



SAFER CHESHIRE EAST PARTNERSHIP

(SCEP)

Annual Report

2022-2023



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Partnership

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1. Introduction

The Safer Cheshire East Partnership (SCEP) is a statutory partnership under The Crime & Disorder Act 1998. It brings together the following responsible authorities who must work together to understand and address community safety issues in their area:

- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire Police
- Clinical Commissioning Group / ICB
- Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- National Probation Service

There are a number of other organisations who attend the SCEP and contribute to its work but are not under the same statutory duty. They include:

- Cheshire Youth Offending Service
- Public Health
- The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
- Cheshire Domestic Abuse Services

The terms of reference for the SCEP describe its role, working practices and the duties the partnership is required to carry out. They include:

- Producing a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA), using intelligence, data and indicators to identify root causes, areas of risk and identify emerging themes and challenges for the Community Safety Partnership for the next 12 months.
- Managing and monitoring an annual Funding and Commissioning Plan
- Engaging and consulting with communities about community safety issues in the area.
- Allow partners to share relevant information and support the work of other Strategic Boards to address issues and concerns.
- Conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's).

This, the first Safer Cheshire East Partnership Annual Report provides details relating to the work carried by its partners to address concerns and evidences the progress and impact delivered against those Community Safety priorities agreed through the provision of the SIA 2022-2025.

The report references information on the role of SCEP and the sub groups of SCEP specifically established to address concerns, including the reporting structures in place to keep partners informed of activity and progress. The report also focusses on the funding made available to SCEP by the Police and Crime Commissioners Officer and how this resource is being used to deliver a range of workstreams to impact on agreed priorities.

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2. The duties of SCEP

Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) - Completed for 2022/25 and signed off by the SCEP in December 2022, the SIA is compiled using intelligence data and analytical evidence to identify Community safety priorities. Priorities have been identified to inform SCEP plans. (Further details are included in this report about the SIA on page 13) – Appendix 1 SIA ‘Executive Summary’



Strategic Intelligence
Assessment (SIA) FIN.

Funding Management – The provision of annual funding made available to SCEP by the PCC to impact on Community Safety priorities is the management responsibility of SCEP including adherence to the funding application process and performance management of activity. (Further details are included on pages 9-20 of this report)

Community Engagement and Consultation – SCEP maintains a website providing members of the public of with information of Community Safety offering guidance, support and services which can be obtained. The website also includes details of any consultations undertaken locally along with a copy of the ‘Executive Summary of the SIA’. The website also shares summary reports of any Domestic Homicide reviews completed for a period of 12 months from publication.

Information Sharing Agreement – The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on Chief officers to share information with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships where appropriate. In addition sub groups of SCEP have information sharing agreements in place for specific pieces of work.

Domestic Homicide Reviews – In line with statutory guidance, the SCEP currently is managing 4 DHR’s. Progress, activity and management of DHR, including agreed ‘Action Plans’ to inform the learning from cases is formally monitored by the SCEP at its quarterly meetings.

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3. Addressing priority concerns

The SCEP is provided with crime statistics and receives presentations and reports from partners at each of its quarterly meetings to agree strategic direction, identify issues, emerging risks, threats and to assess performance. Although police statistics help guide partners' discussion and response, they do not, in themselves, provide a completely accurate picture of issues. Changes in Police recording practices impact figures significantly making it difficult to assess trends over a long period of time. Positive action taken by partners can also influence trends. For example, an increase in domestic abuse crimes is likely to be partly due to work undertaken to raise awareness and encourage and enable victims to report issues. Given these factors, rather than take crime statistics at face value, the SCEP aims to undertake further research and analysis, within the resources available to it, to develop the best possible picture of what's happening so it can put the most effective solutions in place.

'Task and Finish' groups have been created within SCEP to undertake SCEP plans, mitigate risk, provide support, impact on outcomes and increase public confidence and awareness. SCEP receives **quarterly reports** from these workstreams to keep partners informed and to approve reports and invite the opportunity for questions and scrutiny.

