



PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2020

10.30 am, COUNCIL CHAMBER – COUNTY HALL, LEWES

++ PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE TAKING PLACE REMOTELY ++

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Angharad Davies (Chair), Charles Clark, Michael Ensor, Kathryn Field, Roy Galley, Tom Liddiard, Laurie Loe, Jim Sheppard, John Ungar (Vice Chair), Trevor Webb and Francis Whetstone

Mr Trevor Cristin, Diocese of Chichester Representative
Mr Simon Parr, Roman Catholic Diocese Representative
Ms Nicola Boulter, Parent Governor Representative
Mr Matthew Jones, Parent Governor Representative

A G E N D A

- 1 Minutes of the previous meeting: 15 September 2020 *(Pages 3 - 8)*
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Disclosures of interests
Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- 4 Urgent items
Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
- 5 Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2021/22 *(Pages 9 - 60)*
Report by Chief Executive
- 6 People Scrutiny Committee Work programme *(Pages 61 - 76)*
Report by Assistant Chief Executive
- 7 Annual Review of Safer Communities Performance, Priorities and Issues *(Pages 77 - 140)*
Report by Director of Adult Social Care and Health
- 8 Impact of COVID-19 on the ethnic minority population of East Sussex and staff *(Pages 141 - 168)*
Report by Director of Adult Social Care and Health
- 9 Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive
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11 November 2020

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Agenda Item 1

PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 15 September 2020.

- PRESENT** Councillors Charles Clark, Angharad Davies (Chair), Michael Ensor, Kathryn Field, Roy Galley, Tom Liddiard, Laurie Loe, John Ungar (Vice Chair), Trevor Webb and Francis Whetstone.
- Trevor Cristin, Diocese of Chichester Representative
Simon Parr, Catholic Diocese Representative
- LEAD MEMBERS** Councillor Carl Maynard, Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Bob Standley, Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Councillor Sylvia Tidy, Lead Member for Children and Families.
- ALSO PRESENT** Philip Baker, Assistant Chief Executive
Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services
Tom Hook, Assistant Director for Planning, Performance and Engagement Division
Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care
Mark Whiffin, Head of Finance
George Kouridis, Head of Service, Adult Safeguarding
Douglas Sinclair, Head of Children's Safeguards & Quality Assurance
Reg Hooke, Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
Graham Bartlett, Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board
Stuart McKeown, Senior Democratic Services Advisor
Aaron Sams, Democratic Services Officer

66 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 12 MARCH 2020

66.1 RESOLVED to agree the minutes as a correct record.

67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

67.1 Apologies for absence were received from Matthew Jones, Parent Governor Representative.

68 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

68.1 There were none.

69 URGENT ITEMS

69.1 There were none.

70 EAST SUSSEX SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (ESSCP) - SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS

70.1 Reg Hooke, Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) introduced the item by providing an overview of a Serious Case Review (SCR) undertaken during 2019/20. The review concerned the provision of services to a young man referred to as Child T and identified significant neglect in his care and in how agencies worked together to safeguard his welfare. The areas of concern identified in the report included: a lack of follow-up when appointments were not kept; a lack of clarity by agencies around the understanding of child protection procedures for children approaching adulthood; concerns around information sharing and joint working between health and education services; that there was a general lack of awareness amongst non-health professionals of the risk to life posed by diabetes and other long-term conditions and that overall, the chronic health condition of the child was not fully seen as a safeguarding issue. Mr Hooke also discussed the recommendations and actions taken as a result of the SCR.

70.2 The Committee then discussed the report, with a summary of the key issues set out below:

- In response to queries about communication gaps between education and health services and issues relating to the transition from childhood to adulthood, Mr Hooke agreed that these are areas where there continue to be challenges. It is for that reason that the recommendations in the SCR report seek to address these challenges and whilst he believes progress is being made, Mr Hooke also confirmed that the ESSCP will continue to review and seek to make improvements in these areas.
- Members discussed the impact of Child T's missed appointments and the lack of home visits. In response Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services, informed the committee that one key learning is the need for all colleagues to be curious and to think carefully about the impact of treatments not being delivered and visits not taking place; and to be mindful of the need to potentially refer a case on so that it could be reviewed from a safeguarding perspective. Mr Gallimore also confirmed that a further key area of learning was the need for colleagues to have a clear understanding of the 'child's lived experience' and to not make assumptions about the individual's level of engagement in decisions about their welfare and their capacity to understand what is appropriate.
- The Committee sought reassurance that the recommendations and actions contained within the report would be carefully examined and monitored. In particular Members asked for further detail about the recommendation that requires 'any child with a serious health condition has a written down multi-agency plan'. In response, Mr Hooke confirmed that there is government guidance already in place regarding the need for such a plan. As a result, the focus of the report with regard to this area was directed at re-enforcing the need for joined up working between local health and education agencies. In terms of training, Mr Hooke confirmed that significant levels of training both within individual agencies and also by safeguarding partnerships had been delivered. Furthermore, Mr Hooke also confirmed that approximately three after years each serious case review report has been published, a further review is undertaken to measure the impact of its recommendations. This longer-term process aims to ensure the whole review process is effective and that learnings are embedded.

70.3 In conclusion the committee welcomed the actions being taken forward in response to the recommendations contained within the Serious Case Review report.

70.4 The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

71 RECONCILING POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES (RPPR) 2021/22

71.1 Philip Baker, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the report by providing an overview of the challenging context within which the RPPR process for 2021/22 is taking place. This included highlighting the financial uncertainty created by the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the continued uncertainty around future levels of Government funding. As a result, it had not yet been possible to articulate a revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Although the committee were also informed that an update on the Council's financial position would be considered by Cabinet on 2 October and that Members would be kept up to date with the evolving financial position.

71.2 The committee then discussed the financial and business planning information it had been supplied with in support of its contribution to the RPPR process. A summary of the key discussion points is set out below.

71.3 With regard to the 'Performance Measures and Targets' section of the Portfolio Plans, it was noted that some targets for 2020/21 and beyond were set at a level lower than the outturn figures for 2019/20. Members therefore asked for further detail about how targets are set and why some of them 'are not more ambitious'. In response, Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services, informed Members that departments are ambitious but that targets must be realistic and take account of the impact of changes to budgets and other factors. Furthermore, and because of the unprecedented impact of the pandemic, past performance is currently 'no longer necessarily the best predictor of the future'. For example, there has been a 20% increase in the number of children being placed on child protection plans during the first quarter of 2020. This increase coincides with the national lockdown. Previous experience would not have led the Department to predict this significant increase. With that in mind, achieving targets will therefore be particularly challenging at the current time. Nonetheless the Department remain ambitious, and performance is regularly reviewed and reported on.

71.4 Clarification was sought about progress with regard to implementing the 'No Wrong Door' initiative. The Children's Services Department believe this relatively new initiative will help deliver a number of significant benefits in support of its work with adolescents aged 12-25 and who are dealing with complex challenges. The Director of Children's Services confirmed that whilst the impact of Covid-19 had led to a necessary pause in development work, the Department regard the programme as important as it will help deliver more effective support to Looked after Children in the county. It is anticipated therefore that with the release of monies as part of the settlement for 2020/21, work will re-commence in April 2021. As the Department are keen to make rapid progress though, a more recent development includes the placement of an advert for a project manager for the programme.

71.5 The Committee welcomed that a 'Support to Care Homes and Covid-19 Impact on Black Asian Minority Ethnic Groups' report was set to be considered by the East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board on 17 September 2020. However, given the public interest in this topic and the likelihood of a second wave of the pandemic, the committee agreed it would be appropriate for it to have its own discussion of the related issues. As a result, it was agreed to request that a report based on the Health and Wellbeing Board item be brought to the November 2020 meeting of the committee.

71.6 In response to a query about the Council's ability to maintain its safeguarding performance in the light of further potential reductions in funding, the committee were informed that it had been agreed last year to postpone savings relating to safeguarding. Going forward, and as part of the RPPR process this year, the deliverability of those savings would again be reviewed.

71.7 With regard to the impact of previously agreed savings on Early Help services, the Director of Children's Services said that the scale of savings required meant that it had been necessary for the Department to develop a strategy that would focus services on those in greatest need. Although due to a range of factors outside of the control of the Children's

Services Department, it had subsequently become necessary to re-profile savings with regard to the closure of some of the Children's Centres identified in the Early Help strategy.

71.8 With regard to preventing the spread of the coronavirus, the committee asked for clarification about the monitoring and training of agencies who provide services to residents. In response Tom Hook, Assistant Director for Planning, Performance and Engagement, confirmed that extensive support around Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided to the wider care sector. This includes a standing and enhanced training offer around the use of PPE. Furthermore, at the height of the crisis the Department issued daily email bulletins which provided updates on the evolving national guidance. The Department also issued over two million items of PPE via the Sussex Local Resilience Forum to local care facilities and to the Department's staff.

71.9 The Committee RESOLVED to establish a RPPR Scrutiny Review Board to meet on Thursday 17 December 2020 to consider the developing Portfolio Plans, the Medium Term Financial Plan and savings proposals as they emerge and to submit Scrutiny's final comments on them to Cabinet in January 2021.

72 PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

72.1 The Committee discussed its Work Programme which is comprised of a number of ongoing scrutiny reviews, reference groups and planned reports. Set out below is an overview of the key items discussed.

Current Scrutiny Reviews

School Exclusions

72.2 The Committee agreed at its meeting in June 2019 to appoint an Initial Scoping Board to explore issues relating to the high rate of school exclusions in East Sussex. Having discussed the Board's findings, the committee subsequently agreed at its meeting in March 2020 to proceed with a formal scrutiny review. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the availability of schools to contribute to the review, the committee agreed to continue to pause activity with the intention to recommence it at a suitable future date, with the committee set to review the situation at its meeting in November 2020.

Initial Scoping Reviews

Loneliness and resilience.

