of the councillor budget process.

**8. Customer Services, including Digital First (and Digital Brighton & Hove)**

To monitor and review the Council's delivery of its customer services across all areas including its Digital First transformation programme as well as digital inclusion.

**9. Libraries**

To exercise the Council's functions in relation to libraries.

**10. Street homelessness**

To coordinate the Council's policies and actions with a view to reducing and eliminating street homelessness and, in conjunction with the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee and Housing and New Homes Committee and the Health & Wellbeing Board, to ensure that appropriate action is taken.

#### **11. Equalities**

- a) To discharge the Council's functions regarding equalities and inclusion.
- b) Implementation of equalities related scrutiny or other recommendations, including Trans Scrutiny Report.

#### **12 Fairness**

- a) To develop proposals for a Fairness Commission and make recommendations to the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee.
- b) To consider proposals or recommendations submitted by the Fairness Commission and advise the Council or Policy, Resources and Growth Committee on implementation.
- c) To monitor implementation of recommendations of the Fairness Commission.
- d) Working with other committees and partners to promote fairness in the delivery of services.

#### **13 Prevent duty**

- a) Carrying out its functions with due regard to the statutory Prevent duty imposed by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which requires the Council to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.
- b) Monitoring risk and otherwise co-ordinating Prevent activity across the Council's functions.





**Subject:** Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove

**Date of Meeting:** 1 July 2019

**Report of:** Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,  
Communities and Housing

**Contact Officer: Name:** Jo Player **Tel:** 292488

**Email:** jo.player@brighton-hove.gov.uk

**Ward(s) affected:** All

## **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

1.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, there is a requirement for statutory and other partners to formulate a plan every three years to tackle crime and disorder and monitor progress. This report provides an update on the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 The committee is invited to note and comment on the information contained in the report which provides an update on work being undertaken by the Community Safety Team in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20.

2.2 The Committee is invited to give its continued support to the partnership work described in the report and to work described which is within the council's remit, thereby contributing to the management of crime and community safety priorities for the city.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### Overview of police recorded crime

3.1 In 2017/18 there were a total of 26,142 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove, a 1.4% increase compared with 2016/17. In 2018/19 this had risen to 26,940, a 3% increase on 2017/18.

3.2 Broadly speaking, total crime is broken down into violent crime (46% of total), acquisitive crime<sup>1</sup> (37% of total crime in 2018/19), criminal damage (11% of total) and other offences (6% of total).

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<sup>1</sup> eg. burglary or theft

- 3.3 In 2018/19, while there was an overall increase in total crime, some crime types increased considerably and some showed a decrease. Violence against the person crimes rose by 8%, continuing the upward trend (up 7%) seen in 2017/18. The city centre, which has the highest density of violent crimes, also has the highest density of pubs and clubs and is the geographical focus of the entertainment and leisure industry. Further information on safety in the night time economy is provided below.
- 3.4 Robberies showed a marked increase in 2018/19 – up from 325 in 2017/18 to 437 in 2018/19 – an increase of 35%. The trend over the course of the last 12 months has been upwards in the city, as it has also in the group of local authorities against which we are benchmarked. Nine out of ten robberies in 2018/19 were ‘personal’ robberies, with the rest being robberies of businesses.
- 3.5 Vehicle crimes have risen significantly – up by 29% in 2018/19. This is on top of a 4% rise in 2017/18. Both theft of a vehicle (up 20%) and theft from a vehicle (up 36%) have increased in 2018/19. Brighton & Hove is not alone in seeing an increase in vehicle crime; this is also evident across Sussex and nationally. Local analysis of 2018 data showed that vehicle crime was spread across the city, with no evidence of a particular geographical focus. Motorists can minimise risk by securing their vehicles and keeping their keys safe, not leave items of value in the vehicle, and so on.
- 3.6 The number of criminal damage offences increased by 2% in 2018/19. 37% of criminal damage offences involved damage to a vehicle and 23% damage to a dwelling.
- 3.7 Besides vehicle crime, other acquisitive crime types ended 2018/19 with a decrease on the year before. Pedal cycle thefts in particular were down by 21%.
- 3.8 Domestic violence offences have continued their steady year on year increase, ending 2018/19 with 5% more recorded crimes than in 2017/18. Sexual offences have also continued their long term upward trend, but in contrast to increases of between 14% and 22% in each of the previous years, this had reduced to an 1.2% increase in 2018/19.
- 3.9 Most hate crime/incident groups in 2018/19 showed an increase compared with 2017/18, with the exception of homophobic crimes and incidents which decreased slightly.
- 3.10 Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types in 2018/19 and shows how this compares with 2017/18. Longer term trends, with seasonal patterns can be seen in the graphs in Appendix 2.
- 3.11 There was an inspection of all police forces carried out by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2013/14, to audit the crime recording practices. As a consequence, there were improvements made within forces, including Sussex Police. This has had an impact on some of the types of crime reported here, particularly violence against the person, as well as contributing to the number of total crimes recorded. While there was an immediate effect seen in 2014, the local response to the HMIC audit has been an ongoing process and has contributed to the ongoing upwards trend in recorded crime.
- 3.12 Domestic violence, sexual violence and hate crime are among those crime types which are now more accurately recorded resulting in better services and outcomes for victims.

### Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes

- 3.13 The long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents continues with numbers recorded in 2018/19 showing a 17% decrease compared with 2017/18. 'ASB crimes'<sup>2</sup> were increasing in number in the three years up to 2016/17, decreased in 2017/18, but have risen again slightly in 2018/19 (up 2%).
- 3.14 The designation of the use of Community Protection Notices to local Registered Social Landlords was agreed at NICE committee in Jan 2019, and two housing providers using this power from April 2019.
- 3.15 The Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group continues to agree and review Community safety Priorities and ensures that resources are appropriately deployed.
- 3.16 BHCC have employed a Modern Slavery Co-ordinator who is working across all council directorates to ensure that BHCC is meeting its statutory under Section 52 of the Modern Slavery act 2015 "to notify Secretary of State about suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking", ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of their responsibilities under the act and know what to do if suspecting modern slavery or human trafficking is taking place.
- 3.16 In 2018/19 recorded homophobic incidents and crimes are showing a decrease (down 5%), while other forms of hate are showing an increase: racist up 2%; religiously motivated up 10%; transphobic up 43%; and disability motivated up 27%, although these increases are based on small numbers. 101 out of the 108 hate crime cases reaching court (94%) resulted in a conviction.
- 3.17 A series of aggravated robberies targeted around LGBT venues and St James St has raised community concerns & tensions. The Rainbow Fund has engaged three security staff to patrol St James St area, called 'Community Guardians' working from 9pm-4am each day, working out of the Rainbow Hub. A volunteer patrol group currently being trained up as community response to increased violent attacks. The situation is being monitored.
- 3.18 Transphobic harassment continues to appear in the press, online and stickers/posters around the city; it is removed as and when reported.
- 3.19 Under-reporting of hate incidents and a lack of trust and confidence in reporting mechanisms and the responses of the authorities continue to be of concern. Council funding has been awarded to the Racial Harassment Forum which has recruited a part time advocacy worker to raise awareness of hate crime reporting mechanisms and to support victim of racist and religiously motivated hate crime.

