SAFER CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Executive Summary 2022-2025

Community Safety Partnerships

Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to undertake a Strategic Intelligence Assessment. This assessment focusses on crime and disorder using data and intelligence supplied by partner agencies across Cheshire East for the next 3 years and is reviewed annually.

What is a Strategic Assessment?

A Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) is a snapshot of crime and community safety produced using actual data. It aids understanding about crime and disorder issues, explores further threats and opportunities and considers where a community safety partnership can make most difference.

The 2006 review of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a requirement on Community Safety Partners to produce annual strategic assessments of crime and disorder and to address the issues raised through annually refreshed community safety plans.

What is the aim?

The SIA aims to inform a plan, using intelligence, data and indicators to identify root causes, areas of risk and identify challenges for the next 12 months.

Based upon analysis, the assessment highlights existing or emerging risks, threats or harm to direct strategic prioritisation and decision-making. As Cheshire East is too large and diverse for in-depth and localised analysis to be included in detail, this report is not intended to inform localised tactical responses and does not include specific analysis of localities or crime modus operandi.

OFFICIAL

What is the partnership?

The Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) is Cheshire East's Community Safety Partnership. The SCEP has produced this report in collaboration with, and using data supplied by, the Partnership's responsible authorities and co-operating bodies.

Strategic Overview

This is a summary of key local strategies and assessments. Wherever possible the SCEP wants to align its priorities with other plans developed by partners to avoid duplication and adopt a holistic approach to delivering outcomes.

Following analysis of all the data, intelligence, information and commentary collated as part of the all data document (132 pages), the following are the emerging priorities for the partnership for 2022-2025.

- Violence Intimidation Against Women and Girls (VIAWG)
- Exploitation of adults and children (The manipulation and exploitation of vulnerable people to gain power and control often for financial gain) Examples include, County Lines gangs and Home Invasion
- Cybercrime
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Knife Crime
- Road Safety

Further identified issues include:-

- Extremism – PREVENT and Channel Panel (linked to poor mental health)
- Substance Misuse
- Serious Violent Crime
- Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery

Other Strategic Threats

The Office for National Statistics released headline figures for councils in England & Wales on 28 June 2022. The headlines show:

- Growth in the population for Cheshire East, which now stands at **398,800** residents – an increase of **28,700** from the previous census in 2011
- The oldest aged group (those aged 90 and above) increased by a third (32 per cent) in Cheshire East which is above the England average (23 per cent)
- Individuals aged 70 to 74 increase by nearly half (45 per cent), which was also above the England average (37 per cent)

The criminal network are highly organised and plan to operate targeting our local communities. Their victims are often those who are both vulnerable and elderly. Increases in the numbers of those falling victim to crimes has wider implications impacting on their mental well-being and self-esteem.

SCEP should continue to identify and support those who are the most vulnerable within our communities to safeguard them against the priorities highlighted in this summary

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Recommendations

The all data document provides a rich source of information from which this Executive Summary recognises a range of proposals suggested for adoption.
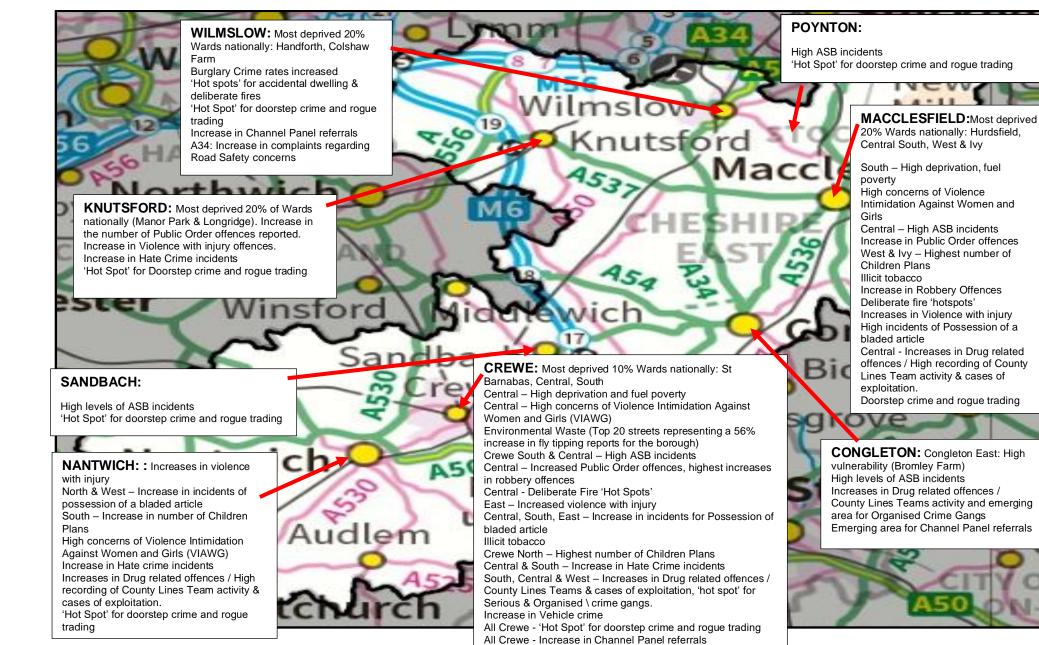
- Priorities to be shared to inform the work of other Strategic Boards.
- Targeted use of Police and Crime Commissioner and other available funding to support identified priorities.
- Quarterly reports to SCEP on outcomes achieved through funding provision culminating in a SCEP Annual Report
- Expand the support of partners to engage with the work of the SCEP Sub Groups.
- Identify areas for training to improve professional delivery to support officers in addressing priorities.
- Strategic links to campaigns delivered to raise awareness of priority issues including use of partner communication networks and platforms.
- Provide signposting to support networks to facilitate our consistent approach to vulnerability reduction.
- Undertake community engagement events to promote the work of SCEP partners to reassure residents of work to impact of priorities.
- Intelligence sharing directed at exploitation and early identification of vulnerability in individuals and communities.