The Committee agreed to undertake scoping work for a potential scrutiny review of issues relating to loneliness and resilience within East Sussex. The subject matter of the scoping exercise had been identified by the People Scrutiny Committee in 2018 as one of four potential scrutiny reviews which form part of an overarching scrutiny review of the 'Changing Care Market'. However, in light of the impact of COVID-19 on the Public Health Team's ability to support the review, the committee agreed to defer meeting until January 2021.

Suggested Topics

72.3 The Committee discussed its ongoing interest in developments relating to the coronavirus national emergency and the challenges facing the Adult Social Care and Children's Services departments. The committee therefore agreed to update the work programme to include a further option to explore the impact of Covid-19 on departments and the services they provide.

Scrutiny Reference Groups

Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group

72.4 As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the disruption it has caused to both school exams and attendance, the Committee were informed that relevant educational performance data would not be available in January 2021. With that in mind, the Committee welcomed the Director of Children's Services offer of a briefing session on the work being undertaken by the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) to support schools with their preparations for the exams anticipated to take place in summer 2021.

Health and Social Care Integration Programme Reference Group

72.5 Councillor Davies informed the Committee that the Director of Adult Social Care and Health had undertaken to provide an update briefing to the reference group on progress with the integration programme in October 2020.

Strategic Commissioning Review of Early Help - Scrutiny Reference Group

72.6 The Director updated the committee regarding the implementation of the proposals agreed by the Lead Member for Children and Families on 7 October 2019. The committee agreed to review progress with the implementation of the revised Early Help strategy in spring 2021, but also noted that as some changes were postponed, this might be subject to review.

72.7 The Committee RESOLVED to update the work programme in line with the items agreed in paragraphs 72.2, 72.3, 72.4, 72.5 and 72.6 above.

73 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT

73.1 Graham Bartlett, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) introduced the Annual Report. The SAB is a multi-agency Board configured under the Care Act 2014. Its primary duty is to assure that local safeguarding arrangements comply with the Care Act 2014 and related statutory guidance. This is done via a range of mechanisms including working collaboratively with agencies, gathering data, delivering training, auditing and conducting safeguarding adult reviews.

73.2 Mr Bartlett's introductory comments focused on a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) which considered the circumstances relating to the death of Adult B, a 94-year-old woman. The review was led by an Independent Reviewer. The resultant report identified themes relating to the way agencies communicate and work together and how individuals sometimes displayed a lack of professional curiosity. One key outcome of the review has been the development of an 'unexplained adult death protocol' which East Sussex SAB has led on and which it is believed will go on to have an impact at the national level. The protocol commits agencies to come together quickly where an adult has died and there is suspicion of abuse or neglect.

73.2 The Committee then discussed a range of issues which included the following items:

- **Independent care sector:** In response to a query, it was confirmed that independent care providers do 'have a duty of care' to report safeguarding concerns to the Adult Social Care and Health Department. It is also a CQC requirement that regulated providers have systems in place for this, which are regulated through the inspection regime. Mr Bartlett also confirmed that the private care sector is represented on the SAB and that the Board works closely with the sector.
- **GP's (General Practitioners) role in safeguarding:** Clarification was sought about the role of General Practitioners (GPs) with regard to safeguarding referrals and whether there is a particular issue with the rate of such referrals in East Sussex. In response

Members were informed that the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been working with Primary Care around building up GP knowledge and awareness around safeguarding. With regard to the case of Adult B the key issue was a lack of effective engagement with the GP about potential safeguarding concerns.

• **Communication between agencies:** The Committee sought assurance that the issue of effective communication and information sharing between agencies is being addressed, given these areas are often cited as themes in SAR reports. In response, the committee heard that the PAN Sussex Information Protocol seeks to help improve the effectiveness of the interactions between agencies by providing clarity to professionals about, for example, when information can be shared and whether authority should be sought first. The committee were assured that the impact of the protocol will be carefully monitored. Members also asked for more detail about multi-agency audits and their usefulness 'as a teaching tool'. In response the committee were informed that such audits provide 'a tried and tested' process for bringing agencies together to delve into specific issues. This can help reveal, for example, whether there are any significant communication gaps between agencies and provide a mechanism for discussing potential solutions for closing them.

73.3 The Committee RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting ended at 12:37pm.

Councillor Angharad Davies
Chair

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 19 November 2020

By: Chief Executive

Title: Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)

Purpose: To provide an update on the Council's business and financial planning process, Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR), and the Committee's comments and requests for further information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) consider the information in the attached RPPR Cabinet report of 2 October 2020 (appendix A), including the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP); and**
 - (2) identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the RPPR process for consideration at the December RPPR Board, or as part of the Committee's ongoing work programme.**
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1. Background

1.1 In October, Cabinet considered a Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) update report. Following on from the State of the County report in July, the report set out an updated picture of how the Council will need to reset its service and financial plans to deal with the future, as we continue to live with the reality of a world with COVID-19 and the significant impact this has on people's lives, as well as a fast-moving national policy agenda.

1.2 The report also confirmed that, as a result of the ongoing rapidly evolving context, it remains very challenging to quantify future need for services and national expectations for local government and to reflect these in the Council's future service offer and financial planning. The report therefore provided Cabinet with the latest best assessment of the policy and financial context that will continue to inform ongoing planning for 2021/22. The report (attached at Appendix A) included:

- updates on key national and local policy context developments since July;
- an update on the review of the Council's priority outcomes and delivery outcomes;
- an update on the review and reset of the East Sussex Core Offer;
- the updated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/22-2023/24; and
- updates to the Capital Programme.

1.3 The report highlighted that the RPPR process, bringing together the Council's policy, business and financial planning and risk management, provides the vehicle for service and financial recovery. The process of planning, through RPPR, for 2021/22 and beyond will take into consideration the immediate and future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside other trends and pressures, to form an integrated forward view and to ultimately translate this into service and financial plans which reflect recovery alongside ongoing work.

2. Scrutiny engagement in RPPR

2.1 At the September meeting the Scrutiny Committees reviewed the Portfolio Plans for the services within the Committees' remits, the savings plans that were agreed by Council in February 2020 and the Financial Budget Summary 2020/21 to ensure a baseline understanding of the current context and future pressures. Whilst the attached Cabinet report provides the committees with updates on significant developments that have occurred since the September meeting round, details of the outcome of the Government's spending review, now confirmed to be for a single year only, are not scheduled to be released until 25 November 2020. Full information on the provisional local government finance settlement may not be received by the Council until December or early January.

2.2 The **November 2020 Scrutiny Committees** are invited to:

- consider the information in the Cabinet update report (attached as Appendix A)
- review the updated MTFP (see Appendix 5 of the Cabinet report) and updated savings schedules (see Appendix 6 of the Cabinet report)
- identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the RPPR process, for consideration at the December RPPR Board; and
- fine tune the scrutiny work programme to ensure the committee is in the best position to contribute to the ongoing RPPR process.

2.3 The committee's **RPPR Board** will meet on 17 December 2020 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the budget proposals and emerging portfolio plans to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the committee in January 2021. The Chairs of the People and Place Scrutiny Committees are invited to attend the RPPR boards of both committees.

2.4 The **March 2021 Scrutiny Committees** will review the process and their input into the RPPR process and receive feedback on how scrutiny input has been reflected in final plans. Any issues arising can be reflected in the future committee work programme.

2.5 Running alongside this process, there will be a number of opportunities for all Members to engage in the RPPR process.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

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Local Member: All

Background Documents:

None

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	2 October 2020
By:	Chief Executive
Title of report:	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) – Update
Purpose of report:	To update Members on the latest policy context, the review of priority and delivery outcomes, the review and reset of the East Sussex Core Offer and the updated Medium Term Financial Plan and capital programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. note the updated national policy context and local position as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 and appendix 1;**
 - ii. agree the updated Council priority outcomes and delivery outcomes as the basis for ongoing planning (appendix 2);**
 - iii. agree the updated East Sussex Core Offer as the basis for ongoing planning (appendix 3);**
 - iv. agree the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as the basis for financial planning (appendix 5); and**
 - v. agree to continue lobbying for a sustainable funding regime to meet the needs of the residents of East Sussex and which recognises the significant impact of COVID-19 on the Council's expenditure and income.**
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1. Background

1.1. In July, Cabinet considered the State of the County report, a key milestone in the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process, its integrated business and financial planning cycle. The report set out the demographic, economic and service evidence base; the national and local policy context; and updates on our medium term financial planning position and capital programme based on the current understanding at that time. It also set out that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our communities and services and created both a need and opportunity for the Council to review our priority and delivery outcomes and the Core Offer, to ensure they remain relevant in the new context we are working in.

1.2. The RPPR process, bringing together our policy, business and financial planning and risk management, provides the vehicle for the Council's service and financial recovery. The process of planning, through RPPR, for 2021/22 and beyond will take into consideration the immediate and future impact of the pandemic, alongside other trends and pressures, to form an integrated forward view and to ultimately translate this into service and financial plans which reflect recovery alongside ongoing work.

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1.3. This report sets out our updated understanding of how we will need to reset our service and financial plans to deal with the future, as we continue to live with the reality of a world with COVID-19 and the significant impact this has on people's lives, as well as a fast-moving national policy agenda. In this rapidly evolving context it remains very challenging to quantify future need for services and national expectations for local government and to reflect these in our future service offer and financial planning. The report therefore provides our latest best assessment of the policy and financial context that will continue to inform our planning for 2021/22, and includes:

- updates on key national and local policy context developments since July;
- an update on the review of the Council's priority outcomes and delivery outcomes;
- an update on the review and reset of the East Sussex Core Offer;
- the updated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021/22-2023/24; and
- updates to the Capital Programme.