### Safety in the night-time economy

- 3.20 Police recorded violence against the person as a whole rose by 6% in 2017/18 compared with 2016/17, and rose a further 8% in 2018/19 continuing the longer term upward trend. The subgroup of violence with injury decreased slightly in 2017/18 (down 1%), but in 2018/19 showed a 3% increase.
- 3.21 However, violence against the person offences (excluding those in a dwelling) in the city centre Cumulative Impact Zone and Special Stress Areas (2018 boundaries) in 2018/19 were 10% lower than in 2017/18 during peak night time

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<sup>2</sup> 'ASB crimes' refers to a grouping of police recorded crimes made up of: criminal damage, common assault, harassment, public order and affray

economy hours (Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and 5am). The Statement of Licensing Policy is due for a refresh in 2020. Consultation will start later in the year to inform that piece of work.

- 3.22 The Tourism Development Committee agreed in March 2019 that the Pride Village party would continue to be held within the current area until at least 2020.
- 3.23 The Licensing Team are continuing test purchase operations, reviews and a stepped and targeted approach to licence premises management and enforcement. 202 staff and 90 premises have received training regarding the sale of age restricted products in 2018/19. During the year there were 27 test purchases made for under-age sales of alcohol, with sales being refused in about four out of five cases.
- 3.24 There are now 178 premises that have voluntarily signed up to our Sensible on Strength scheme not to sell beers and ciders over 6% ABV. A further 48 premises have stopped selling strong beers without joining the scheme.

#### Domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and violence against women & girls

- 3.25 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents increased by 5% in 2018/19 compared with 2017/18. The conviction rate for domestic violence cases finalised at court was 70% in 2018/19.
- 3.26 The number of police recorded sexual offences in 2018/19 showed a slight increase of 1.2%, and the conviction rate for cases finalised at court was 79%. The number of recorded stalking crimes and incidents increased by nearly four-fold from 60 in 2016/17 to 238 in 2017/18 and have risen by a further 45% to 344 in 2018/19. This is likely to be a response to greater awareness of this crime type.
- 3.27 Incidents of harmful practices (including 'Honour Based' Violence and Forced Marriage) continue to be reported to the police, with 6 cases reported in 2017/18 (all HBV), but rising to 14 in 2018/19 (11 HBV and 3 FM). There have yet to be any reported FGM crimes or incidents.
- 3.28 The volume of referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for domestic violence continues to increase, with 552 cases referred in 2017/18 and 707 in 2018/19. The percentage which were repeat cases in 2018/19 was 25%, the same as in 2017/18.
- 3.29 The Strategic Framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and VAWG was presented to NICE Committee for approval in March 2019. The framework has been shared with partners for comment and the stakeholder engagement programme is informing the delivery plan for the 6 year strategy.
- 3.30 Planned work includes seeking to align development DVA/SVA work with other commissioned services where possible, and is looking at pathways to improve victim access to services.

#### Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE)

- 3.31 The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer successfully bid for around £850,000 from the Home Office to improve early youth intervention to tackle serious violence and crime across the county: £575,000 will fund the Sussex early intervention programme which has been awarded, following a tendering process, to local community and voluntary sector groups. £205,000 will fund the early intervention protocol which is to improve how police and health services

identify people at risk and signpost them into the programme; and £96,000 was invested for positive activities in five identified high risk areas across Sussex. This programme will initially run for one year in 2019/20.

- 3.32 Brighton & Hove is developing its own 'spot the signs' exploitation awareness campaign to launch in quarter one of the next financial year. 'Spot the signs' is a common approach undertaken by local authorities and police forces across the country to raise awareness of modern slavery, human trafficking, child criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and County Lines. This campaign will be complemented over coming months by a more detailed campaign by WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation) around how violence, vulnerability and exploitation impacts on people's lives.
- 3.33 A VVE communications strategic plan is directed at raising awareness across the city and in a range of ways to a large number of different audiences through the use of community engagement, media campaigns, professional training, etc. One of the first priorities involves a County Lines week of action seeking to raise awareness in all our neighbourhoods and communities of interest.

### Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.34 One of the implications of Brexit will be the need for local residents who are EU nationals to apply for Settled Status. The expectation is that this process will be relatively easy for most EU nationals but there will be certain cohorts of the population, including rough sleepers, victims of abuse, exploitation and violence, Looked After Children and other vulnerable groups who may need help to apply, and ways to provide support for immigration in this area are actively being sought.
- 3.35 A new Migrant ESOL Support Hub (MESH) is providing co-ordination in the city's ESOL sector and outreach and support to some of the most vulnerable migrants who have struggled to access services. It is now fully staffed and starting to see clients from marginalised migrant communities. This two year project, is funded by the government's Controlling Migration Fund and Brighton & Hove City Council (the Collaboration Fund)
- 3.36 The city council is continuing its participation in the government's refugee resettlement programmes. Properties are being sought to house a further seven households before the end of the project in March 2020. However, finding affordable and sustainable housing is proving difficult

### Preventing terrorism and extremism

#### Prevent

- 3.36 The legislative Prevent framework has been strengthened through the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act (granted Royal Assent in February 2019). This updated terrorism offences for the digital age and to reflect current patterns of radicalisation. It also enables local authorities (in addition to the police) to refer individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism for discussion at a Channel Panel. There will also be a national independent review of Prevent as a result of the legislation.
- 3.37 A vigil held by the One Voice Partnership, took place in response to the Christchurch terrorist incident to reassure communities and offer a clear counter narrative. Both civic and political leaders participated, along with Muslim, Jewish,

Christian, LGBT and other communities. Other community engagement work also took place in response to this and other incidents in the UK (eg criminal damage to mosques in Birmingham and the incident in Stanwell), including positive messaging via social media, and encouraging reporting of hate incidents.