Methods for delivery

This Executive Summary provides direction and sets out the priorities for SCEP to be used as a resource on which to produce the **SCEP Funding and Commissioning Plan** to ensure impact and outcomes are being delivered and the provision of a SCEP Annual Report each April to capture the work of the Partnership.

In pursuit of delivery, the following mechanisms will be utilised as regular reference points (amongst others) to monitor activity and oversee performance and record where differences are being made.

- Quarterly SCEP Meetings
- Leaders Board and other Strategic Groups i.e. Children's and Adults Board
- Contextual Safeguarding Group
- Level 2 Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TCCG)
- Serious & Organised Crime Board
- Multi Agency operational SCEP sub groups established to focus on priority themes. (Reporting to SCEP quarterly)

WILMSLOW: Most deprived 20% Wards nationally: Handforth, Colshaw Farm
Burglary Crime rates increased
'Hot spots' for accidental dwelling & deliberate fires
'Hot Spot' for doorstep crime and rogue trading
Increase in Channel Panel referrals
A34: Increase in complaints regarding Road Safety concerns

POYNTON:

High ASB incidents
'Hot Spot' for doorstep crime and rogue trading

MACCLESFIELD: Most deprived 20% Wards nationally: Hurdsfield, Central South, West & Ivy

South – High deprivation, fuel poverty
High concerns of Violence Intimidation Against Women and Girls
Central – High ASB incidents
Increase in Public Order offences
West & Ivy – Highest number of Children Plans
Illicit tobacco
Increase in Robbery Offences
Deliberate fire 'hotspots'
Increases in Violence with injury
High incidents of Possession of a bladed article
Central - Increases in Drug related offences / High recording of County Lines Team activity & cases of exploitation.
Doorstep crime and rogue trading

KNUTSFORD: Most deprived 20% of Wards nationally (Manor Park & Longridge). Increase in the number of Public Order offences reported.
Increase in Violence with injury offences.
Increase in Hate Crime incidents
'Hot Spot' for Doorstep crime and rogue trading

SANDBACH:

High levels of ASB incidents
'Hot Spot' for doorstep crime and rogue trading

CREWE: Most deprived 10% Wards nationally: St Barnabas, Central, South
Central – High deprivation and fuel poverty
Central – High concerns of Violence Intimidation Against Women and Girls (VIAWG)
Environmental Waste (Top 20 streets representing a 56% increase in fly tipping reports for the borough)
Crewe South & Central – High ASB incidents
Central – Increased Public Order offences, highest increases in robbery offences
Central - Deliberate Fire 'Hot Spots'
East – Increased violence with injury
Central, South, East – Increase in incidents for Possession of bladed article
Illicit tobacco
Crewe North – Highest number of Children Plans
Central & South – Increase in Hate Crime incidents
South, Central & West – Increases in Drug related offences / County Lines Teams & cases of exploitation, 'hot spot' for Serious & Organised \ crime gangs.
Increase in Vehicle crime
All Crewe - 'Hot Spot' for doorstep crime and rogue trading
All Crewe - Increase in Channel Panel referrals

CONGLETON: Congleton East: High vulnerability (Bromley Farm)
High levels of ASB incidents
Increases in Drug related offences / County Lines Teams activity and emerging area for Organised Crime Gangs
Emerging area for Channel Panel referrals

NANTWICH: : Increases in violence with injury
North & West – Increase in incidents of possession of a bladed article
South – Increase in number of Children Plans
High concerns of Violence Intimidation Against Women and Girls (VIAWG)
Increase in Hate crime incidents
Increases in Drug related offences / High recording of County Lines Team activity & cases of exploitation.
'Hot Spot' for doorstep crime and rogue trading

Covid – 19 Pandemic

The previous Strategic Intelligence Assessment (2019-22) included the period of the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns which had an unprecedented effect on adult safeguarding activity nationally, including domestic abuse. Overall rates of safeguarding concerns were higher across the UK, with a marked increase in complexity. Key messages from the first Covid-19 insight report evidence that generally, safeguarding concerns initially reduced during the first Covid lockdown, before returning to expected levels, followed by an increase in expected levels of safeguarding activity by June 2020. National increases were observed in a number of categories of abuse, including domestic abuse amongst others and this summary provides further detail to support priorities in the fall out from Covid conditions.

- An increase of Domestic Abuse hub referrals 37% on the previous year. The increase is largely due to a significant rise in referrals from police which have increased by 44% compared to the previous year.

- All Police Beat Team Clusters, except Sandbach, have recorded increases in Sexual Offences in 2021 when compared with 2020.

- Across Cheshire East the highest volumes of Rape offences in the last 4 years were recorded in May 2021.

- Domestic Violence as well as the prevalence of psychological/emotional and sexual offences increased in the general population during the pandemic.

- Cheshire East currently is undertaking an unprecedented 4 Domestic Homicide Reviews further highlighting the severity of the presence of Domestic Violence within a relationship.