2. National context update

2.1. The national context the Council is operating in continues to change rapidly. Since the State of the County report in July there have been a number of national developments which are expected to affect the Council's future work and business and financial planning, although the detailed implications for ESCC are uncertain in many areas. These developments are outlined in appendix 1 and include:

- Launch of the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) – to set Government departments' resource budgets for 2021/22-2023/24, although this will now almost certainly be reduced to 2021/22 only. Government had confirmed that department spending would grow in real terms across the CSR period but that there would be tough choices in areas of spending outside the priorities at the review (which for public services were 'supporting the NHS, taking steps to cut crime and ensure every young person receives a superb education'). The CSR or Spending Review is expected to impact future central government resource allocations for areas of county council responsibility and those of our partners. The future national approach to sustainably funding Adult Social Care remains an urgent issue. The outcome of the Spending Review had been expected to be announced in the Autumn Budget which has since been cancelled. It is understood that a Spending Review will still take place this autumn, but the cancellation of the Budget demonstrates the fast moving and uncertain context we are working in.
- Economic outlook update - the Office for Budget Responsibility published a commentary on public sector finances in August which outlined that the budget deficit has continued to rise sharply with Government borrowing £150.5bn between April and July; public sector net debt is now over 100% of GDP and tax returns for April-July were 31% lower than a year earlier. Although projections vary, a reduction in national economic output (GDP) of around 10% is expected this year. There is evidence of increases in job losses nationally and there is expected to be a further increase following the closure of Government employment support schemes at the end of October, although the Chancellor has announced further employment and business support measures to support

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job retention through the winter. Two quarters of negative growth mean the UK economy is now in recession;

- Publication of the Contain Framework – which guides the approach to prevention and containment of local coronavirus outbreaks and the national escalation steps to be taken to augment local activity in areas with outbreaks. Government has also recently reinstated some nationwide restrictions following a national increase in COVID-19 case rates since early September;
- A Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper was due to be published this autumn, although this now seems to be in doubt. It was expected to propose a new phase of local government reorganisation and creation of Combined Authorities as the first step to securing further devolution deals to deliver economic recovery and renewal;
- Launch of the final phase of negotiations on the future relationship with the EU – with a future trading relationship between the UK and EU still to be agreed;
- Publication of the Planning for the Future White Paper – intended to overhaul the planning system, with potential implications for funding and delivery of infrastructure improvements to support housing developments in East Sussex; and
- Publication of the ASC Taskforce Report and ASC Winter Plan – which includes extensive actions for local authorities, the Department for Health and Social Care and the NHS to ensure that high-quality, safe and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it, whilst protecting those that need care, their carers, and the social care workforce from COVID-19 this winter. Many of the actions are already taking place within the East Sussex Health and Social Care System but there are new requirements for ESCC, including to produce an East Sussex Winter Plan by 31 October and complete a care market sustainability self-assessment.

2.2. Further detail and more developments are included at **appendix 1**. We expect the detail of policy changes and the resulting implications for the County Council to become clearer in the coming months and will continue to factor these into planning for 2021/22 and beyond.

3. Local position

3.1. As with elsewhere in the country, East Sussex saw an increase in COVID-19 infections in September, although at a rate slower than the national average. Public Health continually monitor the situation in consultation with health and borough and district partners. The second iteration of the East Sussex Outbreak Control Plan was reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September. This included a new escalation framework which set out the points at which local cases or outbreaks may require an escalated response, communications and action with partners. In consultation with local partners, the Director of Public Health agreed East Sussex should move from ‘monitor and contain’ to ‘raised local alertness’ on the escalation framework in September in response to the rising number of cases.

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3.2. The pandemic has had a significant effect on the East Sussex economy and labour market, with the latest local data showing:

- nearly 100,000 people in the county were in receipt of government support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (71,500 claims) and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (28,000 claims) at the end of July;
- Between March and July, the number of Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit (searching for work) claimants in East Sussex more than doubled to 20,000;
- In July, 47% of the East Sussex working age population were claiming Universal Credit, Job Seekers Allowance or receiving support from a Government COVID-19 income support scheme; and
- 10,700 businesses in the county have received grants for small businesses who are experiencing difficulties. There were 22,900 business enterprises in the county in 2019.

3.3. The 100,000 people on furlough or claiming self-employment income support at the end of July represents 31% of the East Sussex working age population. This is above the national average of 29% and indicates that, while levels of unemployment have already increased, there is a risk of further increase when these schemes cease at the end of October. We would expect this to have an impact on future need for council services and Council Tax income revenue. The East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan has been developed within this context and agreed by Team East Sussex to inform urgent work to be delivered over the next 12-18 months to support changes required in response to the pandemic and capitalise on the opportunities it presents for the East Sussex economy.

3.4. For the Council, the period since July has seen our staff and services continue to transition from temporary arrangements put in place during lockdown. We have closely followed public health and Government guidance to ensure that the steps taken are appropriate in the context of continuing to contain the spread of the virus. Changes to ways of working have been based on robust assessment of what is needed to effectively deliver services to residents. Some staff have continued to work from office bases or directly with clients throughout, with appropriate safeguards in place, where this has been essential to maintain services. Where staff have been working remotely as part of containment measures, a return to buildings has been prioritised for services where remote working is not sustainable or as effective. This approach is being kept under review with regular checkpoints. As part of this transition, all departments have also reviewed opportunities to take forward positive outcomes and learning from the new ways of working and new partnerships that have arisen from the local pandemic response. Member meetings have continued to take place online and are being discussed through the Member reference group.

3.5. A renewed Adult Social Care and Health Programme has been established to look at how we can continue to provide social care services to those that need them safely, effectively and efficiently, in light of the changes to working that have been made in response to the pandemic and any lessons learned. The programme will look at all areas of the department's activity to reshape and improve ways of working and will not impact levels of service provided. The programme will run until August 2021 and any financial implications will be included in 2021/22 budget setting. One

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of the project workstreams will consider opportunities to work with partners to build on the success of the multi-agency Community Hubs, to build community capacity and prevent escalation of need in East Sussex.

3.6. Orbis continues to support staff to effectively deliver all services that we can remotely to reduce the risk of coronavirus spread. Across the Council we have seen improvements in productivity due to modernised processes and increased flexibility of working. Staff management and new service delivery practices are enabling staff to work in this increasingly flexible way. Opportunities to embed and expand digital technologies and processes that have enhanced service delivery and working processes in lockdown are being explored. There is some indication that the shift to increased remote working and economic uncertainty has increased applications to County Council job vacancies, including previously hard-to-recruit roles.

3.7. Work has also taken place to begin to assess the impact of the pandemic and accompanying economic disruption on future need and service pressures over and above pre-COVID trends in demand. This assessment will be an ongoing process throughout the autumn as the impact continues to emerge. The following will need to be taken into account:

- How people currently on temporary COVID-19 care pathways will translate into ongoing core demand for ASC. This will become clearer as further assessments take place throughout the autumn;
- The support we will need to provide if advice to shield the most clinically vulnerable is re-activated nationally or locally, and the impact of that beyond the current financial year. As set out in appendix 1, a new national shielding framework is expected to require councils to assess and meet the food and other basic needs of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people if shielding is reactivated at a future date;
- The re-opening of schools is resulting in an increase in referrals of children newly in need. Modelling is taking place to assess the potential for an increase in children in need but understanding the scale of this need and how it will translate into future years will take time and be an iterative assessment;
- We will need to assess the impact of COVID-19 on ongoing work to support mainstream schools to improve families' confidence in local Special Educational Needs Provision; and
- Whether there are longer-term requirements to provide additional Home to School Transport capacity (as outlined in appendix 1) beyond this school term and whether additional grant funding will be provided for this.

3.8. It is clear that we will need to take account of the ongoing reality of COVID-19 in our plans. In the short to medium term we are likely to see new waves of infection which will need services to flex and respond rapidly to changing circumstances once again. The longer-term impacts of COVID-19 will not be felt evenly across our services and are not yet fully clear.

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3.9. In this ongoing period of uncertainty it is important that we apply our existing robust political and business planning processes to develop our plans for the short, medium and longer term.

4. Priority and Delivery Outcomes

4.1. Cabinet agreed in July to review the Council's four priority outcomes and their subsidiary delivery outcomes in light of the changed context, and revise these as needed to ensure the priorities we are working to deliver, and the way we measure the performance of our activities and services, remain appropriate in the changing operating context.

4.2. An expansion of the cross-cutting priority outcome 'making best use of resources' to 'making best use of resources in the short and long term' has already been considered by Cabinet. This reflects the Council's ambitions for carbon neutrality and better reflects that the Council's decisions should be guided by a test priority that we ensure sustainability of our resources, both in terms of money and environmental assets.

4.3. As a result of the review several further amendments to the delivery outcomes which support the four priorities are proposed. The amended outcomes are shown in **appendix 2** with the key proposed changes detailed below.

4.4. Priority outcome: Driving sustainable economic growth –

- A new delivery outcome has been added to reflect the Council's role in supporting local businesses to recover and grow through the delivery of the Economy Recovery Plan in conjunction with partners.
- Delivery outcome 1, relating to employment and productivity rates, has been amended to reflect the changed context – the revised wording reflects the focus on recovery and the aim to maximise employment and productivity rates.
- Delivery outcome 3, on skills and employment, now includes reference to meeting the needs of the future East Sussex economy, recognising the potentially significant shifts in ways of working, differing impacts across sectors and potential new opportunities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and other developments in the local economy.
- A new delivery outcome has been included to recognise the opportunity to maximise the influence of the County Council's role as a significant employer within the county and a buyer of local goods and services both in terms of supporting local economic recovery and longer term.

4.5. Priority outcome: Keeping vulnerable people safe –

- An additional delivery outcome has been included to reflect the Council's role, working as part of the wider health and care system, to support people affected by COVID-19 to achieve the best health outcomes possible.

4.6. Priority outcome: Helping people help themselves –

- Delivery outcome 9 has been broadened to include vulnerable people of all ages and to better reflect the range of ways in which support is provided.

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- Delivery outcome 10 has been re-worded to reflect the opportunity to build on the mutual support systems that have been developed in partnership within communities so that these can continue to support the COVID-19 response, its impacts on people's lives and to help people help each other longer term.

4.7. Priority outcome: Making best use of resources in the short and long term -

- The wording of delivery outcome 12 has been enhanced to reflect the increased strength and long term importance of partnership working across sectors and its role in making best use of all available resources for the benefit of local people.
- Delivery outcome 16 is proposed for deletion as a strategic commissioning approach is now embedded in the Council's ways of working and does not require a specific delivery outcome.