During 2022-23 the following sub-groups have been established:

PREVENT & Channel Panel

To provide an update on the progress of the work undertaken in PREVENT & Channel Panel to work with partners in a multi-agency setting to reduce the risk of those identified within CE becoming involved in terrorism. The CHANNEL Duty Guidance was updated in November 2020. All Local Authorities have a duty to own and deliver CHANNEL arrangements.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

IOM cohort members may cause serious harm and impact on Community safety. IOM Management in Cheshire East report any issues to SCEP arising from local and regional governance groups and introduce the latest Police scorecard indicative of levels of offending in the current cohort.

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Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's)

A multi-agency review occurs when someone has been killed because of domestic abuse. Professionals who have not been involved in the case must review what happened and identify what needs to be changed to reduce the risk of it happening again.

Domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) came into effect on 13 April Under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Adults Act (2004), they were established on a statutory basis (2004). The Safer Cheshire East Partnership is responsible for establishing domestic homicide reviews within Cheshire East. After completing a domestic homicide review and approval from the Home Office, Quality Assurance Panel the SCEP is required to publish the anonymised executive summary and action plans.

Get Safe On-Line

The group was established to meet the challenge that on-line scams present. The group is able to share information on the current risks and threats, to raise the awareness, improve education to mitigate the risk and provide organisational efficiency to minimise duplication, whilst supporting agencies following initial referrals to Trading Standards from Adult Safeguarding.

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)

The SOC multi agency Strategic and Operational Groups meet regularly bringing together partners from across the Cheshire East footprint. The work by partners concentrates on the main risks, threats and harm identified in communities affected by SOC behaviour across the 3 Neighbouring Policing Units of Crewe, Macclesfield and Congleton. Partners share important information to create disruption to criminal gang activity and address areas of work in adherence to the Home Office 4 P's Policy to Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

Gypsy, Roma and Travellers

An operational group was formed to share information with partners from a range of agencies to consider working practices and an introduction of measures to improve the health, social and educational opportunities for the Gypsy and Traveller community and encourage the accessing of services for this diverse community group.

Road Safety Partnership

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Partners including Police, Fire Service and Cheshire East review the Road Safety Plans for Cheshire East which aims to reduce road casualties through speed management, enforcement, engineering, emergency response and education.

4. The Role of Council Services

Cheshire East Council plays a key role in helping co-ordinate partnership effort to keep residents safe and increase public reassurance, a range of its services directly impact on addressing a wide range of Community Safety issues.

Examples include:

Housing Services investigating the use of licencing schemes for Houses of Multiple Occupation and ensuring minimum security standards are being met.

Licencing to ensure licenced premises are complying with their responsibilities.

Trading Standards investigate persistent and/or serious criminal activities and civil law breaches, in particular those involving unsafe goods, fraud, illegal and unfair practices, counterfeiting and illicit goods, scams, doorstep crime (rogue traders) and persistent consumer detriment.

Adult Social Care – working with partners to ensure Adults at Risk are enabled to live independent lives free from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Anti-Social Behaviour Team – work in partnership to prevent incidents of ASB and support those at risk of causing ASB. Within the team are the Community Enforcement Officers responsible for the Enforcement and removal of Abandoned Vehicles, Vehicles for sale on the highway, Enforcement of Litter and Dog Fouling, Issue of Fixed Penalty Notice (including PSPO's)

Commissioning Providing important contracts to support domestic abuse services and substance misuse that meet needs and provide flexibility around future provision.

Cheshire East Highways – Maintaining and improving the road network across the borough with a focus on locations involving motorists and pedestrians seriously injured or killed.

Children's Services working with partners to identify and respond to vulnerable children at risk of exploitation

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5. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Funding

Partners of SCEP are able to consider financial support during two funding windows each year (1st April to 30th June and 1st September to 30th November) to the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver specific projects or pieces of work to impact directly on an agreed priority identified in the SIA.