#### Building Partnerships to Challenge Extremisms

- 3.38 A body of work has been undertaken to circulate messages encouraging hate incident reporting, and promoting positive community events to support cohesion.
- 3.39 A series of Counter-Extremism projects have been launched, including the “ANYone Brighton” social media project bringing together diverse young people, and the projects funded under the Building A Stronger Britain Together funding stream.

### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 This report is intended to provide an update on current progress on the work carried out as part of the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy, this section is not applicable. Ways of achieving the aims set out in the partnership Strategy are considered based on the annual strategic assessment of crime and community safety.

### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Strategic Assessment on which the current Strategy was carried out in the autumn of 2016, and included a consultation event on the findings and proposed priorities for 2017-20. Invited participants included members of the Safe in the City Partnership Board, and community and voluntary sector partners, including representatives of Local Action Teams and communities of interest.
- 5.2.1 A draft of the Community Safety Strategy was made available for public comment via the consultation portal and in more targeted arenas.

### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This report is to provide an update of progress on work under the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20 and to invite any comment.

### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

#### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, any work undertaken by the council as a result of this report will need to be met from current budget resources.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley*

*Date: 03/06/19*

#### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 All work currently being undertaken is within the council's statutory powers. Any new areas of law would either have to be closely aligned to current work or would need specific approval under the scheme of delegation.

*Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court*

*Date: 28/05/19*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy is subject to an ongoing and embedded equality impact assessment where specific actions and activities are identified and assessed for equality impact. The work around hate crime helps us to address our responsibilities under the Equalities Act.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None

## Appendix 1. Crime statistics 2018/19: position at end of March 2019

### *Performance compared with last year*

	number of crimes Apr 17 – Mar 18	number of crimes Apr 18 – Mar 19	rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs <sup>3</sup>
<b>Police recorded crimes</b>			1=best; 15=worst
Total Crimes	26142	26940	9
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	2682	2739	6
Injury Violence	2868	2950	8
Violence Against the Person	10198	10998	8
Sexual Offences	924	964	11 <sup>4</sup>
Robbery	321	437	10
Burglary	1410	1349	4
Vehicle Crime	1414	1820	6
Pedal Cycle Theft	1097	864	13
Theft and handling (incl. motor vehicle theft)	8696	8608	10 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Police recorded incidents and crimes</b>			
Domestic Violence Incidents and Crimes	4976	5253	n/a <sup>6</sup>
Racist Incidents and Crimes	516	534	n/a
Religiously-motivated Incidents and Crimes	74	81	n/a
Homophobic Incidents and Crimes	214	204	n/a
Gender Identity Hate Incidents and Crimes	35	53	n/a
Disability Hate Incidents and Crimes	62	81	n/a
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	9489	7901	n/a

<sup>3</sup> Latest available three month period (usually one month lag). Ranking based on crime 'rate' per head of population, or per no. of households in the case of domestic burglary.

<sup>4</sup> Because there remains an emphasis on encouraging reporting of sexual offences, it does not necessarily follow that a low rank is 'good' and a high rank is 'bad'.

<sup>5</sup> ONS theft offences group

<sup>6</sup> Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

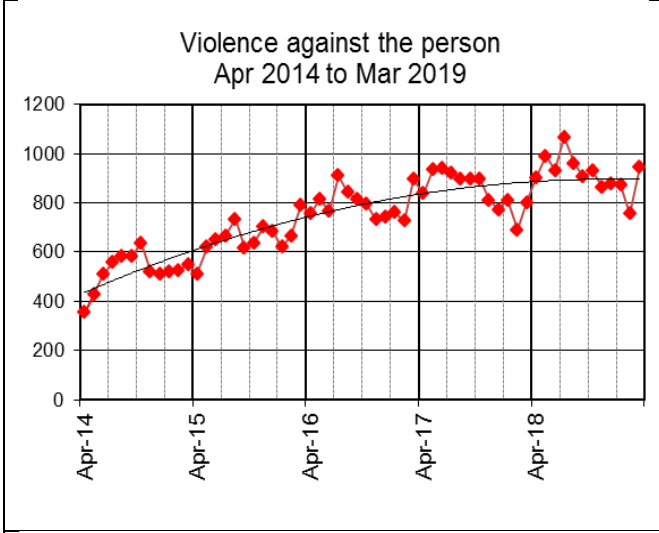


**Appendix 2:**

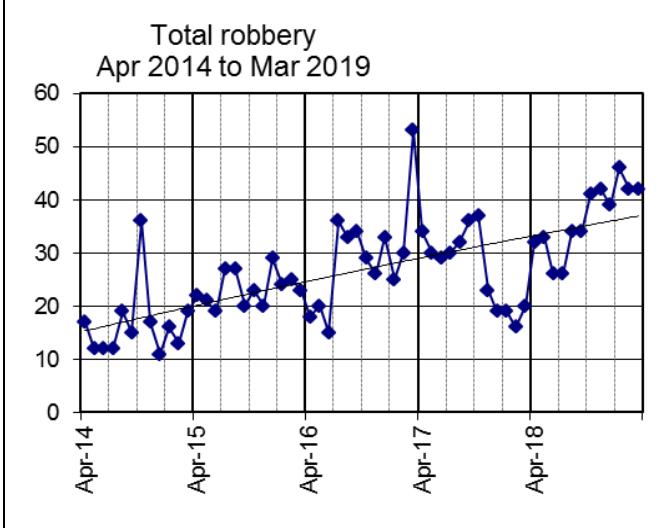
**Crime trends up to March 2019 (monthly data)<sup>7</sup>**

	<p>8.1 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. Since 2014/15 there has been an overall upward trend in recorded crimes, with changes to police recording practices contributing to this, but the rate of increase has slowed over the last 2 years.</p>
	<p>8.2 There has been no clear trend in recorded criminal damage over the last five years and a seasonal pattern is not observable. Although a downwards trend was suggested during 2017/18, this did not persist, with a slight upturn evident in 2018/19.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial curve

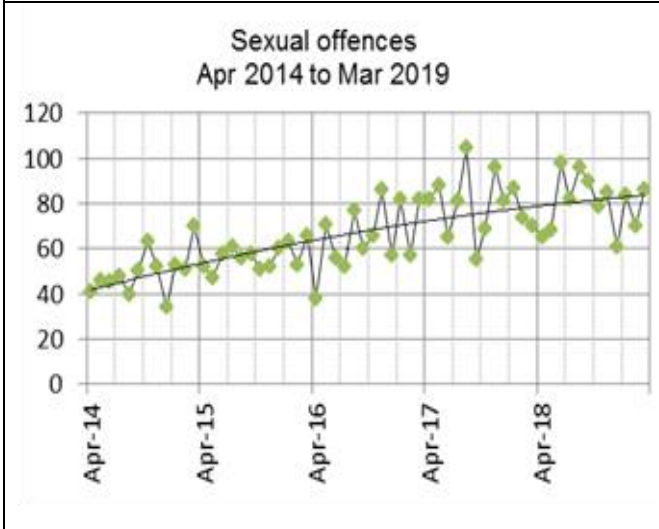


8.3 Police recorded violence against the person data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). The increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police data recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. However, latest data continues to show an upward trend.

