

Suffolk Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment Process Briefing

The Strategic Assessment is an annual publication, which assesses and prioritises all the crime and disorder and substance misuse problems that an area faces. By doing so the assessment assists in the most effective deployment of available resources in a manner that will have the greatest impact on the most relevant problems in an area. It allows the responses that are delivered to most effectively improve specific areas.

In Suffolk there are officially five Community Safety Partnerships, Babergh, Ipswich, Suffolk Coastal, Western Suffolk and Waveney. Recently Babergh and Western Suffolk have formed an agreement that they will align their process and work together to form a partnership that covers Babergh, St Edmundsbury Forest Heath and Mid Suffolk. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney CSPs are also working more closely, aligning their meetings and projects to make best use of their resources.

In addition to the CSPs in Suffolk there is also the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board (SSPB) which operates as a governing body for many functions across the county such as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Integrated Offender management, Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution, County Domestic Violence Forum, agreeing the annual Strategic Assessment, setting an appropriate monitoring framework, approving the CSP budgets and being accountable for community safety performance.

The Strategic Assessment

It is intended that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessment informs the development and revision of all the CSPs rolling 3-year action plans. In February 2012 a strategic assessment was delivered to inform action planning for April 2012. This strategic assessment is being delivered by the Community Safety Partnerships and Suffolk Police to inform action planning for April 2013 and to prepare for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner, who will be in post in November 2012. It is not intended that the issues identified in the Strategic Assessment are the only issues which are addressed through the year, but that the issues highlighted in the assessment are prioritised when resources are available for allocation.

The Process

For the current Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment the process was a joint one, working with both the Community Safety Partnerships and Suffolk Constabulary.

Consultation of partners that impact on the areas of Community Safety was a key consideration. The process and methodology of how the Strategic Assessment is carried out is always delivered to the CSPs for consultation and where needed modification. The next steps of the process are to ask CSPs to contribute to the assessment process with any information they feel is relevant to the assessment of community safety which is cascaded through the partnerships to get as wider coverage as possible. In addition to this the CSPs and the Safer Suffolk Partnership

Board also provide a detailed review of all the activity they have undertaken within their priorities since the last Strategic Assessment.

As well as consulting with the CSPs and SSPB there was also a broader consideration given to how other service areas of Suffolk County Council may have an impact on community safety. This was achieved by writing to and asking for feedback from; Adult and Community Services, Children and Young People, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Emergency Planning, Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Road Safety and the Youth Offending Service. More detail about consultation and timing of the strategic planning process can be found in appendix A.

The Strategic Assessment considers data and professional knowledge across a broad range of community safety work. This was to present a consistent picture for each area of work by answering the following questions;

- How much demand does the area create, what is likely to happen to that demand in the short to medium term and what drives the demand?
- What are the risks attached to the area, how are they mitigated against and where are the gaps in mitigation?
- What works in these business areas?

The answers to assessing each of these areas of work were used by analysts to complete a threat assessment. The results of this threat assessment have been used to compile a list of recommendations for consideration of strategic prioritisation. This assessment does not state unequivocally what priorities should be. Instead it seeks to offer a perspective on threat for strategic planners to consider. The strength of this assessment is that the model of threat assessment is based on quantitative and qualitative data and a rigorous assessment process.

Each area of community safety work has been researched and analysed using data taken from police and partner systems, online resources such as the census and extensive interviews with department heads and practitioners. The threat assessment of business areas considers three aspects of threat:

Probability	Volume
	Complexity
	Organisational Ability to Respond
Harm	Injury
	Emotional Harm
	Community Impact
Preparedness	Reputational Harm
	Agency Cost
	Wider Cost
	Intelligence/Knowledge Gaps

Each of these categories receives a score which can be analysed in two ways. The first is by simply considering the overall score to establish a 'spectrum of threat'.

The second is by cross-referencing probability and preparedness against level of harm. This method gives analysts more insight into why certain business areas are scoring higher than others.

Like most threat assessment models, this is not a perfect process. There is a reasonable degree of subjectivity involved in the scoring process. As far as possible, this has been mitigated by recording rationale, basing that rationale only on findings from the assessment and round table discussion to validate individual scores. Despite this, the assessment should be considered as what it is; one (albeit rigorous) perspective on a set of highly complex issues.

Deciding the priorities

After the Strategic Assessment has been produced it is delivered to the SSPB and individually to each Community Safety Partnership in January each year. The priorities and recommendations detailed in the Strategic Assessment are discussed by each partnership and then priorities are agreed and set in an action plan to be delivered against from April the same year.

Current priorities

The table below shows the current priorities for the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnerships and the Police Authority. There is clear overlap between the key areas of activity.

Safer Suffolk Partnership Board	Community Safety Partnerships	Police Authority Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing offences/improving the solved rate of violence that result in an injury; Improving the solved rate of serious sexual offences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Exploitation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing Robbery Offences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Offender Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing robbery offences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nighttime Economy (including serious violent crime linked to alcohol) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTE Violence and Criminal Damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing offences/improving the solved rate of violence that result in an injury;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Social Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour focusing on repeat location in towns and villages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB & Criminal Damage NTE Violence and Criminal Damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a performance priority but the top business concern for the Police Authority)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging Crime Issues 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burglary (Waveney CSP only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the solved rate of burglaries of people's homes Improving the solved rate of robbery offences

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining standards of response to emerging incidents and answering telephone calls |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving customer satisfaction with particular focus on providing feedback to victims. |

Emerging priorities

The table below shows the current suggested priorities for the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board, Community Safety Partnerships and Suffolk Constabulary. The 2012 Community Safety Partnerships Strategic Assessment is currently in draft format and recommendations around the areas below may change. Considering each set of priorities separately, clear overlaps can be seen.

Safer Suffolk Partnership Board	Community Safety Partnerships	Suffolk Constabulary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ant-Social Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Social Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Social Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nighttime Economy (linked to serious violent crime and economy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent Crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent Crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable Adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable Adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Offender Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery (Ipswich CSP only) & Burglary (Waveney CSP only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary Dwelling and Robbery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Offences and Offenders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Order Policing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised Crime
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Crime
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrorism and Extremism
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Crime
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency Planning

Appendix A