In 2022-23 an annual allocation of £147,550 was made available with guidance and criteria for funding bids set out by the PCC. It is worth noting that due to a number of factors (in particular the Covid Pandemic) funding applications made to the PCC through SCEP in 2021-22 could not commence until this year will these also feature in this report.

In addition, contributions from the annual allocation of funding can also be agreed to support sub regional Community Safety work or projects the PCC have identified which require financial contributions from each of the 4 Cheshire Local Authorities. SCEP agreed an annual contribution of £10k in 2020 along with the other Cheshire LA's for a dedicated Police Analyst at Police headquarters and this was approved by the PCC again for 2022/23.

Once the current DHR joint funding budget is used, SCEP will be able (if they so wish) to use this PCC funding application process to fund future DHR's which meet the threshold within Cheshire East.

A £25k contribution was approved by SCEP to support a wider PCC funding bid to central government for Safer Streets 4 which was successful. The £1.5 million for Cheshire was made up of two bids worth £750,000 each, and projects supported resulting from this money will benefit the entire county.

The money secured by the Commissioner will support measures to protect people within the Night Time Economy (NTE),

- 'Operation Street Safe' – This will create community crime prevention groups, made up of paid and volunteer recruits who will be trained to spot dangerous behaviour and to intervene to keep people safe.

- New ‘Safety Buses’ which will provide safe spaces for those out at night in areas with a busy night time economy. These buses, manned by community safety partners and volunteers, will provide a safe haven and support. They will also have safety equipment such as defibrillators.
- Development of a safety app for Cheshire, where people will be able to see the support services available to them, all in one place. Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence will also be able to plot their location and routes, adding reassurance to those out alone.
- An educational behaviour-change programme in high schools across the county, teaching young people about how to spot harmful behaviours when out at night and intervene in certain situations.

The SCEP has consistently and successfully bid for the full allocation of PCC funding and during 2022-23 the following applications were approved.

1st April to 30th June 2022

	£
Safer Streets 4 contributions	35,000
19,738	
Regional Analyst	10,000
4,000	
UK Scams – Aftercare Project	8,881
36,500	
Get Safe On-Line	15,000
Poynton / Crewe ASB	9,500
Domestic Abuse World Cup	3,040
PSPO – Macclesfield	3,500

1st September to 30th November

	£
Knife Angel	19,783
Dementia and Domestic Abuse Training	4,000
Domestic Abuse	38,000

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The PCC published its latest Police and Crime Plan in January 2023 with priorities consistent with those identified by SCEP including Protect vulnerable and at-risk people.

6. SCEP Funding 2022-23 - (Delivery, Outcome and Impact)

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Safer Streets 4 Contribution £35k

Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard Cheshire East Council took a proactive lead to improve conditions for women feeling safe. A survey carried out across the borough asking 'How Safe Women Feel in Cheshire East'? The survey ran from the **17th June to the 4th July 2021**. Despite the limited time period, the survey attracted 503 responses, 445 of which were females. Responses to the survey clearly indicated that large proportions of females did not feel safe, particularly in Town Centre areas of Crewe and Macclesfield and this was especially the case in the hours of darkness.

Based on the findings, SCEP designed a multi-agency Action Plan to address both the concerns raised from the survey and to link themes captured in any Strategies released to include projects or pieces of work which would likely reduce incidents of VAWG. The Action Plan was aligned to the Cheshire Constabulary Strategy to **VAWG** and supports their key 5 principles highlighted below:-

- Violence, abuse, and intimidation against women and girls in any form is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Every public space and education establishment should be a safe place for all women and girls.
- Women and girls should feel confident to report their experiences of harm to the police directly or indirectly, safe in the knowledge that they will be taken seriously and that they will be treated with dignity and respect.
- The lived experiences of women and girls will be heard and their opinions respected.
- Our actions to tackle violence against women and girls will be open and transparent to external scrutiny.