4.8. Whilst other delivery outcomes may not have changed it is important to acknowledge that delivery of some of these will present a significant challenge in light of the increasing needs of individuals, communities and families as a result of the pandemic and its consequences, and uncertainty about the future.

4.9. Cabinet is recommended to agree the updated priority and delivery outcomes attached at **appendix 2** as the basis for ongoing planning for 2021/22 and beyond.

5. Core Offer

5.1. As a consequence of austerity and the requirement to find £138m of savings since 2010, the Core Offer was developed last year to define the Council's minimum reasonable service offer to our residents in this context, and to ensure resources were directed to areas of highest need. The Core Offer represents a level of service below which we should not go in order to meet the needs of residents, not only for the services we provide but to play our part in supporting them in their wider health and wellbeing needs. Savings already planned will take us to the minimum core service offer by 2022/23. Alongside this, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it additional roles and expectations for local authorities and changes in demand for existing services.

5.2. We have reviewed whether the activities within the current Core Offer, and the volumes of those activities, are regarded as core to meeting residents' needs in the new operating context. We have considered where local need for services and prioritisation of services have diverted from our current Core Offer as a result of the pandemic and whether the offer should be amended to include these in the longer term. We have also considered if there are existing elements of our Core Offer that are no longer priorities in the new operating context.

5.3. The review has shown that the Core Offer remains largely appropriate as an expression of our minimum locally appropriate service offer to residents in a time of austerity. It continues to reflect our statutory responsibilities, core functions and the range of services required to meet local needs. It includes a commitment to delivering good value for money in all we do. However, in many areas the way in which services are provided has changed and may continue to change, and demand has already increased in some areas, affecting the volume of activity needed to

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deliver the Core Offer. The anticipated increase in demand for some services in light of the pandemic and the associated pressures on resources are reflected in financial planning.

5.4. As a result of the Core Offer review some specific changes have been identified to reflect the changed context as shown in **appendix 3**. The key proposed changes are summarised below.

5.5. As one Council

- Additional wording has been included to reflect the preventative focus of work with the voluntary and community sector.
- Wording has been updated to reflect the increasing importance of working within wider systems, for example in health and social care.
- The addition of a new core requirement to respond effectively as an organisation to the impact of COVID-19 and to maximise learning from this response.

5.6. Schools

- Wording has been added to reflect the new core responsibility to address the specific impact of COVID-19 on pupils' progress and outcomes.

5.7. Public Health

- Inclusion of specific wording to reflect enhanced responsibilities in relation to local outbreak planning and response as part of our health protection role.
- Several points relating to the commissioning of specific public health services have been replaced with a single overarching point focused on commissioning public health services to meet needs. This reflects the outcome of the public health review and the strategic commissioning approach to services.

5.8. Cabinet is recommended to agree the updated Core Offer attached as **appendix 3** as the basis for ongoing planning.

6. Medium Term Financial Plan

6.1 It remains difficult to plan for 2021/22 and beyond. The level of Government funding that ESCC will receive between 2021/22 – 2023/24 is yet to be confirmed; Spending Review (SR) 2019 was for a single year and therefore funding for this planning period will be announced at SR20 in the autumn, the date of which is still to be confirmed. Due to the ongoing uncertainty related to the end of the Brexit transition period and COVID-19 it is increasingly likely that there will be a single year SR similar to SR19. Cabinet, at its meeting in November 2019, welcomed the one-off funding of £4.4m that is now rolled into base funding. Additionally, the Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention reform have been confirmed delayed until at least 2021/22.

6.2 The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has been updated to provide a baseline position before further refinement of pressures, including those relating to

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Children's Services, the future impact of COVID-19, and reduced income from council tax and business rates. A number of scenarios based on the potential for further funding announcements are set out in section 6.7. For financial planning purposes, the working assumption is that the authority will be conducting business as usual from 1 April 2021. Should there be a loss of income or extra pressures arising in 2021/22 from COVID-19, these will be managed through our normal quarterly monitoring process. The assessment at this stage is for the potential loss of income to be £2.0m whilst cost pressures may be in the region of £1.1m.

6.3 The baseline position includes: (1) Normal updates for regularly calculated adjustments and the additional year 2023/24, summarised at **appendix 4**; (2) Proposed updates following review by CMT via the Pressures Protocol, also summarised at appendix 4; (3) A review of deliverability of approved savings (see section 6.4).

6.4 The deliverability of existing savings plans has been reviewed, and whilst no savings have been identified as undeliverable, there will be slippage of £2.316m of savings into 2022/23 and 2023/24. The detail is set out in **appendix 6**.

6.5 These movements are summarised in the table below and provide a deficit budget position by 2023/24 of £23.860m.

Medium Term Financial Plan	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	Total £m
Council 11 February 2020 DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	1.443	7.879	0.000	9.322
Normal Updates (appendix 4)	(2.106)	(1.441)	8.872	5.325
Proposed Updates (appendix 4)	9.895	(0.206)	(0.477)	9.213
Savings Reprofile (appendices 4 & 6)	2.316	(1.074)	(1.242)	0.000
Deficit / (Surplus) AFTER UPDATES TO THE MTFP	11.548	5.158	7.154	23.860

6.6 A detailed MTFP after normal updates and proposed pressures is shown at **appendix 5**.

6.7 As set out above, our known deficit for 2021/22 is £11.5m with an aggregate deficit of £23.9m. However, we know there is uncertainty about future funding allocations. In resetting the MTFP and presenting the budget for 2021/22 and beyond, a number of scenarios have been considered that could impact the possible level of budget deficit that will need to be addressed and these are set out in the table below. Scenario 1 includes potential options for further national funding which have yet to be clarified. For example, is it likely that we will have flexibility to raise Council Tax by a further 1%, will Revenue Support Grant receive an inflationary increase to Baseline Funding levels, and/or is it likely that we will get further one-off funding? If the council receives all of these then our position will reduce to a £3.0m deficit in 2021/22. Further scenarios presented below consider additional possible national announcements and their impacts on ESCC.

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Scenarios	Estimate (£m)			
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER NORMAL UPDATES	(0.663)	6.438	8.872	14.647
Total Proposed Updates to the MTFP	12.211	(1.280)	(1.719)	9.213
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER PROPOSED UPDATES	11.548	5.158	7.154	23.860
Local Considerations				
New Homes Bonus retain in revenue	(0.252)	0.138	0.114	0.000
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER Local Considerations	11.296	5.296	7.268	23.860
Scenario 1, Likely				
Funding announced at SR20 similar to SR19				
Adult Social Care Precept and / or increase in referendum limit @ 1%	(2.983)	(0.068)	(0.070)	(3.121)
Revenue Support Grant (inflationary increase to Baseline Funding level)	(0.935)			(0.935)
One off grant – per previous years	(4.417)	4.417		0.000
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER Scenario 1, Likely	2.961	9.645	7.198	19.804
Scenario 2, Less Likely				
Government Funds 2020/21 Business Rates loss	(0.237)	0.237		0.000
		(0.178)	0.178	0.000
			(0.119)	(0.119)
Government Funds 2020/21 Council Tax loss	(2.263)	2.263		0.000
		(1.697)	1.697	0.000
			(1.131)	(1.131)
Increase in referendum limit @ 1%	(2.983)	(0.068)	(0.070)	(3.121)
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER Scenario 2, Less Likely	(2.522)	10.202	7.753	15.433
Scenario 3, Unlikely				
Business Rates, Proceeds of Pooling 2021/22	(1.279)	1.279		0.000
Income Guarantee: Government compensation for 75% of losses of income after the first 5%.	tbc			tbc
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER Scenario 3, Unlikely	(3.801)	11.481	7.753	15.433

6.8 Although at this point in the RPPR process it is not possible to present a balanced MTFP due to the considerable level of national funding uncertainty and the everchanging requirements to meet the response to COVID-19, there are no plans to seek to identify further savings. Current savings plans (at appendix 6) get the Council to its Core Offer and any further savings would take it below that. Over the coming months, we will work to refine the budget to update for the impact of the Local Government Settlement, in whatever form that takes, whilst reflecting updated assessments of budget pressures, including Council Tax and Business Rates. If there is a deficit on the 2021/22 budget, and in line with our robust financial management policies and procedures, the plan at this point will be to use reserves to mitigate this position until the medium-to-longer term funding position is clarified.

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7. Capital Programme

7.1 The approved capital programme was reported to Cabinet in July 2020 as part of RPPR State of the County report, where it was agreed that the impact of COVID-19 on the planned programme during 2020/21 would be reported as slippage and/or under/overspend as part of the capital monitoring process. The table below provides an updated programme These variations including funding updates are detailed at **appendix 7**.

Capital Programme Gross (£m)	2020/21	MTFP Period			2024/30	Total
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		
Approved Programme as at State of the County	96.889	69.391	59.285	51.688	293.076	570.329
Updates to the programme	0.535	1.982	-	-	-	2.517
Revised Programme	97.424	71.373	59.285	51.688	293.076	572.846

7.2 As part of the RPPR process, service finance and departmental capital teams will complete a capital programme refresh as part of the Quarter 2 monitoring process which will be formally used to provide a realigned capital programme. There have been no revisions to the capital targeted basic needs proposals to support post COVID-19 service offer at this stage.

8. Lobbying and Communications

8.1. Work has been ongoing over the summer to understand the impact of COVID-19 on East Sussex residents through a range of both open access and targeted surveys, research and engagement. We received over 10,000 responses to an online survey open to all residents and held telephone interviews with a sample of 1,000 residents designed to ensure we heard from a representative cross-section of the local population.