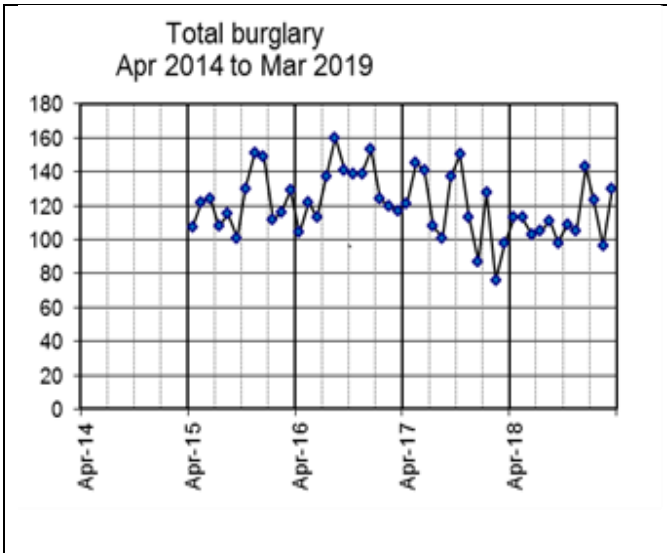


8.4 The number of robberies dropped in the second half of 2017/18 compared with the first half, but have risen consistently over the course of 2018/19

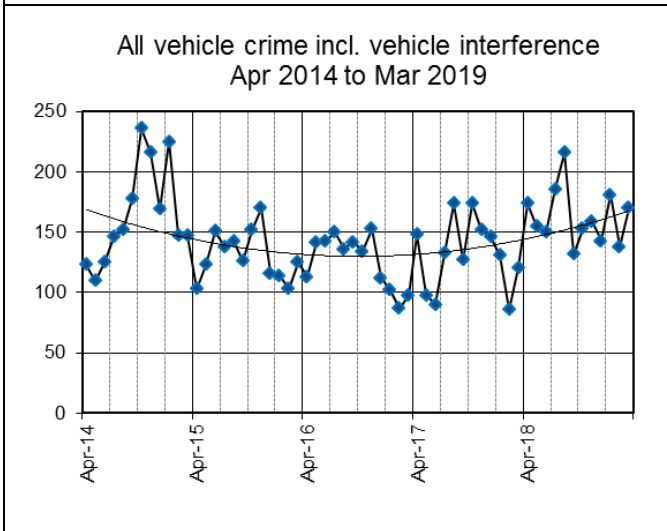
Most robberies are personal robberies (392 in 2018/19) and a minority are business robberies (45 in 2018/19).



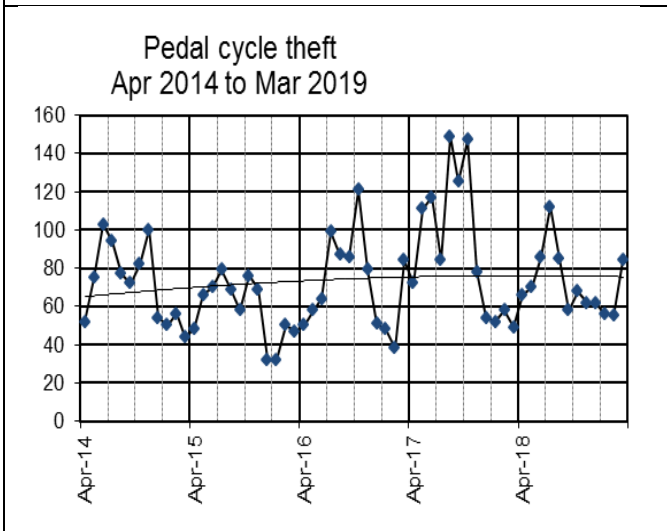
8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend, although numbers have fluctuated somewhat over the last 18 months. More reporting is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have also had an effect on recorded sexual offences.



8.6 Following an upwards trend in 2015/16 and 2016/17, the trend in burglaries in 2017/18 and the first half of 2018/19 was downward. Numbers in the last six months have fluctuated.

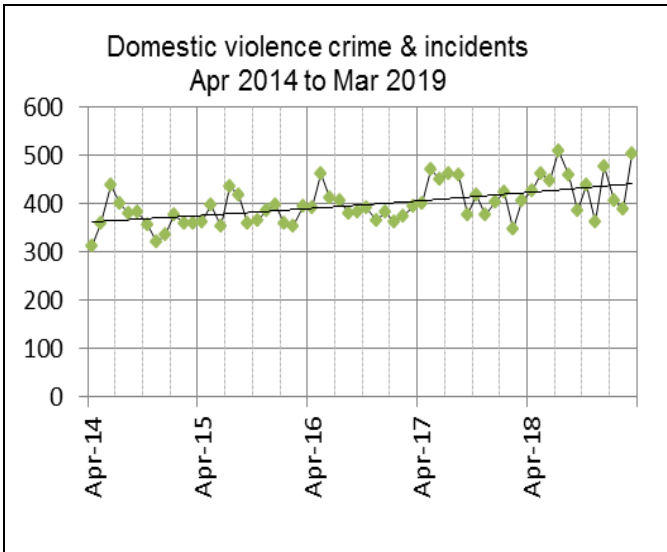


8.7 The number of vehicle crimes were on a long term decline until 2016/17. Numbers in Jul and Aug 2018 have been particularly high and of the same order as the previous peak seen in 2014/15, but have dropped back in recent months.