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The funding provided by the PCC to SCEP in 2021-22 was directed to the work on VAWG with the main impact and outcomes are highlighted below:-

- Extension of mobile CCTV in Crewe Town Centre
- Provision of mini torches and personal alarms to keep women and girls safe
- Distribution of over 3500 'Stop Tops' to reduce the risk of drink spiking to pubs and clubs across the borough
- *Operation Empower - To provide a high profile presence to provide reassurance during the night time economy (8pm to 4am)
- SCEP data and analysis report 2022 – Stalking and Harassment – decrease
- Implementation of safety bus staffed Police/My CWA/DAFSU/Street pastors to provide support to victims
- *Behaviour Change workers provided by MyCWA located in Custody Suites to increase levels of engagement and conversation with perpetrators of offences with Women and Girls [New scheme launched in Cheshire's custody suites to prevent domestic abuse re-offending - YouTube](#) – Positive media reaction and interest from other Police forces in the UK, including HMIC who recognised as innovative practice introduced by SCEP partners.
- *Increase of use of IDVA's to support specialist DA Police officers to provide support to DA victims. (Including additional DA Police Cars supported by IDVAS during World Cup matches additional £3,040 from 2021/22 budget allocation)
- Production of 5 short videos focusing on Community safety support in the Night Time Economy
- [Message to perpetrators](#), [Keeping women safe](#), [Good Sam App](#), [Reporting crimes](#), [Safety Bus](#), [Measures in place at bars](#)
- Production of Video to promote awareness of Domestic Abuse, safely report and signpost to agency support.
- 'Safeguarding Training' commenced January 2023 to include all CE registered taxi drivers
- Allocation of £35k contribution from SCEP in 2021-22 to enhance the successful **Safer Streets 4** funding bid by the PCC to deliver a range of additional activity to be spent by Sept 2023 on the VAWG agenda including:
- Op Guardianship – Empower the Community to keep people safe – Street Pastors, Taxi Marshals, Bespoke training with staff of pubs and clubs to keep women and girls safe, Behaviour Change programmes in schools across secondary schools in Crewe, free self-defence courses, Sexual Liaison officers within schools, Education and Training within business and higher education, with a focus on hairdressers, beauty salons and nail bars. Extending roll out of Good SAM, procurement of an enhanced Safety APP licenses to be provided by the most vulnerable victims.

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*Indicates an extension to provision following further funding secured through Safer Streets 4

Regional Analyst - £10k

Regular meetings take place between the Managers responsible for Community Safety in the 3 other Cheshire Local Authorities along with the PCC office throughout the year. As part of these conversations, consideration is given to areas where the Community Safety Partnerships can work more collaboratively and improve their delivery to impact on priorities.

SCEP initiated the conversation in 2019 for each Cheshire LA to commission a service for a dedicated resource employed within Cheshire Police to provide data and analysis to inform priorities and report to the quarterly meetings and advise of any emerging risks or threats.

This resource has become invaluable and funding has been agreed again this year to maintain the service. In addition to the quarterly reports, additional request for data can also be made to support separate pieces of work each of the 4 LA's may have to confirm the accuracy of criminal activity or perhaps provide evidence to support further funding applications.

Regular contact with the Force Intelligence Bureau within Cheshire Constabulary has enabled work towards providing a consistent reporting process to SCEP members which has been delivered either by the Analyst or a Senior Police Officer.

This year saw the need for SCEP to produce a new Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) for 2022-2025 to provide information about Crime and Community Safety in Cheshire East and is part of the evidence base which supports community safety partners to plan and target their work. The role of the dedicated analyst is pivotal in the contribution of much of the information within this document supported by contributions from other SCEP partners.

An 'Executive Summary' of the SIA is available on the SCEP Website. – link below:-

[Safer Cheshire East Partnership](#)

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Priorities identified for 2022-2025 (to be reviewed annually)

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

UK Scams – Aftercare Project £8,881.00

As the Cheshire Police and Crime Plan highlights, Cyber-crime is now the fastest growing crime in Cheshire. This is consistent with the information within the SCEP Intelligence Assessment 2022-2025 which identifies Fraud as one of its main priorities. Fraud has now become a borderless crime and Cheshire East communities are vulnerable to doorstep crime and rogue traders with older people in our area of benefit facing the same issues as their peers across the UK.

