



# Braintree District Community Safety Partnership

## **Annual Report 2017-18**

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## Foreword

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report outlines how local agencies have worked together to make the Braintree District a safer place and reduce the fear of crime during 2017-18.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a joint responsibility upon specific agencies and other partners within the community to develop and implement strategies to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safe.

Throughout the year partners have worked together to deliver successful projects and initiatives against the identified priorities to *Reduce the risk and impact of Hidden Harm*, *Reduce Re-offending*, and *Effective partnership working to meet emerging local threats and issues*. Many of these are aimed at raising awareness, education and prevention as we feel these add value to the work delivered by local agencies on a daily basis.

We are proud of the achievements the Partnership has made and look forward to another successful year.



**Andy Wright**

Chair, Braintree District  
Community Safety Partnership

**Tracey Parry**

Community Services Manager  
Braintree District Council

Chief Executive  
Braintree District Council

## Responsible Authority Group

The Responsible Authority Group is the strategic group of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership and consists of strategic and operational officers who are collectively responsible for addressing crime, disorder and community safety across the Braintree District.

These organisations include Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS), Greenfields Community Housing, Essex County Council (Education) and Community360 (voluntary sector).

The group has overall strategic responsibility for making sure that the priorities identified from the annual Strategic Assessment are outlined within the Action Plan, and the projects within the Action Plan are delivered.

## Strategic Assessment

Each year the Community Safety Partnership is required to produce a Strategic Assessment report about crime and disorder levels in its area. The results of the Strategic Assessment are used by the Partnership to identify themed priorities for the coming year. The Partnership produces an Action Plan which describes how it will deliver on the identified priorities.

The Strategic Priorities for 2017-18 were:

- Reduce the risk and impact of Hidden Harm
- Reduce Re-offending
- Effective partnership working to meet emerging local threats and issues

## Funding

The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (OPFCC) allocated £321,827 in the form of core grants from the 2017-18 Community Safety Fund to all Community Safety Partnerships. The OPFCC used a proportion (4%) of this funding to establish a new central fund for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). This fund provides: co-ordination of the DHR process; administration of DHR panels; funding for independent chairs; lesson learning seminars; and monitoring and reporting on DHR recommendations implementation.

The funding formula is based on population size, deprivation and crime levels.

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership received a funding allocation of £17,739 for 2017-18.

## Action Plan 2017-18

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership produces an annual Action Plan which underpins the priorities and sets out the allocation of budget and how local agencies will work together to meet the actions within the plan.

Actions include specific projects and initiatives put forward by partner agencies, which are then collectively agreed at a meeting of the Responsible Authority Group.

## Key Achievements 2017-18

### **Gangs & Gang Crime guide for parents and carers**

The Community Safety Partnership produced a Gangs & Gang Crime guide for parents and carers of secondary school students. The booklet contained information about how young people are enticed by gangs, the signs to look out for, and where to go for further advice and support. It followed an input by the charity St Giles Trust, and a series of parent and carer sessions at all schools across the district to raise awareness of gangs and gang crime.

The booklet included information to help parents and carers identify and respond if their child is affected by gangs. 8,000 copies were printed and distributed across all eight secondary schools in the District, and made available for primary schools and other professionals.

### **'Spot It, Stop It' Child Exploitation awareness campaign**

A new scheme to raise awareness of Child Exploitation was launched in February 2018. The scheme aims to raise awareness of CSE, provide training to members of staff at local businesses on spotting the signs of exploitation and how to report any concerns, and to reassure members of the public that they take their social responsibility seriously.

As members of the scheme businesses will ensure their staff attend awareness training; follow a set of standards; display the Spot It, Stop It logo on their premises; and have a zero tolerance attitude to Child Exploitation. The scheme aims to make potential perpetrators aware that staff recognise the signs of exploitation, and that they will report any concerns to the relevant authorities.

Following its initial success the scheme was nominated for a national award by the National Working Group Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

### **Safeguarding vulnerable children on transport networks**

In a bid to increase identification and reporting around vulnerable young people on transport networks, the Community Safety Partnership, Essex Safeguarding Children Board, British Transport Police, Essex Police and The Children's Society are working in partnership alongside railway network providers and Network Rail, to deliver child exploitation prevention activities.

Between January – February 2018 outreach workers worked alongside British Transport

Police to increase understanding and confidence in reporting and approaching young people who appear vulnerable, and to offer advice and support. Short-term activities included a media campaign and awareness raising resources for members of staff and for the general public. Longer-term commitments will be in respect of embedding the use of resources developed for the project and maintaining the role of 'Exploitation Advisors' so that these become business as usual by network providers, British Transport Police and partner organisations.