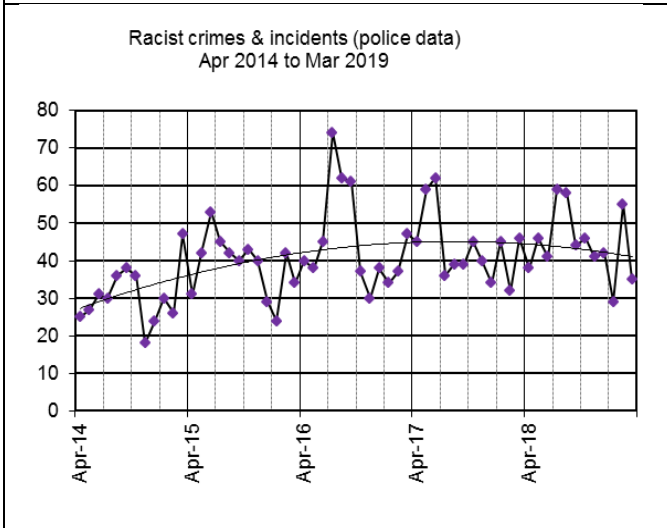


8.8 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. Cycle thefts rose less in the summer of 2015 than in previous years but enhanced summer peaks have again been observed in over the last three years. Numbers between Aug and Oct 2017 were particularly high, but have dropped since then to more typical seasonal levels.

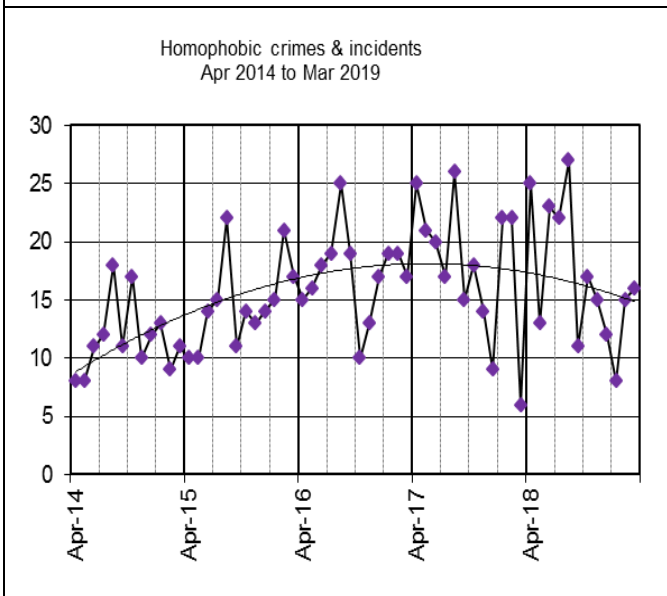
**CAVEAT.** Police crime data presented in this report only reflects those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.



8.9 The gradual upward trend has continued over the last 12 months. Improved recording practices and positive work to encourage the reporting of domestic violence crimes and incidents will impact on the number of crimes being recorded, as described earlier.



8.10 There was an upwards trend in racist crimes and incidents in parallel with the recording of other crimes since 2014/15. A notable spike in the summer of 2016 coinciding with the month following the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union is evident. Since then numbers have fluctuated between about 30 and 50 per month.



8.11 There was a long term rising trend in the number of homophobic crimes recorded by the police up to the summer of 2017. Numbers have fluctuated considerably over the last 18 months, ranging between 5 and 26 per month.





<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Field Officer Service : Progress Report</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>1 July 2019</b>	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Annie Sparks –</b>	
	<b>Name: Regulatory Services Manager</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 292436</b>
	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:annie.sparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk">annie.sparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a></b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities Committee agreed the business case for the creation of a new Field Officer Team.
- 1.2 On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 this new team was launched, and at the same time a report went to the Neighbourhood, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities Committee presenting the work that had been done to implement this new service, but also how the team will move forward and develop in the future. At this Committee it was recommended that a further report be submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 Committee updating on the progress of the team during their first six months of operation.
- 1.3 This new role was part of the wider Communities & Neighbourhoods Portfolio, and focuses on how we deliver enforcement and inspection functions across services to reduce the costs to the council and give a better service to our communities across the city. It is now an established team managing routine complaints and enquiries.
- 1.4 In addition, a key feature of this role is working in our communities and with our communities to promote a more proactive and preventative way of working, that delivers solutions and resolves problems.
- 1.5 This new flexible responsive team, and agile model of service delivery, provides opportunity to not only meet community and service needs, and improve

customer satisfaction, but to also provide the ideal platform to target resources effectively.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Committee are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the work and progress of the new Field Officer Team during the first six months of operation.

## **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The objectives of this new Field Officer role are to:-

- Improve customer satisfaction with services through citizen engagement, joined up service delivery making services easier to navigate
- Be better connected, sharing information and expertise with our key partners to avoid duplication, move away from silo working and reduce the number of interactions customers have with different services
- Be smarter with universal services, providing digital solutions for high level transactions, automating connections to back office services, reducing the need for officer intervention and promoting self-help
- Work with communities to build resilience, allowing residents to take greater control to make a difference in their neighbourhoods

3.2 3 elements of the role have been identified:-

1. Enforcement activities that are quick and responsive to customer needs. Timely effective enforcement action resolves problems which will reduce unnecessary demand on partners and services.
2. Gathering intelligence and evidence for existing specialist services. Gathering quick and robust evidence including photographs, mapping and statements to inform these services and enable them to deliver faster, more effective and coordinated enforcement action that is resolving both environmental and community problems.
3. Working proactively promoting behaviour change and community collaboration.

3.3 Based on these objectives, a service delivery model has been created, with the aim of working flexibly across services, preventing duplication, and reducing response times. Also improving the way customers access services, and working proactively with communities.

3.4 To facilitate an agile model of service delivery that remains focused on community and service needs, resources, and seasonal demands, the team are working over 7 days 12.00 to 20.00. Each shift is 9.75 hours and this enables the team to be flexible and work before 12.00, and/or after 20.00. Their



annualised contracts enables flexibility with the days and hours that are worked across the year. Again, this provides a responsive service and the ability to target resources effectively. It also provides a service at times when many other council services are not accessible and do not operate.