Due to the withdrawal of high street bank services and with people spending more time at home during the pandemic, there has been a heavy reliance on online services, which has put older and more vulnerable people at higher risk of online fraud. People can be scammed at any age, but the average age of a scam victim is 75. This means older people who are defrauded have less opportunity to recoup their financial loss through re-earning. Those who are defrauded are often forced to continue working for longer, to recoup some of the money.

To address these concerns the work carried out within this project has been extremely beneficial to both warn people of the potential scams and provide direct support to those who have regrettably fallen victim to the fraudsters.

Positive outcomes:

- **Delivered 73 one-to-one intensive aftercare support sessions** to older people who have been a victim of fraud or have had a near miss.
- **Shared printed information with over 1000 delegates** at scams awareness sessions, to help them avoid becoming a victim or repeat victim of fraud.
- **One-to-one sessions** – 27 individuals have accessed victim support one-to-one sessions. They report that they are now more scam aware and less likely to become a repeat victim of fraud

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- **Scams awareness support to older people through delivery of printed bulletins** – Around 600 monthly bulletin updates, older people are regularly reminded of how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.
- **Printed information for delegates at awareness-raising talks and one-to-one sessions** – The funding allows every delegate to have a goody bag of scams awareness information. It includes information from Age UK national, AUKCE and Trading Standards. Having the information pack to take away means older people can refer to it long after the awareness session they attended.
- **Project User Group** – This group of stakeholders meets quarterly. The group provides a current overview of how scams affect their service users, so that project can be shaped to provide what's needed for older people to avoid becoming victims or repeat victims of fraud.
- **Trading standards** – The project has been a success thanks to the partnership working with CEC Trading Standards Team. They provide intelligence, information, joint visit support and manage referrals for the one-to-one sessions for victims. They liaise with referring agencies for further information.
- **Adult Social Care** – The project is seeing more referrals from CEC Adult Social Care. They also provide the project with information about activities for clients accessing the one-to-one aftercare sessions, to help them re-engage with their community.
- **Cheshire Police Economic Crime Unit (ECU)** – The project relies on referrals from the ECU. They work in conjunction to provide the right support by the right agency at the right time.

Stories of difference

The information below captures just 2 examples of where the impact of the project has been recognised by those it is designed to support by providing advice, reassurance and safeguards against further crimes being committed.

Scams Bulletin response

“One family member commented, “Thank you so much for sending out the scams awareness documents – it’s invaluable to know what scams are out there and I feel my parents are more protected being aware of them.”

Cheshire East case details

Client B, fell victim to a safe account banking fraud. They contacted the project again, as the fraudsters had contacted them again (some 8 months later). The fraudsters were drawing the client in to a courier fraud. The client went to the bank and withdrew the requested cash. However, they then called the project for advice, remembering they had received support previously. The project advised the client not to hand over the money and contacted the police on their behalf. This

prevented the client losing £5,000.

The project then worked with Cheshire Police Economic Crime Unit for a call blocker to be installed. At the project's next visit to the victim (jointly with CEC Trading Standards) they reported a dramatic drop in the number of calls received. In fact, they were not receiving any calls except from people they know.

Get Safe On-Line

£15,000

On Line safety, fraud prevention has been a priority area of Community Safety for a number of years. This service was initially commissioned in 2019-20 to produce material to raise awareness of potential fraud risks and to provide information to members of the public at 'live' events and also deliver training to community groups.

Due the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic, delivery of live events and training provided by this commission were unfortunately restricted, though the offer was carried forward. However, the regular material shared with partners to highlight changing themes and trends linked to fraudulent activity continued to be provided.



(above) Get Safe On Line providing information to new students at Reaseheath College, Nantwich during Freshers week 2022.

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As we have emerged from the Pandemic, in the last year, 2 live events have been organised in which Get Safe On Line have directly engaged with members of the public to talk with the about the types of fraudulent activity. This has been supported by a number of on-line training events to members of the public. Get Safe On Line have also been a training resource to provide material for the use of partners in their delivery of raising awareness around this topic.