Braintree District was selected as one of three pilot areas to launch the initiative. The scheme was nominated for a national award by the National Working Group Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

### **Gangs prevention at secondary schools**

The Community Safety Partnership is aware that the involvement of young people in gangs, drug lines and exploitation is increasing and has recognised the need for early intervention and prevention to be delivered in schools across the District.

The charity St Giles Trust was commissioned to deliver its SOS+ prevention programme to all secondary schools in the District. The programme is aimed at young people at risk of involvement with gangs and the criminal justice system, and aims to create a cultural shift by dispelling myths which glamorise gang life and crime, whilst also exposing serious exploitative and grooming tactics that take place in order to get young people to join gangs and commit crime.

Sessions took place at all eight secondary schools in the District, and an alternative provision school outside the District, between May – July 2017.

### **Cyber and Digital Stalking safeguarding training**

A four-hour training session was delivered in January 2018 to 16 frontline practitioners and professionals from the police, housing associations, council, offender management, voluntary services and education to help them to better understand current technologies, how these technologies are used by perpetrators to stalk their victims, and how to improve the safeguarding of victims and their families.

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive with all suggesting that their knowledge and awareness of the subject had improved.

### **Parent and Carer awareness sessions**

A total of 33 informative and awareness-raising evening sessions were organised for parents and carers of pupils attending all eight secondary schools in the District, throughout 2017.

Gangs & Knife Crime, Child Sexual Exploitation, Social Media and the Internet, and Drugs and Alcohol were identified by school safeguarding leads as topics they believed would be of most benefit to pupils.

The Community Safety Partnership commissioned Reach Every Generation, The Children's Society, Action on Addiction and EST E Safety Training ('The Two Johns') to deliver the sessions. Feedback from those attending the sessions was extremely positive.

### **Domestic Abuse update and workshop for professionals**

The Community Safety Partnership delivered a Domestic Abuse update and workshop for frontline practitioners and professionals working within the District. The session included inputs from Safer Places, The Change Project, Essex County Council's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Team (MARAT) and Conferencing (MARAC), and an update on the TUTIS database for housing providers.

34 professionals attended from organisations including housing providers, police, education, probation services, the voluntary sector, youth offending, and a substance misuse charity, amongst others.

### **Community Safety Hub**

Multi-agency working is essential in the prevention of crime and disorder. The Braintree District Community Safety Hub continued to maximise the benefits of collaborative working with partners throughout 2017-18, and develop better information sharing and closer working practices to tackle key issues identified in the CSP Action Plan, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan, and from emerging crime trends and patterns.

Membership of the Hub is varied and includes representation from partner organisations of the CSP, other statutory services and the voluntary sector.

The Hub is coordinated by Braintree District Council who has the necessary community knowledge and oversight to set the agenda and coordinate the work of the hub to deliver against the Strategic Priorities.

### **Live Well Stay Safe events**

Braintree District Council's Community Services team organised two free events for 100 older and vulnerable residents in the District to provide them with key information about the services and support available to them. These followed a successful initial event in Braintree in March 2017.

The information days were held at Witham Public Hall, in October 2017, and The Queens Hall, Halstead in March 2018. Representatives from key local organisations attended both events to showcase their services and take part in 'speed dating' style sessions, including Essex County Fire & Rescue, NHS, Age UK Essex, Essex Police, Community Agents, Greenfields Community Housing, Trading Standards, Healthwatch Essex, Connect Well, and Braintree District Council's Community Transport.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation - National Awareness Day**

Braintree District Council supported National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by creating and placing a large display board in the reception area of the Council building. The board included information explaining what CSE is, how to 'spot the signs' of abuse, and where to seek further advice and support. Campaign messages were also shared across social media channels on, and around, the event.

### **Improved access for offender management**

The Community Safety Partnership, through the Community Safety Hub, has provided a new facility for offender managers to meet with clients residing in Braintree District, improving access and reducing travelling time for all involved. Practitioners from Essex Community Rehabilitation Company now meet clients on a regular basis at Braintree District Council's offices in Braintree town centre.

### **Moving Forward**

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership has received a funding allocation of £17,739 for 2018-19.

In 2018-19 the Strategic Priorities of Braintree District Community Safety Partnership will be:

- Tackle the trafficking of drugs in the community;
- Increase confidence in identifying and reporting hidden harms;
- Drive down violence and disorder within the community.

These priorities, along with the core responsibilities of the CSP – to reduce crime and disorder, to reduce re-offending and combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances – will inform Braintree CSP's Action Plan for 2018-19.

The Partnership will address these priorities through the identification of agencies and resources that are best placed to respond and deliver improvements.

## Finding out more

If you would like further information about us and our services, please telephone or write to us at our address below.

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