- 3.5 The service initially started on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 delivering only some elements of the team's work portfolio. This allowed IT and workflow arrangements to be tested, and also helped to start to refine working practices and procedures. It has also enabled working relationships with services and partners to start to become established. The service then fully launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018. The work and performance of the team are being monitored and where change is needed this will be quick and responsive. The work streams will be kept under review now that the team is established.
- 3.6 9 services were originally identified as benefitting from support of the team and these are:-
- Regulatory Services
  - Housing
  - Private Sector Housing
  - Planning Enforcement
  - Community Safety
  - City Parks
  - Highways
  - Travellers
  - Seafront Office
- 3.7 The functions being delivered by the Field Officer Team on behalf of the 9 services in scope are detailed in the table in Appendix 1 and were agreed at NICE Committee in January 2018.
- 3.8 Field Officers will be delivering a new innovative way to bring about neighbourhood improvements on behalf of Housing. Housing officers worked with Field Officers to review the service delivery model for estate inspections and developed a new approach to gather ideas and suggestions from residents via an on-line survey. Our Field Officers will hold local community meetings with residents, Councillors, and service providers, to review the results of the survey for each area. The first meetings are planned for August 2019 and the Environmental Survey went live on the website on 27 May 2019.
- 3.9 During these first 6 months of the service we can start to see that the functions being delivered needs to be reviewed, recognising what is effective and efficient and what is not. Targeting resources, and being responsive and agile are key features of this service.
- 3.10 The Field Officer Service is operating citywide to ensure that we deliver a consistent customer service across all our communities. As the service develops opportunities to work on an area/patch basis will be explored
- 3.11 The team is part of the Safer Communities Service and consists of one Field Office Manager and seven permanent Field Officers, and a one year fixed term contract. The team come from backgrounds including local authority, policing, housing, environmental health, parks, highways, licensing, planning enforcement,

and child protection. This range of skills and knowledge across the team is enabling us to shape a new service that brings communities, existing services and partners together to solve problems, find creative solutions, and also explore new ways of working.

- 3.12 The intention has always been that the Field Officer Team is funded from existing budgets across a variety of services. The services currently in scope are located in Neighbourhoods Communities and Housing, and Economy Environment and Culture. At NICE Committee in January 2018 the funding and resources required for the setup of the Field officer Team were agreed.
- 3.13 Setting up the team last financial year required £0.148m compared to budgeted estimate of £0.360m and this was due to delayed recruitment.
- 3.14 Initially all of this has been funded by NCH directorate using a combination of identified budgets of £0.152m, including a contribution of £0.049m from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). For 2019/20 there was a service pressure of £0.160m to fund the Field Officer Team. Long term funding to cover this service pressure was identified at Budget Council Feb 2019.
- 3.15 As we develop this service, and work more closely with partners and services, opportunities for income generation are being explored.

#### **Digital and IT Solutions .**

- 3.16 One of the greatest challenges has been creating a service which works across 9 services which all work in different ways, using different technology, systems and processes. All are at different stages of modernisations. Work is ongoing to ensure that the technology can enable fast effective workflow and referrals across services, and support evidence gathering, including photographs and taking of witness statements.
- 3.17 All Field Officers have mobile tablets and were the first team in the council to use this technology. Again, this technology is constantly under review to facilitate working in the field away from the office, and also ensure that work flow across the services is fast and effective.

#### **Training, competency, and sharing and developing good practice with services, partners and our communities.**

- 3.18 Training and developing competency have been key features of the implementation programme. This has included training and work shadowing sessions with services and partner agencies. This has included early morning sessions with the outreach homeless service, St Mungo's, in relation to managing our encampments across the city.
- 3.19 This has been an opportunity for services to share training resources and be trained together on common skills such as enforcement and evidence gathering. Delivering training across services provides a forum to share good practice but also ensure consistency.

- 3.20 Field officers have also been out shadowing Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the new Prevention and Partnership Policing Team with the aim of establishing close working relationships and sharing knowledge/intelligence and experience.
- 3.21 To respond to community needs work is being done to link and align the findings of the new Local Policing Plans new Neighbourhood Action Plans.
- 3.22 East Sussex Fire and Rescue are developing a working relationship with our Field Officers and have been training them to recognise risk and vulnerabilities and ensure fast effect referrals.
- 3.23 The Field Officers have been out shadowing the Business Improvement District Ambassadors to understand how our Field officers can work more closely with our businesses.
- 3.24 Over the last few months Field Officers have been attending residents meetings and Local Action Team Meetings (LATS) across the City to discuss this new role, and this has included attendance at Housing Area Panel Meetings. It is the team's intention to endeavour to ensure that every LAT is attended at least once by a field officer within the first year, to build the confidence of the local community in this new service.
- 3.25 We need to look at how we can work better and more closely with our communities. Participation at meetings is only one method and alternative strategies are being explored.

### **Out of Hours Noise Service**

- 3.26 It was agreed at NICE Committee in January 2018 that £0.042m from the out of Hours Noise Patrol service would be used to fund and resource the Field Officer Team with the aim of reviewing how noise services are delivered out of hours. The original service operated every Friday and Saturday night 22.00 to 03.00 and here were serious concerns raised about both the effectiveness of the original service and the safety of the staff.
- 3.27 Since the full launch of the service on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018 an alternative approach to responding to out of hours noise has been adopted. Now customers are able to email or phone in noise complaints on a Friday and Saturday night. These calls and emails have been responded to the following morning with the offer of a visit that day. This intervention on Saturday and Sunday enables there to be immediate face to face dialogue in an environment away from the challenges and distractions experienced when the incident was taking place the night before. This provides an environment where the impact of the disturbance can be properly discussed, including practical solutions to stop the problem escalating.
- 3.28 The aim of the Field Officer Service is to be out and about, dealing with problems and identifying solutions, and having face to face interaction with our customers. Since the initial launch of the team the complaints investigation procedure requires where possible a visit to the perpetrator to discuss the impact of their

actions. This is not just for noise but covers all the complaints dealt with by the team.

- 3.29 We are beginning to notice the impact of this face to face interaction and we are already observing that the number of noise complaints resolved by only one intervention has increased. Early face to face communication is facilitating fast resolution of cases, reducing the number of protracted cases, reducing officer time, and this will lead to greater customer satisfaction.
- 3.30 Currently the revised out of hours noise service only operates over the weekend. To improve the service provided it is proposed that it will now operate 7 days a week.
- 3.31 Currently any domestic noise complaint received Monday to Friday has a 4 day response time. It is proposed that all domestic noise complaints will be responded to within 24 hours and again where possible all perpetrators will receive a face to face visit.
- 3.32 The introduction of the field officers has been an opportunity to modernise how we deliver noise services and provide a faster more responsive service.
- 3.33 We are already seeing that the demand on the out of hours weekend noise service has increased as the profile of the team has developed. The demand on the Field Officer weekend out of hours service is greater than the original Noise Patrol Service.