8.2. Residents responding online identified improving the local economy as their top priority for the future, whereas respondents to the phone survey placed stronger public services at the top of their list. The uneven impact of the pandemic was reflected in research findings with around a third of online respondents feeling closer to their community, whereas around a quarter felt more distant. Almost a third (31%) of telephone interviewees had seen household income somewhat reduced, with a further 10% indicating their income had been greatly reduced as a result of the pandemic. A third of respondents expect they will need public services more than before COVID-19 over the next 12 months. A third of people expect that public services will have fewer resources to help them, whereas a third expect services to be resourced at about the same level as now. Looking at how the pandemic may change future behaviour, nine in 10 people expect to do more tasks and interaction online, six in 10 intend to do more to reduce their environmental footprint and more than half say their main focus will be on increasing their or their family's income. Findings from this research will feed into the evidence base that informs our planning for 2021/22 and our ongoing lobbying.

8.3. We are doing all we can, in the context of significant uncertainty, to understand and plan to meet local need, but we greatly need assurance we will have

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sufficient funding to deliver all that is required to support local residents and businesses in the wake of the pandemic; and deliver an ambitious local and national recovery agenda in the future. We also urgently need a sustainable long term settlement for Adult Social Care, where demand is increasing year on year against a background of diminishing resources. While proposals for longer term reform of social care are still awaited, assurance that the short term support provided in 20/21 will be at least matched in 21/22 is a minimum requirement now.

8.4. South East 7 Leaders have written to the Chancellor this summer to set out the urgent need for certainty that in-year pressures from coronavirus will be met and that we will have adequate funding provision next year. The Leader and Chief Officers have also worked to help Government Departments evidence local government spending need in support of their submissions to the Comprehensive Spending Review and to explain the cost of not adequately funding councils in the current context. Lobbying will continue concertedly in partnership with others, including our local MPs, in the autumn.

9. Next Steps

9.1. This report demonstrates the high level of uncertainty within which planning for 2021/22 is taking place and the scale of the challenge we face. Much is to be determined around national spending allocations and priorities for 2021/22 onwards, and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and economic upheaval on our services is still emerging. National government will be looking to local government to support the ongoing COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery, as well as delivering significant reform in a range of areas. We need certainty as early as possible that we will receive an adequate level of funding next year to enable focus on this work. We will redouble our lobbying efforts to ensure absolute clarity of this message to Government.

9.2. Work will continue throughout the autumn and winter to understand the impacts on our residents and services of the coronavirus pandemic, the detailed funding picture as it emerges and the implications of national policy developments. This analysis will feed into our ongoing business and financial planning.

9.3. Subject to agreement by Cabinet, the Council's updated priority and delivery outcomes, Core Offer and Medium Term Financial Plan will be used as the basis for more detailed business and budget planning for 2021/22 and beyond.

9.4. Members will continue to be involved in developing plans through Cabinet, County Council, Scrutiny Committees, Whole Council Member Forums and specific engagement sessions throughout the 2020/21 RPPR process.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

Policy Outlook Update – October 2020**1. Introduction**

1.1. There have been a number of national developments since the local and national policy outlook was reported to Cabinet in July that are expected to have implications for the County Council's future work and business and financial planning. These are detailed below.

2. Overall Context**Containing and managing local coronavirus outbreaks**

2.1. Government launched a national COVID-19 Contain Framework in mid-July, which set out how NHS Test and Trace and the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) will work with local authorities, Public Health England (PHE) and the public to contain and manage local COVID-19 outbreaks. The framework provided further guidance on roles, responsibilities and powers of Upper Tier Local Authorities (UTLA) in managing local outbreaks, following publication of Local Outbreak Management Plans by all UTLAs in June. Government has allocated funding to UTLAs to support development and delivery of these plans. ESCC has received £2.5m which will be used to support implementation of the East Sussex Local Outbreak Control Plan approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July. The move to localised management of outbreaks is part of the Government's strategy to undertake a targeted response, employ smarter restrictions and limit nation-wide restrictions as far as is possible to manage the pandemic. Government has reinstated some nation-wide restrictions following a national increase in COVID-19 case rates since early September.

2.2. A range of indicators are monitored to provide situational awareness of COVID-19 transmission and prevalence across England. The indicators used fall into four primary groups: PHE and NHS Test and Trace data (e.g. the number and rate of increase of positive cases and the number of outbreaks in an area), syndromic surveillance (e.g. increase in NHS111 calls regarding COVID-19 like symptoms), NHS activity (e.g. hospital admissions for COVID-19), and other indicators (e.g. mortality data). Detailed local data on the above indicators is now shared with local public health teams.

2.3. These indicators are used to assess the level of risk in each area and are the basis of PHE's weekly surveillance reports, which include a watchlist of areas with higher-than-average incidences of COVID-19. Areas are placed in one of three 'escalation categories' if it is deemed additional resource or approaches are required to augment local responses. Escalation categories are:

- areas of concern - UTLAs work with partners, supported by regional PHE and NHS Test and Trace resource, to take additional actions to manage outbreaks and reduce community spread of the virus to more normal levels.
- areas of enhanced support – area provided with increased national support, capacity and oversight, including additional resources deployed to augment the local teams where this is necessary.
- areas of intervention - are defined where there is divergence from the lockdown measures in place in the rest of England because of the significance of the spread of COVID-19. There are a range of non-pharmaceutical interventions available to local and national leaders, from extensive communications and expanded testing, to restrictions on businesses and gatherings.

2.4. A number of areas across the country have been placed in the above categories over the summer. The interventions taken in each place has varied according to local

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circumstances and the national support available to augment local arrangements continues to develop. In August it was announced that councils in areas of intervention would be expected to reach consensus and bring forward proposals, informed by case data, on the geography that should be included in the area of intervention. The intention is that areas with lower rates of infection are not subject to restrictions unnecessarily.

2.5. Supplementary to the Contain Framework, publication of a COVID-19 Shielding Framework is expected to inform local authority planning to support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) individuals in the event that shielding guidance is reintroduced on a local or national basis. Any decision to reintroduce shielding will be taken at a national level, and the framework is expected to set out that in the event this happens councils will now be responsible for assessing the food and basic support needs of CEV individuals and facilitating delivery of that support. Funding to support councils in assessing and meeting these needs is anticipated but details are to be confirmed.

2.6. There is now a legal requirement for people to self-isolate when they test positive for COVID-19 or are instructed to by NHS Test and Trace. New fines have been brought in to enforce the requirement. People on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result of being asked to self-isolate will receive a payment of £500, administered via local government. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government are engaging with local authorities on how this will work in practice.

Economic Outlook

2.7. In April, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) assessed the potential impact of coronavirus on the UK economy and public finances. The OBR updated the analysis in July to take account of Government's announcement of lifting lockdown restrictions. The analysis provided three medium-term scenarios for the economy and in all scenarios a reduction in GDP of over 10% was projected for 2020. In August, the OBR published further commentary on public sector finances:

- Public Sector Net Borrowing (the budget deficit) has continued to rise sharply with £150.5bn borrowed between April – July 2020;
- Public Sector Net Debt had topped £2tn for the first time and was 100.5% of GDP in July;
- HMRC cash receipts for the first four months of 2020/21 were 31% lower than a year earlier, with VAT accounting for the bulk of deterioration due to the Government's deferral scheme and lower consumer spending; and
- Central Government spending was 36% higher than a year earlier reflecting the cost of the coronavirus job retention and self-employment income support schemes, plus higher public services spending.

2.8. Similar forecasting by the Bank of England has indicated GDP will shrink by 9.5% this year, less severe than previously forecast, but that unemployment could almost double to 7.5% by the end of 2020. Latest figures published by ONS indicate that 695,000 fewer employees were on UK payrolls in August than in March; and there was a large drop in employment of 16 – 24 year olds between May and July (decreased 156,000), while there was a combined increase in employment on the previous quarter for those aged 25 – 64. The end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) and Self-employment Income Support Scheme on 31 October is expected to contribute to further job losses nationally, although the Treasury has announced further employment and business support measures to support retention of jobs through the winter. Other ONS figures released in August demonstrated that the UK economy is officially in recession following two quarters of negative GDP growth.

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2.9. The second report of the House of Commons Treasury Committee's inquiry into the economic impact of coronavirus looked at the national challenges of economic recovery and found them to be maintaining recovery of consumer confidence and spending, including potentially through a second wave; minimising long-term unemployment increases while enabling sufficient labour flexibility to allow structural change and movement from shrinking to growing sectors; dealing with elevated levels of corporate debt; and, in the long term, managing Government debt sustainably.

Comprehensive Spending Review and Autumn Budget

2.10. Government launched the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) at the end of July to set Government departments' resource budgets for 2021/22-2023/24 and capital budgets for 2021/22-2024/25. Given ongoing uncertainty around COVID-19 and the end of the Brexit transition period, it is highly likely this will now be reduced to a spending review for 2021/22 only. The following priorities have been set for the review:

- strengthening the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 by prioritising jobs and skills
- levelling up economic opportunity across all nations and regions of the country by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people – thus closing the gap with our competitors by spreading opportunity, maximising productivity and improving the value add of each hour worked
- improving outcomes in public services, including supporting the NHS and taking steps to cut crime and ensure every young person receives a superb education
- making the UK a scientific superpower, including leading in the development of technologies that will support the government's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- strengthening the UK's place in the world
- improving the management and delivery of our commitments, ensuring that all departments have the appropriate structures and processes in place to deliver their outcomes and commitments on time and within budget

2.11. Government confirmed that department spending would grow in real terms across the CSR period but that there would be tough choices in areas of spending outside the above priorities at the review. Government departments have been asked to identify opportunities to reprioritise and deliver savings. The CSR consultation closed on 24 September.

2.12. The Autumn Budget 2020 was expected to confirm the CSR/Spending Review outcome and Government's longer-term fiscal plans. The Autumn Budget has now been cancelled but it is understood that a Spending Review will still take place this autumn.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

2.13. Government committed in the December 2019 Queen's Speech to publish an English Devolution White Paper to 'unleash the potential' of all English regions by increasing the number of mayors and doing more devolution deals across 'functional economic areas' to level up powers and investment.

2.14. A Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper was expected to be published this autumn, although that is now in doubt. The paper was expected to propose a new phase of local government reorganisation and creation of Combined Authorities as the first step to securing further devolution deals to deliver economic recovery and renewal.