Evidence of impact

The Safeguarding training officer for CE has embedded a session on fraud within safeguarding training specifically to empower carers, voluntary workers, housing employees etc to identify potential fraud risks for vulnerable service users and to be able to react and provide appropriate reactive advice.



Paul Broadhurst (Safeguarding Training Officer) delivering On Line and Romance fraud training to an audience representing the Faith Sector during Adults Safeguarding Week in November 2022.

Poynton / Crewe ASB

£9,500

Area within Crewe and Poynton have been identified locations for incidents for 'Hot Spots' of Anti-Social Behaviour. Work commenced in each area to focus on intervention and prevention opportunities to create conditions to reduce incidents of ASB.

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The strategy was to attract the attention of younger members of the community to concentrate their minds on positive activities and hold their interest to prevent them becoming involved in ASB.

Poynton Town Council teamed up with Stockport Football Club and sourced local venues to run regular weekly football training sessions. The ages of those young people enrolling have ranged from 9 to 17. The benefits have been evidenced by those who ordinarily would not have had the funds to pay for coaching have attended and parents have commented “how wonderful” it is for their children to have the opportunity to engage in these activities.

The Police and Town Council can also look to the improved communication between a number of young people and their officers resulting from the provision. Whilst the football training was attended by boys and girls, an additional project was funded to entice young girls to enrol in dance classes. These also have proved very popular with 20 to 30 attending each week. The final provision in Poynton was provided during the October Half Term in 2022 with a BMX Bike provision in a local park which attracted around 50 young people during the day.

In Crewe the local PCSO’s created working closely with Crewe Alexandra Football Club created County Games with sporting activities being provided during each of the school holidays at Easter, Summer and October half term using school and leisure centre venues across Crewe, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel.

Engagement was secured following promotion through secondary schools with a focus by the police to work with those young people who had come to their attention for involvement in ASB. The activities were followed up with an awards evening held at Crewe stadium where young people involved collected awards for their achievements with parents being invited to join in the celebrations.

	No. ASB Incidents
	Crewe
1 st January – 31 st December 2021	2,790
1 st January – 31 st December 2022	1,625
1 st – 29 th January 2022	136

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The above data evidences a significant reduction in ASB across Crewe during the period of interventions.

Stories of difference

A 14 year old diagnosed with ADHD was one of the young people attending the course and during a session caused some concerns in relation to his aggressive attitude. The coaches talked to him and have since built up a positive relationship. His mother has been so grateful for the opportunity and support provided to her son and reported he is far better behaved from having a new friends and a weekly focus to do something he enjoys which otherwise she could not have afforded.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Macclesfield Town Centre £3,500

PSPO's replaced gating orders, dog control order and can be used to control behaviours which are having, or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Behaviours can be controlled through restrictions within the borough or specific areas within the borough or positive requirements can be placed within the Orders to make them effective.

SCEP funding provided the purchase and erecting of signage to support a Public Space Protection Order for Macclesfield Town Centre which came into force on 18 July 2022 and is in place for 3 years. The Council exercised its power under section 59(4) Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and this Order requires the following:-

- A person in the Restricted Area is to hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) which are believed to contain alcohol when required to do so by a police officer or Authorised Officer to prevent public nuisance or disorder.
- A person in the Restricted Area shall not urinate and/or defecate on or within Land to which this Order applies.



Knife Angel - Crewe

£19,738

Knife Crime has been identified as a priority in the new S CEP SIA for 2022-25. During the period April 2021 to March 2022, there were 112 incidents involving weapons recorded. The aim is for Cheshire East is for Crewe to host the Knife Angel: the emotive sculpture is formed of 100,000 knives all collected via a national knife amnesty (pic below). Over the past two years the Knife Angel has toured the UK raising awareness of violence, aggression and knife crime. It has proved to be a catalyst for meaningful engagement, dispelling myths, strengthening community relationships with police and agencies and driving forward a step change.



