

**Norwich City Council**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Item No 6**

**REPORT for meeting to be held on Thursday 17 December**

### **Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel (CCSPSSP)**

**Summary:** Councillor Adam Giles is the council's representative on the Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel and will give a verbal update at the meeting.

The meeting of CCSPSSP took place on 27 November 2020. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation, a number of statutory agencies are required to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder. In Norfolk this includes Norwich City Council, Norfolk Constabulary, Norfolk Police Authority, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, Norfolk County Council district councils and the Probation Service. The CCSPSSP was set up in 2011 in order to discharge these duties and the chief officer or their nominee from each statutory agency is the responsible person.

**Recommendation:** To note the report of the council's representative on the CCSPSSP .

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## **Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel Report – November 2020**

**Cllr Adam Giles** – please send any queries/comments to  
a.giles@cllr.norwich.gov.uk

### **Terms of Reference**

1. I raised concerns about the infrequency of meetings and the lack of accountability. These concerns were shared by a number of other members, and it was agreed that the committee would meet quarterly, rather than annually, going forwards.

### **Annual Performance Update**

2. The annual performance report on the key priorities set out in the NCCSP strategy and delivery plan 2018-2021. These priorities being: Prevent; County Lines; and domestic abuse and sexual violence.
3. The NCCSP strategy and delivery plan is due for renewal in March 2021. The new strategy and delivery plan will run from 2021-2025 to align with the Police and Crime Plan, which will be developed once the new PCC is in position in May. It was agreed the committee should meet prior to March 2021 to ensure this can be scrutinised before adoption.

### **Prevent**

4. Activity to deliver the Prevent duty is delivered by the Prevent Strategy Group. Specific case work is the responsibility of Channel Panel. An independent review conducted by the former regional DCI has broadly concluded that Prevent is being delivered to a high standard in Norfolk.
5. While Norfolk is at lower risk of extremism/terrorist activity than other regions, nationally the threat has been raised to “severe” in response to terrorist attacks in continental Europe.
6. Key areas of concern for Norfolk are as follows:
  - a) Increased level of risk from online grooming of young people and vulnerable adults during lockdowns, self-isolation, etc.
  - b) Individuals with extreme views, but no coherent ideology. Largely influenced by fake news on social media.
  - c) Potential for increase in community tension, leading to increased hate crime focused on BAME groups, migrant workers. Concern about scapegoating for pandemic, resentment due to high unemployment, etc.
  - d) Potential for terrorist attacks from animal rights extremist groups on food processing plants given the publicity received over Covid outbreaks.
  - e) Increased radicalisation due to increased social isolation during pandemic. Mental health services and normal support networks heavily impacted.

7. Percentage of cases adopted by Channel Panel above the national average reflecting an emphasis on early intervention in preference to criminalisation. Meetings still being held virtually. Most individuals are males aged between 12-17 years old. All females have been 18 or over. As above, most individuals have no coherent ideology, but of those who do a majority hold far right ideologies.
8. Most referrals this year have come from the police, followed by schools and the police/probation service. Other referrers include NSFT, local authorities, and MIND. Schools are normally the largest referrers, but these stats reflect school closures during the pandemic. I raised concerns about school pupils being radicalised online at home, and not being picked up as they normally would by schools this year. Officers shared this concern. I asked for a statistical breakdown of referrals, and I was promised this would be supplied. Not received to date.
9. I raised concerns about the huge cuts to Youth Services over the last four years, and the impact this has had on efforts to achieve early intervention and prevent radicalisation. Officers broadly agreed that Youth Services were key in achieving early intervention, and that they would welcome more funding for these services.

## **County Lines**

10. Activity to combat County Lines is coordinated by the County Lines Strategic Group, with enforcement the responsibility of the police under Operation Gravity and Operation Orochi.
11. 46 County Lines are known to be in operation in Norfolk. 2002 people have been arrested under Operation Gravity between its launch in December 2016 and November 2020. Of those arrested 1720 have been male, and 282 female. We are seeing an increase in serious violence associated with County Lines. There are rises in possession of weapons, knife crime, and robbery. High numbers of children continue to be exploited or coerced into storing or moving drugs and money. Gangs are frequently "cuckooing" vulnerable adults.
12. The more recently launched Operation Orochi is focused on identifying line holders and leaders, rather than targeting exploited drug runners and vulnerable users. Under Operation Orochi 30 lines have been closed, 44 individuals charged, and 17 convicted. £95,084.55 cash has been recovered, and sentences so far add up to 58 years and six months. 49 lines in total have been investigated to date, with 10 currently under investigation.
13. Norfolk has a Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) team to support young people who may be at risk of, or victims of, exploitation. There is a multi-agency Missing, Adult Sex Work, Slavery, and Trafficking (MAST) team, and an Anti-Trafficking Network Coordinator has recently been appointed. A multi-agency Vulnerable Adult Risk Assessment Conference (VARAC) framework is soon to be trialed.
14. I again raised the impact of Youth Services cuts. I also raised the impact of

the Conservative-run administration's short-sighted decision to scrap the Supporting People funding in 2017 for tenants with complex needs.

15. I also highlighted that while the report focused on supporting individuals, the NCCSP needed a strategy in place to build resilient communities in working class areas. I highlighted that there was a particular need for this in working class communities with high churn rates of tenants, and a greater difficulty building community spirit and a sense of long-term community buy-in to improve the area.

## **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

16. Activity to combat domestic abuse and sexual violence is the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG). Norfolk leaders have agreed to establish a single domestic abuse service for Norfolk by pooling funding. A commissioning group will report into the DASVG, and staff are being recruited by the OPCCN. A joint service for those at standard and medium risk of harm should be in place by January 2021.
17. It was reported that a Domestic Abuse dashboard has been developed to measure levels of abuse, reporting, resilience of support systems, and compliance with safeguarding procedures.
18. Furthermore, it was reported that an additional £500,000 was being invested this year in increasing provision of domestic abuse support. An additional £200,000 had been invested in refuge provision.
19. A Big Lottery bid has been submitted to support early intervention and prevention. If secured this money will be targeted at community-based awareness (building upon the White Ribbon campaign), support, school-based support, and early help response.
20. A £300,000 bid to the Home Office, to be match funded by the OPCCN, for a high risk/harm perpetrator service was unsuccessful. Some form of services delivered under existing limited resources is being considered.
21. A new honour-based abuse joint sub group is being set up with the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board to drive forward recommendations to policy and practice.