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End of EU Exit Transition Period

2.15. Agreements on the future relationship between the EU and UK following the end of the transition period on a range of matters - including trade, security and control of fishing waters - are still to be agreed. On 7 September, the Prime Minister made a statement to open the final phase of negotiations with the EU in which he said that an agreement on trade must be reached by 15 October for the new relationship to be agreed in time. If an agreement is not reached, future trade with the EU will take place under World Trade Organisation rules from the end of the transition period on 31 December. There is a risk that ending the transition period without an agreed relationship between the UK and EU could result in disruption at Newhaven Port, in the local economy, to the coronavirus response and in delivery of the council's services and this has been captured on the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

2.16. Government is undertaking preparations for the end of the transition period. Plans for a post-transition Border Operating Model were published in July which set out that the Government has taken the decision to introduce the new border controls in three stages up until 1 July 2021. Government is also making plans for inland ports. A Border Facilities and Infrastructure (EU Exit) Special Development Order was laid in Parliament in early September to provide Government with emergency and temporary planning permission for the development of inland border facilities and associated infrastructure. 29 administrative areas in England were listed in the order, including East Sussex, although HMRC have confirmed they are not currently planning arrangements within East Sussex. The Trading Standards team are monitoring developments to understand regulatory requirements following the transition period and to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet new demands for enforcement and business advice.

3. Adult Social Care and Health

Adult Social Care Taskforce Report and ASC Winter Plan

3.1. Earlier this year, Government established an ASC Taskforce to oversee delivery of support to the social care sector in its response to COVID-19; and of the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) Social Care Action Plan. As part of its work, the Taskforce was commissioned to advise the Minister of State for Social Care on what needed to be in place in the care sector in England to respond to COVID-19 ahead of winter. The final report of the Taskforce includes 52 recommendations for Government, local authorities, the NHS and others within the health and social care system. We are working through the recommendations with our partners across the local health and social care system.

3.2. The Taskforce recommendations have informed Government's ASC Winter Plan, published in September, setting out its ambitions for and challenges facing the social care sector this winter. The plan outlines actions DHSC is taking and actions local systems (councils, the NHS and Voluntary and Community Sector) should take to ensure that high-quality, safe and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it, whilst protecting people who need care, their carers and the social care workforce from COVID-19.

3.3. The plan outlines a wide-range of actions that local systems and DHSC are already taking to provide care while reducing transmission of COVID-19. Further actions the plan outlines DHSC is taking include:

- working up a designation scheme with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for premises that are safe for people leaving hospital who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting a test result – although it will remain councils' responsibility to provide alternative accommodation in local systems for supporting people with a positive test result requiring care;

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- providing free PPE (for COVID-19 needs in line with current guidance) to care homes and domiciliary care providers via the PPE portal until the end of March 2021;
- providing free PPE to local resilience forums (LRFs) who wish to continue PPE distribution, and to local authorities in other areas, to distribute to social care providers ineligible for supply via the PPE portal, until the end of March 2021;
- working with local authorities and the CQC to strengthen their monitoring and regulation role to ensure infection prevention and control procedures are taking place;
- publishing a new online Adult Social Care Dashboard, bringing together data from the Capacity Tracker and other sources;
- publishing information about effective local and regional protocols and operational procedures based on what we have learnt so far to support areas with local outbreaks and/or increased community transmission; and
- in partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Local Government Association, carrying out a Service Continuity and Care Market Review in the autumn to understand the robustness of the plans local authorities have in place, and what additional support may be needed.

3.4. The primary new and additional actions for ESCC resulting from the plan are:

- to put in a place an East Sussex Winter Plan building on existing planning, including the East Sussex Local Outbreak Plan and in the context of planning for the end of the Brexit Transition Period, by 31 October;
- provide free PPE to care providers ineligible for the PPE portal (supplied by DHSC) when required (including for personal assistants) directly until March 2021;
- to work with local partners to carry out learning reviews after each care home outbreak to identify and share lessons learned;
- to ensure care providers carry out testing as set out in the testing strategy and, together with NHS organisations, provide local support for testing in adult social care if needed;
- for the Director of Public Health to regularly assess of whether visiting care homes is appropriate, taking into account the wider risk environment and immediately moving to stop visiting if an area becomes an 'area of intervention' (see 2.3 above), except in exceptional circumstances such as end of life;
- to work alongside the Care Quality Commission to ensure care homes are taking necessary steps to prevent spread of the virus and follow up with care providers that are not limiting staff movement; and
- establish a weekly joint communication from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Director of Public Health to go to all local providers of adult social care.

3.5. Government has also requested all councils complete a care market sustainability self-assessment. This will be reported to the Minister of Care, through DHSC. The Minister is seeking assurance that care markets are sustainable though the winter period and where this cannot be provided the intention is to provide support to councils to address any identified challenges.

3.6. Government has committed to continue to engage across the sector to understand needs as they develop throughout the winter and provide appropriate support. We will continue to engage and emphasise the need for a sustainable funding settlement for social care, that reflects the scale of investment made in the NHS, and the need to limit self-assessment/ assurance/ Government reporting to free-up fundamental capacity to deliver.

3.7. Government has provided a second £546m tranche of Infection Control Funding, to be distributed by councils to care providers, to support delivery of the plan. The East Sussex allocation, conditions of this funding and reporting requirements are to be confirmed, but as with the first tranche, the expectation is the funding will help providers with the extra costs of

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infection prevention and control measures – including the payment of care workers who are self-isolating in line with government guidelines. We anticipate central designation of what proportion of the funding is provided to which parts of the care market. £588m has also been provided for the NHS to support people needing additional follow-on care after they have been discharged from hospital. From September 1 – 31 March 2021, the NHS will fund up to the first six weeks of support following hospital discharge, during which assessments will be carried out to determine ongoing care and funding arrangements.

National Institute for Health Protection and future of population health improvement

3.8. Government has announced the creation of a National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP) to advance the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and any future pandemics and health threats. The NIHP brings together Public Health England's health protection functions, NHS Test and Trace and the Joint Biosecurity Centre under a single leadership team in its shadow form.

3.9. Government has published a paper providing detail on the transition to the new NIHP, as well as scoping plans for the future of the health improvement/ preventative functions PHE also currently has responsibility for. The paper confirms prevention of ill health remains a national priority and PHE will continue its health improvement and wider prevention work in the coming months under the leadership of the NIHP. In this time Government will consider the best future arrangements for work on health improvement, including the range of non-health protection functions PHE provides, engaging with representatives across the public health system.

3.10. The paper outlines a number of options under consideration, including:

- devolving functions to a more local level such as local authorities and/or integrated care systems
- creating a separate national organisation dedicated to driving progress on prevention, health improvement and, potentially, public healthcare services
- retaining health improvement responsibilities within DHSC and/or other government departments
- embedding health improvement responsibilities into existing health arm's length bodies such as NHS England and NHS Improvement
- a combination of the above options

3.11. A new Population Health Improvement Stakeholder Advisory Group has been established to advise Government on the options, and input into an options paper to be published in October. This will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share views and we will consider the proposals and respond. The national budget of the NIHP and for future health improvement activities will be agreed in the Spending Review. Government intends to publish its final recommended approach and delivery plan by the end of 2020.

4. Children's Services

Support to schools

4.1. Pupils returned to schools and colleges at the start of September with education settings putting a 'system of controls' in place to keep students and staff safe, focussed around minimising direct contact and maintaining social distancing wherever possible.

4.2. Education settings re-opened in places subject to local restrictions and Government has been clear that re-introduction of restrictions on education and childcare settings is to be considered only once all other possible measures have been taken. A tiered system of

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restrictions has been established to guide the phased introduction that would take place in circumstances where areas that are subject to national intervention require some level of restriction to education or childcare settings. Tier 1 restrictions apply to all areas subject to local intervention; all schools remain open but with a requirement for adults and pupils in settings educating years 7 and over to wear face coverings in communal areas where it is not possible to socially distance. Guidance has been provided to support settings to plan for how they would implement tier 2 restrictions - moving to a rota model, combining on-site provision with remote education - if required. Tiers 3 and 4 involve further limiting students attending on site in different education settings.

4.3. There has been an increased expectation on councils to support schools this year; with partial closure, with providing places for vulnerable children and children of keyworkers in lockdown, with provision of remote learning in lockdown, and recently with making preparations to re-open. In this new context, the focus of the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service for the 2020/21 academic year will be on:

- Planning, preparation and support for schools in potential local lockdowns – see 4.2 above;
- Increased support for vulnerable pupils, including safeguarding, addressing learning loss and ensuring attendance;
- Ongoing co-ordination of services for schools;
- Managing the impact of COVID19 on early years providers and ensuring that we maintain sufficient places for the future; and
- Supporting young people into Education, Employment and Training during a period of rising unemployment and economic downturn that will disproportionately impact 18-24 year olds.

Home to School Transport

4.4. In the summer, national guidance was published on transport provision to support the return of schools and colleges in September. This set out that as capacity on public transport is limited, local authorities needed to put in place local demand management solutions for public services, and supplement the public bus network, and existing home to school transport, with additional capacity, to ensure that children could travel to school safely, and disruption for all passengers on the public network was minimised. The Transport Team made arrangements to support school returns accordingly, including working with operators to ensure sufficient provision on the network of bus services used by school children travelling to schools in East Sussex and to other neighbouring authorities.

4.5. The County Council has been allocated £464,596 by the Department for Education (DfE) to assist in securing additional transport capacity until the end of the October school term. There is uncertainty about the resource we will have for additional capacity after this period. All Chief Finance Officers have been asked by DfE to account for use of the funding provide to date, to inform a second tranche of funding for the second half of this term.