Whilst the sculpture forms the platform, planning has already started with partners from Crewe Town Council, Cheshire East Council, local community groups, charities and other partner agencies including Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girl agencies to develop and deliver a 28 day programme of intensive activity including community, schools and businesses to

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engage in programmes bespoke to the Crewe community addressing 'knife crime' together with a comprehensive process of evaluation.

Domestic Abuse - Co-Location

£36,500

My CWA plan to locate specialist practitioners at targeted partner agencies on specific days of the the week to make reciprocal arrangements for staff from partner organisations at My CWA bases.

The project will fully embed this co-location model in targeted agencies across Cheshire East and to maximise its effectiveness.

My CWA practitioners will be able to co-locate within important targeted service areas as a result of the project, and they will be able to work on all domestic abuse-related tasks, including those involving victims, children, and those that harm.

Partner organisations initially identified for this co-location programme include the YMCA, Space 4 Autism, CAMHS, CGL, Children's Centres, and Youth Justice. Five specialised agencies will be the subject of co-location agreements being set up throughout Cheshire East.

Working in Partnership

The success of the work undertaken by the SCEP relies on close partnership working, whether it be through sharing information, committing resources, providing equipment or the use of accommodation. During 2022-23 SCEP a range of methods have been provided to ensure partners are both informed and given the opportunity to become involved in delivering projects, raising awareness or simply to benefit from training opportunities for their staff.

Community Engagement and Consultation

SCEP plans include the process to incorporate the views of the public in the development of its work and this can be evidenced in work undertaken within VAWG and the delivery of 'Days of Action' completed in both Macclesfield and Congleton within the last year as part of the work relating to Serious and Organised Crime. The focus is placed on residents completing questionnaires providing a rich source of community intelligence. In addition, the direct engagement allows residents to be reassured of the work being carried by partners out to reduce crime and be given information on how to receive support and access services.

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Training

Funded through SCEP in 2022-23 a number of training opportunities have been provided to partner agency staff to enable them to upskill and go about their jobs with more confidence. In November during Adult Safeguarding week, training was provided to around 100 staff to raise awareness and identify the signs of both Exploitation and Extremism to frontline officers. The event specifically targeted attendance from those staff who would not normally attend this type of training and included library staff, Leisure Centre staff, Environmental Health, Trading Standards together with police and colleagues from Health and the Fire Service.

In addition, Cheshire East dementia/carers and domestic abuse project group are utilising the successful funding bid to develop an empowering and educating workshop to both inspire and challenge the audience and help them identify the signs of domestic abuse when working with people living with dementia and their carers and how to support them to feel safe.

The dedicated Safeguarding Training Officer has commenced training in January 2023 with the support of staff from CE licensing which will eventually include every taxi driver registered in Cheshire East to complete Safeguarding Training in order for them to obtain their licence.

New Responsibilities

The Strategic direction of SCEP will often require the need to inform partners of changes in legislation or new ways of government thinking which will impact on resources and the need to deliver workstreams set against national policy. Within the last few months two areas of work which will require Cheshire East cooperation are as follows:

Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP)

In June 2022 the Government launched its 10 year drugs strategy, 'From harm to hope', which relies on co-ordinated action across a range of local partners including enforcement, treatment, recovery and prevention.

Underpinning the drugs strategy was the principle that combatting drug use and harm is a priority for all of Government working as a single team and as such every area is required to set up and establish a Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), providing a multi-agency approach to addressing shared challenges related to drug-related harm based on local context and need.

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Serious Violence Duty

In 2021, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill was laid before Parliament and proposed a Serious Violence Duty requiring specified authorities to work together to reduce and prevent serious violence. The Serious Violence Duty is to commence in January 2023.

Crest Advisory has been commissioned by the Home Office to reach out and work with the organisations specified in the Serious Violence Duty and their local partners to both enable and assess readiness nationally and to provide tailored support to specific local areas to develop readiness and compliance.

Throughout 2023, and until the duty is established, members of SCEP will be working to embed the SV duty and establish local engagement on behalf of the Home Office.

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