### **Early Observations**

- 3.34 Since the full launch of the Field Officer Service in December 2018 we can start to see how this new agile model of service delivery is making a difference.
- 3.35 It is still early days to get meaningful data and identify trends but we are starting to monitor the performance of the team, and listen to feedback from our customers. This is helping us to plan and map the team's activity, and understand the value of this service.
- 3.36 The core hours for the service are 12.00 to 20.00 7 days a week. Many council services do not work at weekends or in the evenings. In addition the Field Officers are one of the few council services on annualised contracts, so have the flexibility to work before 12.00 and later into the evening, after 20.00. This has been an ideal opportunity to target problems and use resources effectively. This resource is particularly useful when managing large events in the city. As we move into the summer we can start to identify seasonal trends and be more responsive to these trends and the needs of our communities.
- 3.37 Since December services are also starting to 'task' Field Officers to gather evidence and intelligence relating to more complex case work being managed by the substantive services. This includes colleagues in our Planning Enforcement, and Community Safety Teams, Regulatory Services, and Housing Teams. This supporting evidence can be gathered at weekends and during the evening when many other services do not operate. This thereby helps to conclude cases quickly. A recent cross service training session on enforcement and evidence

gathering techniques is again ensuring consistency of practices across teams and that best practice is being adopted.

- 3.38 To be more responsive and effective we are looking at how we can broaden the use of enforcement tools such as Community Protection Notices.
- 3.39 Some areas of work such as Dog Control have historically been managed by a number of services across the council. The response is often defined by the land that the dog is on eg Park or Seafront and what the dog is doing eg not on a lead, barking, dog fouling. This whole area of work is being reviewed to make it easier to report problems but also make the service more responsive, avoid duplication, and provide a better service for our customers.
- 3.40 As we approach the summer season Field Officers have been working closely with our Seafront Team and have recently introduced 'Field Officer Beach Patrols' during busy weekend periods. These patrols by the field officers pick up on a number of issues including, illegal street trading, cycling on the prom, waste and abandoned articles, BBQs, and dog control. These preventative patrols help change behaviours and makes the seafront a better place to be for all users. Where necessary enforcement powers will be used. This releases the Seafront Team to focus on beach safety, and saving lives.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 To continue to monitor and review the progress and performance of the service.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 This was a key feature of the development and implementation of the team. This included engagement with partners, our communities, staff and our unions. This will continue as the service is developed and kept under review.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This new team and new model of service delivery is providing an opportunity to provide a more responsive effective service, avoid duplication, and improve customer satisfaction. Working across services helps to move from silo working and move to a 'one council approach'. We are developing performance standards that will help us define the value of the service. This new agile way of working makes more effective use of resources and provides a better customer service. ,

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

The funding of the service is referred to in paragraphs 3.13 and 3.14 of the main body of the report. .

*Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley*

*Date: 04/06/19*

### Legal Implications:

The legal implications of the proposal to set up a Field Officer team were explored when the business case was first mooted and the constitutional changes referred to in the report of January 2018 were subsequently implemented.

This report seeks purely to update members on progress and is not considered to give rise to any new legal implications.

*Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson*

*Date: 05/06/19*

### Equalities Implications:

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for this new role

### Sustainability Implications:

The Field Officer roles support stronger community cohesion, facilitating

*Sustainability Programme Officer: Date:*

### Crime & Disorder Implications

Working closely and sharing intelligence and information with Sussex Police and the Crime Reduction Partnership and the Business Improvement District.

### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

The risks were presented to NICE Committee in December 2019, including the non-cashable benefits.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Appendix 1: Field Officer Functions

## Appendix 1 – Field Officer Functions

SERVICE	FUNCTIONS TASKING AND REFERRALS	
	Key:	EXISTING FUNCTION
		NEW FUNCTION
<b>1. Regulatory Services</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>	
	Disconnection of vehicle and premises alarms	
	Investigation and abatement of noise in the street	
	Initial response and investigation to residential noise complaints	
	Investigation and abatement of all commercial and domestic bonfire complaints	
	Investigation and abatement of all commercial and domestic dust complaints	
	Investigation and abatement of waste on private land inc noxious matter on private land	
	Investigation of blocked commercial drains and commercial drains in disrepair	
	Enforcement of taxis over/illegal ranking	
	Street Trading Enforcement only inc markets and mobile vehicles * not issue licences **	
	Dog Control Order Enforcement : where failing to remove dog faeces; <b>NB : Currently delivered by 3GS – but normal officer hours only.</b>	

	Dog Control Order Enforcement : not keeping a dog on a lead; not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead and permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded;
	To change NO2 tubes monthly.
<b>2. City Parks</b>	
	Intelligence and evidence (for court purposes) - ASB, fly tipping, parks borders etc. This is currently largely done during the working week there is very little cover at other times.
	Out of Hours - improving behaviour and issue PSPO's. There is some incidental work by rangers
	Out of Hours – Tents. Currently rangers are working on this but this is a rapidly growing issue
	Out of Hours - Respond to initial queries and answering questions on Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and Conservation Orders through checks on planning portal
<b>3. Housing Management</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
	Carry Out Estates Inspections and follow up .
	Investigating boundary disputes
	Intelligence gathering on ASB and drug related behaviour and community reassurance liaison
<b>4. Private Sector Housing</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
	Gather evidence from Third Parties regarding tenancies, ownership and managing agent details of properties that may require an HMO Licence. Check planning register if property requires planning permission under Article 4 or it has 7 or more tenants, if so, report to Planning Investigations. Report alleged HMO to PSH Inbox.



	On the request of a Third Party gather photographic Evidence of overgrown gardens and rubbish in gardens. Send to PSH Inbox and issue Tenants with ASB Letter. If rubbish is on pavement, report to City Clean.
	On the request from a third party, if applicable, record noise, issue tenants with ASB Noise Letter and report to PSH Inbox and Noise Team.
<b>5. Planning Enforcement</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
	Condition of land or a property is considered harmful to the area (Detriment to the amenity of the area) Serve Section 215 notices/enforcement if necessary.
	When building work commences, check the history and contact the developers to make them aware that their conditions should be discharged (New digital solution)
	Breaches of planning condition that are easily quantifiable such as hours of use or delivery time restrictions (All go to FO for initial assessment and checking planning history and then triaged
	Estate Agent Boards enforcement
	Initial assessment and evidence gathering for alleged unauthorised signage.
	Following complaint visit listed buildings when work has commenced on them to gather information and warn them of their responsibilities before passing to Planning / Heritage immediate response to stop work and gather evidence issue temp stop notice.
	Display of site notices relating to planning permission
	<b>TASKING AND REFERRALS</b>
	General site visits to gather information for Planning Enforcement Officers relating to enforcement cases (photos, measurements, talking to residents)

