

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership

Annual Report 2018-19

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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 2018-19.

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:

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

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.



Cllr Wendy Schmitt

Chair, Braintree District
Community Safety Partnership

Deputy Leader, Cabinet member for
Environment and Place
Braintree District Council

Tracey Parry

Community Services Manager
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, National Probation Service, 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 2018-19 were:

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

Funding

The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (OPFCC) allocated grants from its 2018–19 Community Safety Fund to all Community Safety Partnerships across the county. As in previous years the OPFCC set aside a proportion (4%) of this funding 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 2018-19.

Action Plan 2018-19

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 2018-19

Spot It Stop It scheme – Child Sexual Exploitation scheme

A new scheme to tackle exploitation will be rolled out across the county after its success in Braintree. Braintree District CSP launched the Spot It Stop It campaign to raise awareness and stop children and young people becoming victims of exploitation. To date more than 130 staff from businesses, licensed premises, taxi firms and sports clubs have attended training to increase their knowledge of exploitation, including how to look for and report concerns.

The scheme was nominated for a National Working Group award by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board in April 2018, and came runner-up in the safer environments award category.

Professionals Conference

The CSP held a conference in March around the theme 'Groomed to sell drugs: children exploited by county lines gangs'. 75 people attended from schools, housing associations, police, children and families services, amongst others. Speakers included Kendra Houseman, providing a 'girls in gangs' perspective; The Children's Society; Essex Police; Social Care; Youth Offending Service; and also included an applied theatre production by Alter Ego Creative Solutions – a dramatic insight into the grooming process of gangs and the effects on children and young people.

The conference aimed to raise awareness and understanding of vulnerabilities and warning indicators; improve confidence in reporting concerns; and provide practical tips to overcome barriers to engagement.

Initial feedback provided by those who attended was very positive, with the majority indicating they were 'very satisfied' with the event, and found the relevance of content 'excellent'.

Stalking and Harassment training

The CSP commissioned the domestic abuse charity Safer Places to deliver a 4 hour Stalking Masterclass 'Stealing lives & taking lives' training session for professionals working in the district. The training covered the difference between stalking and

harassment, case studies from victims, how to risk assess victims, safety planning, and examples of best practice. The training took place in October 2018 at Braintree District Council's offices, 16 professionals attended the training, representing a broad range of agencies including housing associations, social care, education, the police, district council, and family support services, among others. Feedback from those who attended the training was extremely positive.

'J9' Domestic Abuse training

The CSP commissioned the charity Safer Places to deliver 'J9' training – an initiative to raise awareness and to help victims of domestic abuse following the death of Janine Mundy, in Cornwall where she lived, in 2003.

To date the CSP has worked with Safer Places to deliver four training sessions to help raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse for more than 30 staff in the public and the voluntary sector including GP surgeries, veterinary practices, opticians, dental practices and community organisations.

Where the J9 logo is displayed in a premises it alerts victims that they can obtain information which will help them to access a safe place where there can seek information and the use of a telephone.

Moving Forward

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership has received a funding allocation of £17,739 for 2019-20.

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

- 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 2019-20.

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 get in touch:

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