Ofsted Inspections

4.6. Ofsted has announced interim inspections arrangements for a range of settings:

- Ofsted and CQC will begin visiting councils in October to understand the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND and their families. They will look to find out what has worked well for them during this time, what the challenges have been, and lessons learned;
- As part of a phased return to the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) programme, Ofsted will be carrying out focused visits from the autumn. Inspectors will look at the experiences of children and how local authorities and providers have made the best possible decisions for children in the context of the pandemic. For

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councils, this includes how they have joined up schools and social care services while schools were closed, to ensure vulnerable pupils continued to be identified. Ofsted is intending to visit as many providers and local authorities as possible, prioritising those it has concerns about (i.e. an area of priority concern or judged inadequate). Ofsted will also visit a sample of local authorities judged good or outstanding at their last inspection to identify good practice that will help others with their recovery plans, which could include ESCC;

- Assurance visits of social care provider's children's homes, secure homes and residential special schools will take place from 1 September 2020 – 31 March 2021 and will look at the experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account the Covid-19 context;
- Ofsted will be undertaking interim visits of registered early years providers from September to ensure standards are being maintained and there is safe and effective childcare available for all who need it; and
- Interim visits of maintained schools and academies will take place from 28 September to December to look at how leaders are managing the return to full time education for their pupils, including considering remote learning and safeguarding in line with the guidance for full re-opening.

4.7. With all inspections, Ofsted will not give graded judgements but will set out findings in a published report/letter setting out what is going well and what needs to improve.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

4.8. There has continued to be an increase in asylum seekers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) entering the country in recent months, particularly in Kent. As a result, in August, Kent County Council declared it could no longer safely accept UASC into its care.

4.9. In response, the Home Office has launched a consultation on introducing a more sustainable National Transfer Scheme (NTS). The focus is on creating a sustainable rota system that will take account of the broader range of support local authorities provide across the whole of the asylum system, including to care leavers and the dispersed population. This will include a broad and comprehensive approach to look at all the issues facing local authorities hosting the greatest number of UASCs – particularly those that are over their 0.07% allocation (i.e. UASC make up more than 0.07% of the total child population) and those with significant numbers of former UASC care leavers.

4.10. The consultation is seeking views on:

- how the Home Office might implement a voluntary transfer system and what the barriers might be for local authorities;
- the need for a mandatory scheme to force those local authorities who have been less willing/ able to engage in the NTS; and
- including care leavers in the 0.07% ratio

4.11. ESCC already works closely with the scheme and has taken a number of new arrivals via NTS. Our willingness to continue to work with the NTS will not change. There will however be implications in terms of planning for increased numbers of new UASC admitted into care at certain times of the year to reflect our place on the rota set against the number of spontaneous arrivals that we receive outside of the scheme as a local authority with a port of entry. At the moment, we are able to balance the impact of assuming responsibility for young

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people via the NTS and to sequence placements in a way that delivers good and safe outcomes for UASCs.

4.12. Whether the scheme continues to be voluntary or mandatory will arguably have a significant impact on the numbers and timing of young people who the Council is asked to take but a mandatory scheme would spread the requests more equitably. Including care leavers in the 0.07% ratio seems a sensible step given the ongoing commitment to that group of young people.

5. Communities, Economy and Transport

Planning for the Future White Paper

5.1. Published in August, the White Paper is open for consultation until the 29 October and proposes a fundamental reform of the planning system. The proposed reforms are heavily focussed on housebuilding and driven by the Government's clear aim of delivering a minimum of 300,000 new houses per annum. The paper proposes simplifying the role of Local Plans to focus on identifying land under three categories –

- Growth – areas suitable for sustainable development, and where outline approval for development would be automatically secured for forms and types of development specified in the Plan;
- Renewal - areas suitable for some development; and
- Protected - areas where development is restricted.

5.2. The White Paper sets out a vision for a reformed planning system so further detail will be required to fully understand the implications for ESCC. Whilst the reforms are likely to have a greater impact upon our District and Borough partners (as well as the South Downs National Park Authority), there are potentially significant implications for the County Council, particularly where we perform a statutory consultee role and/or are a key infrastructure provider. These implications include:

- Reforms to capture development value for infrastructure provision – it is proposed to replace Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy with a national Infrastructure Levy to be paid on completion of developments. Government acknowledge that this may impact on the ability to get new and improved infrastructure in place before developments are occupied and therefore suggest that councils consider forward funding the necessary infrastructure improvements. If this materialises, the implications on the County Council will be substantial as it could involve the need to forward fund and deliver infrastructure improvements ourselves. We would encourage Government to consider an alternative mechanism to deliver transport improvements that make development sites viable in transport terms;
- Abolition of the Duty to Cooperate – while broadly welcomed as it has been an ineffective mechanism for undertaking strategic planning nationally, the paper has not set out how cross-boundary planning issues will be addressed or how reforms will enable planning for large-scale and cross-boundary infrastructure proposals linked to housing and employment growth;
- Commitment to review resourcing of planning functions – while welcome, it is essential that this also considers the resourcing that is required for statutory consultees in the planning process;
- the White Paper has no mention of waste and minerals planning, so clarification is needed as to how the reforms will impact upon this particular sector of planning, for which ESCC has responsibility; and

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- further digitation of the planning system – this is welcome and a change authorities have been working towards.

5.3. ESCC's draft response to the White Paper will be considered by Lead Member for Transport and Environment, and in addition to the above points, will seek clarity and further detail on a number of areas; emphasise the need for the system to enable ESCC to continue delivering important public services, i.e. new school places; and that the system needs to be underpinned by democratic oversight and accountability for decisions.

5.4. Alongside the White Paper, the Government also published a consultation on changes to the current planning system. The majority of changes are unlikely to directly impact upon the County Council. However, of most significant consequence is the proposed revised formula for calculating the housing delivery target that each planning authority should aim to plan for, which if taken forward is likely to increase the demand on the Council's statutory consultees and those services tasked with planning and delivering infrastructure.

Pavement parking consultation

5.5. The Department for Transport has launched a consultation which will explore proposals to ban pavement parking in England. The Department for Transport is looking at three options: improving the Traffic Regulation Order process, under which local authorities can already prohibit pavement parking; legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement (CPE) powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'; and legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition. The consultation will run until late November. The decision to allow authorities with CPE powers to enforce the obstruction would have implications for ESCC as we undertake civil parking enforcement in Hastings Borough, Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough and anticipate the order enabling CPE in Rother to be in place from 29 September.

Integrated Review

5.6. The Cabinet Office is currently undertaking an Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. Part of the review will consider national resilience and changes required to deliver resilient places and communities, including the future of Local Resilience Forums. Sussex Resilience Forum will be engaging in the review and making the case for the need for core funding for LRFs, particularly given their role in the COVID-19 response.

6. Support Services

Public sector exit payments

6.1. In April 2019, Government published a consultation seeking views on regulations implementing a £95,000 cap on exit payments in the public sector. In September, Government published a further consultation seeking information on

- i. the effects that the proposals for reform will have on the regulations which currently govern exit payments in local government; and
- ii. the impact the proposals will have on the local government workforce.

Full details of the regulations and how they will operate in practice are not yet known as they are subject to the latest consultation, although Treasury regulations to implement the cap have already been introduced to Parliament. However, it is expected that they will have significant implications for how we manage workforce change and reform.

[Proposed changes in red]

The Priority Outcomes

The Council has four overarching priority outcomes: driving sustainable economic growth; keeping vulnerable people safe; helping people help themselves; and making best use of resources **in the short and long term**. Making best use of resources **in the short and long term** is the gateway priority through which any activity and accompanying resources must pass.

For each priority outcome there are specific delivery outcomes. These are referenced to performance measures in this Portfolio Plan.

Driving sustainable economic growth - delivery outcomes

NEW: East Sussex businesses are supported to recover and grow through the delivery of the Economy Recovery Plan

1. The county's employment and productivity rates are ~~high throughout the county~~ **maximised**
2. Individuals, communities and businesses thrive in East Sussex with the environmental and **social** infrastructure to meet their needs
3. The workforce has and maintains the skills needed for good quality employment **to meet the needs of the future East Sussex economy**

NEW: The value of our role as both a significant employer and a buyer of local goods and services is maximised

4. All children progress well from early years to school leaver and into education, training and employment

Keeping vulnerable people safe - delivery outcomes

5. All vulnerable people in East Sussex are known to relevant local agencies and services are delivered together to meet their needs
6. People feel safe at home
7. People feel safe with **support** services

NEW: We work with the wider health and care system to support people affected by Covid-19 to achieve the best health outcomes possible

Helping people help themselves - delivery outcomes

8. Commissioners and providers from all sectors put people first when providing services and information to help them meet their needs
9. The most vulnerable **adults** get the support they need to maintain their independence and this is provided at or **as** close to home **as possible**
10. ~~Individuals and communities are supported and encouraged to be responsible, help others and make the most of community capacity and assets~~ Through our work with others, individuals and communities are encouraged to maintain and develop local mutual support systems

Making best use of resources in the short and long term - delivery outcomes

11. Working as One Council, both through the processes we use and how we work across services
12. **Delivery through strong and sustained** Working in partnership **working** across the public, voluntary community, and private sectors to ensure that all available resources are used to deliver maximum benefits to local people
13. Ensuring we achieve value for money in the services we commission and provide
14. Maximising the funding available through bidding for funding and lobbying for the best deal for East Sussex
15. To help tackle Climate Change East Sussex County Council activities are carbon neutral as soon as possible and in any event by 2050
16. ~~Applying strategic commissioning to ensure resources are directed to meet local need~~

East Sussex County Council's Core Offer

[Proposed changes in red]

As one council

We will:

- be driven by the needs of our residents, businesses and communities and focus on our four priority outcomes;
- be democratic, open and honest about our decision making;
- work with all our partners to make sure there is a shared view of priorities and that we make the most of opportunities and resources available in East Sussex;
- work effectively with the community and voluntary sector, **including to avoid the need for statutory services**;
- work well as a single organisation **and within wider systems**;
- provide the best quality service we can within the resources we have available;
- compare our cost and performance against others to make sure we provide value for money;
- learn from others to improve outcomes for residents;
- ensure that as much money as possible is directed towards front line services;
- lobby hard to protect and promote the interests of East Sussex.
- **respond effectively and flexibly to the impact of Covid-19 on our services and communities and ensure we harness opportunities to do things differently in the longer term.**

Customer Service

We will:

- respond to formal complaints and statutory information requests;
- seek to provide information and services online wherever possible.