	Serve section 16 to gather information relating to ownership and share information with all teams
<b>6. Travellers</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
	Dealing with trespass on council owned land (other than travellers) - e.g. rough sleepers and tourists in tents Removal of Tents in Public Spaces located in public spaces. Not just PSPO. <b>NB: Not citywide, not 7 days a week</b>
	OUT OF HOURS Dealing with PSPO breach out of hours NOT TO BE DONE DURING WEEK UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION WITH TRAVELLER TEAM
	Out of Hours Hotspots Out of hours checking for evidence as to whether vehicles are lived in and if so serving a S77 notice and referring to the team for follow up NOT TO BE DONE DURING THE WEEK UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION
<b>7. Seafront Office</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
	Remove illegal traders from the upper/lower promenade
	Seafront commercial premises not managing their waste
	PSPO work
<b>8. Community Safety</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
	Existing low level ASB interventions that the team would ordinarily be involved in
	new low level ASB work that we can't get to at the moment
	<b>TASKING</b>
	Tasking on complex cases
<b>9. Highways</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>

	Abandoned bicycle tagging/photographs no follow up enforcement back to team
	Evidence gathering Overgrown Vegetation photographs only. Enforcement back to team
	<b>PSPO Prohibitions :</b>
	1. Occupying any vehicle, caravan, tent or other structure
	2. Driving any vehicle on grass
	3. Littering or fly tipping
	4. Lighting or maintaining a fire
	5. Defecating or urinating



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Ending Victim Blaming Together</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>1 July 2019</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Jo Player</b>	<b>Tel: 292488</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>jo.player@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 At Council on 31 January 2019, a Notice of Motion was raised and carried unanimously calling for the Council to sign the Victim Focus Charter Pledge and detail in a report to the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities Committee how the pledge can be fulfilled to challenge and reduce victim blaming of people who have experienced trauma, abuse or crime in our organisation.
- 1.2 Further research into the pledge suggests that this approach primarily focusses on victims of domestic or sexual violence or exploitation.
- 1.3 The purpose of the pledge is to break down stereotypical responses that influence the way that a public body views an individual's choices. It would not detract from our statutory responsibilities nor create a greater entitlement to services.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 The committee is recommended to agree to the proposed actions by officers to implement the Victim Focus Charter Pledge when working with victims who have experienced trauma, abuse or crime, including asking victims how they have been treated.
- 2.2 That officers provide committee with an update in 12 months on the impact signing the pledge has made to how the council works with victims who have experienced trauma, abuse and crime.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The VictimFocus Charter Pledge contains a set of standards for professionals, organisations or individuals to combat victim blaming in cases of abuse or trauma. The pledge has ten strands as set out below:-
- 1) Never engaging in victim blaming of people who have been affected by trauma, abuse or crime.
  - 2) Never using or advocating for interventions that blame or place responsibility or trauma, abuse or crime on the victim
  - 3) Calling out victim blaming where we see it in the media or in policy
  - 4) Ensuring that we create a culture in which victim blaming is not accepted on case records of the people we help and to amend or add comments to any case record that include victim blaming descriptions of our clients
  - 5) Encouraging our partner agencies to reflect on interventions or approaches that place responsibility on victims of trauma abuse or crime.
  - 6) Ensuring that our materials, service design and individual service delivery supports our clients with their feelings of self- blame and their experiences of victim blaming from our own staff and others.
  - 7) Learning more about victim blaming and self- blame to use in policy, procedure and service development and evaluation.
  - 8) Standing up for and advocating on behalf of victims of trauma, abuse and crime who are being blamed or stigmatised by agencies, professionals or authorities.
  - 9) Providing ample training on victim blaming or self-blame to our staff, members and management.
  - 10) Reflecting critically on our own practice and values to ensure that we have challenged any biases, values or views our organisation holds or acts upon that blames victims or trauma, abuse or crime
- 3.2 Brighton & Hove City Council is aware of the difficulties facing victims of trauma, abuse or crime There are policies and procedures in place across a range of services where a believing and supportive approach is already taken.
- 3.3 In addition to the policies that are in place to ensure the protections of victims, officers will be encouraged to enhance their understanding of the emotional impact on any individual who has experienced domestic or sexual violence and training will be offered to support this, as outlined below. The primary objective is to ensure that the victim feels supported whilst accessing appropriate services.
- 3.4 It should be noted that there may be a conflict with some of the strands of the pledge for the local authority, for example strand 8. The Council must operate within the statutory framework governing local authorities, including compliance with Data Protection legislation and statutory safeguarding duties. However, the Council is able to advocate in relation to matters of general principle or policy on behalf of victims of trauma, abuse and crime and officers will ensure that any opportunities to do so are taken.
- 3.5 Appropriate training will be sourced and delivered to staff working in relevant services including Housing, Safer Communities, Health and Adult Social care.

This list is not exhaustive and it is the intention that awareness raising and training will be rolled out across the organisation.

- 3.6 Officers will ensure that the Council publicises internally and externally that it has signed up to the pledge.
- 3.7 Partners will be notified of this through forums such as the Community Safety Partnership Board and other relevant groups in order to encourage them to also sign up if they haven't already done so.
- 3.8 Measures will be developed that track the impact of signing the pledge has made to how the council works with victims who have experienced trauma, abuse and crime. These will include number of staff undertaking training, impact of the training and complaints from key services for example housing. We will also undertake a survey of service users during the course of the year to ascertain how they have been treated when accessing services.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

This report is intended to provide information about taking the pledge forward. The alternative would be not to offer the enhanced training and support described in the report to assist the Council in implementing the pledge. This is not recommended as the pledge was agreed with the unanimous support of full Council.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The intention of the City Council to sign the pledge was raised at the Community Safety Partnership Board on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and further work will be done to promote the scheme across the City.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This report is to provide an update of progress on work BHCC is undertaking to address victim blaming and to invite any comment. The purpose of the pledge is to make it clear that we do not blame victims for being victims as an organisation. There is a need to recognise that the Council must operate within the statutory framework which sets out its powers and duties and that there will be circumstances where the consequences of abuse as it impacts on others will need to be addressed.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, any training and evaluation work undertaken by the council as a result of this report will need to be met from current budget resources.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley*

*Date: 4/6/2019*

Legal Implications:

There is potential for a perceived conflict in specific circumstances between the wording of the pledge and the Council's other statutory duties. For instance, where child protection duties are engaged. However, the overriding ambition of the pledge is to reflect critically on our own practice and values to ensure that any evidence of bias is acted upon and the proposals in the report set out how this will be progressed through compliance with policies and enhanced training.

*Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert*

*Date:04.06.19*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 By signing the pledge, the City Council will be supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence, often predominantly women. As this is not a major policy change an equality impact assessment has not been carried out at this time.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.3 None