Protecting and supporting vulnerable people

Children at risk

We will:

- provide a statutory social care offer to safeguard children at risk of harm. This includes: protecting children; looking after children who are in care, helping care leavers become successful adults and managing efficient and effective **residential**, fostering and adoption services;
- we will provide an Early Help Service for 0-19 year olds where it helps us manage the demand for higher cost services, including an integrated service with Health Visitors for 0-5 year olds;
- we will work with partners to prevent young people from offending and to respond effectively when they do.

Special Education

We will:

- carry out statutory assessments of children with Special Education Needs (SEN), where there are significant barriers to learning;
- use our best endeavours to secure the right educational provision for those with the greatest need;

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- fulfil our statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children who meet the threshold under the Continuum of Need;
- where possible, work to build capacity in Early Years settings to ensure vulnerable pupils can attend a pre-school setting from 2 years old and can be supported to attend and succeed in mainstream schools.

Adults

We will:

- provide information and advice for all those seeking care and support;
- assess need and arrange help for individuals and their carers who are eligible for support from Adult Social Care;
- provide support that reduces the need for social care in the longer term and/or prevents the need for a more expensive service;
- continue to ensure that we safeguard vulnerable adults who are at risk of harm or abuse.

All Children

Schools

We will:

- operate a light-touch monitoring of the performance of maintained schools. We will use our best endeavours to intervene when a school is at high risk of failure;
- encourage the Regional Schools Commissioner to intervene where academies in East Sussex are under-performing;
- use our best endeavours to improve the outcomes of pupils vulnerable to under-achievement, **including the impact of Covid-19 on pupils' progress and outcomes**;
- promote post-16 participation in education and training, including provision and support for young people with learning difficulties/disabilities.

School planning and access

We will:

- plan to have enough Early Years and school places where they are needed;
- co-ordinate and administer the admission process;
- provide home to school transport where we have a statutory duty to do so **and in the context of Covid-19**.

Universal offer to all residents

Highways and Transport

We will:

- maintain roads, pavements, bridges, structures, highway drainage and verges and carry out repairs to our current standards;
- investigate road accident sites and take measures to prevent recurrence where this is possible;
- carry out safety audits of proposed highways improvement schemes;
- manage the national concessionary fares scheme and provide limited bus subsidies where they provide access to vital services, education and employment for communities which would otherwise be cut off;
- enforce civil parking restrictions where they are in place;
- carry-out strategic planning of the highways network to help to ensure the County's transport needs are met now and in the future;

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- provide footpath clearance on priority and popular rights of way routes, maintain the Definitive Map and respond to public requests for footpath diversions and searches.

Economy and Trading Standards

We will:

- provide access to high quality employment to reduce avoidable reliance on public services by acting as a strategic economic authority that intervenes, in partnership, decisively and cost effectively where it can make a difference, especially by leveraging in external funding;
- carry out food sampling and food inspection where the risk is high; carry out reactive animal health disease control and take enforcement action where necessary.

Waste Management

We will:

- dispose of waste collected by the borough and district councils and provide sufficient waste sites to meet national guidance.

Planning & Environment

We will:

- fulfil our statutory duties on planning, development control, flood risk and environmental management, including specialist environmental advice where required;
- provide emergency planning services.

Libraries

We will:

- provide a library service which meets our assessment of current and future needs.

Public Health

We will:

- Work at population level to identify the areas where risks and threats to health are greatest to create a healthier, happier and fairer East Sussex.
- Support the **NHS whole health and care system** to ensure a population health focus lies at the heart of integration and innovation within **the NHS health and care** in East Sussex
- Ensure the protection of public health through **local outbreak planning and** management; screening; immunisation and emergency planning and preparedness, working with all relevant agencies and professions to gain maximum impact from our combined efforts.
- Continue the universal offer for school nursing and health visiting and look at the specification of future contracts to see if services could add more value to early years and preventive programmes within children's health and social care.
- **Commission public health services that meet the needs of local communities**

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- ~~Continue to offer the NHS Healthcheck programme, targeting specific populations and groups with the aim of reducing the life and healthy life expectancy gaps across the County.~~
- Contribute to health improvement by making targeted interventions focused on those populations for which there is clear evidence of efficacy and by tackling the wider the causes of ill health. We will draw on the preventative nature of the NHS long-term plan locally to align and gain value from integrated commissioning, design and provision of services.
- ~~Provide Drug and Alcohol Services which concentrate on the provision of successful treatment and prevention of harm and keep pace with new threats and new treatment options.~~
- ~~Commission sexual health services which seek to increase efficiency by modernising the way services are delivered and focus on areas of highest risk, whilst maintaining quality and access.~~
- ~~Reduce management and support costs by 15% to bring in line with reductions already made across the remainder of the Council.~~

Archives and Records

We will:

- manage the records which we are required to keep by law. We will meet our basic statutory duties as a Place of Deposit for public records at The Keep including a basic level of public access to those records.

Gypsies and Travellers

We will:

- manage our current portfolio of permanent and transit sites.

Registration Service

We will:

- fulfil our duties to register births, deaths and marriages.

Community Safety

We will:

- deliver our local Community Safety priorities, commission effective substance misuse and domestic abuse support services and fulfil our statutory duties in relation to Prevent; Modern Slavery and the Crime and Disorder Act.

Support Services

We will:

- work in partnership with others to provide the best value for money, ensuring professional and modern support to front line services as efficiently as possible so maximum resource is focussed on front line delivery;
- manage our assets and central financial resources, including Treasury Management, capital and reserves prudently and effectively to support the County Council's business and sustainability.

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APPENDIX 4 – Normal and Proposed Updates to the MTFP

Normal and Proposed Updates	Ref	Estimate (£m)			
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Council 11 February 2019 DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)		1.443	7.879	0.000	9.322
NORMAL UPDATES					
Business Rates Retention	A	(0.211)	0.092	(1.844)	(1.963)
Business Rates Growth (0.7%)	A		(0.010)	0.010	0.000
Revenue Support Grant	B	(0.500)	(0.081)	1.571	0.990
Council Tax Base (growth @ 0.9%)	C	0.307	0.314	(2.849)	(2.228)
Council Tax Inflation (1.99%)	D	(0.002)		(6.417)	(6.419)
Council Tax Collection Fund	E	0.990			0.990
New Homes Bonus Reduction	F			0.114	0.114
NHB to Capital Programme	F			(0.114)	(0.114)
Savings Profiling	G	0.100		(0.100)	0.000
Treasury Management Pressure	H	0.650		1.000	1.650
General Contingency (1% of net budget less TM)	I	(0.020)	0.010	0.110	0.100
Pensions Final Revaluation	J	(1.400)	(0.400)		(1.800)
Levies Increase	K			0.012	0.012
Pay Award (impact of 0.25% additional in 2020/21; 2% in all years, reduced from 2.5%)	L	(0.315)	(0.587)	2.438	1.536
Contractual inflation (contract specific)	M			2.252	0.877
Normal inflation for contracts	N	(0.342)	(0.195)	7.435	6.898
ASC & CSD Growth and Demography	P	(0.087)	0.230	5.056	5.199
CSD: SEND High Needs Block Additional funding	Q	(1.276)	(0.814)		(2.090)
CET: Waste Housing Growth	R			0.198	0.198
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER NORMAL UPDATES TO THE MTFP		(0.663)	6.438	8.872	14.647
PROPOSED UPDATES					
Savings reprofile	S	2.316	(1.074)	(1.242)	0.000
Pressures (BAU):					
BSD: Accounts Receivable	T	0.058	0.004	0.005	0.067
CET: Ash Dieback management	U	0.137	0.014	0.015	0.166
CET: The Keep - BAU funding gap pressures	V	0.069			0.069
CET: Trading Standards - loss of income	W	0.056			0.056
Contractual / Statutory Obligations:					
BSD: St Marks House Rent Review	X	0.052			0.052
CSD: EH&SC Living Allowances	Y	0.060			0.060
CSD: EH&SC LAC Placement Costs	Z	3.429	(0.795)	(0.789)	1.845
CSD: Child Protection Plans	AA	tbc	tbc	tbc	0.000
CSD: No recourse to public funds and Intentionally Homeless	AB	tbc	tbc	tbc	0.000
Cost Pressures Covid-related:					
CSD: Home to School Transport	AC	tbc	tbc	tbc	0.000

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Normal and Proposed Updates	Ref	Estimate (£m)			
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
ASC: Future Demand Modelling	AD	2.243	(0.628)	(0.323)	1.292
ASC Mitigation: Additional Attrition due to Excess Mortality		(1.110)	0.263	0.191	(0.656)
Income Losses Covid-related:					
CSD: EH&SC Lansdowne income loss (includes payback in 2023/24)	AE	0.124	(0.124)	(0.124)	(0.124)
Business Rates: collection fund deficit (2021/22-2023/24) based on Ds' & Bs' MHCLG Covid-19 returns		0.237	(0.237)		0.000
			0.178	(0.178)	0.000
				0.119	0.119
Business Rates: growth reduction to 0.25% in 2021/22 (due to Covid-19)	AF	0.065	0.011	0.011	0.087
			0.076	0.002	0.078
				0.077	0.077
Council Tax: collection fund deficit (2021/22-2023/24) based on Ds' & Bs' MHCLG Covid-19 returns		2.263	(2.263)		0.000
			1.697	(1.697)	0.000
Council Tax: growth reduction to 0.25% in 2021/22 (due to Covid-19)		1.975	0.058	0.061	2.094
			1.515	0.045	1.560
				1.033	1.033
Reductions in Budget					
ASC Mitigation: S117 Additional Income	AG	(0.500)			(0.500)
ASC Mitigation: Supporting People Contract Reduction		(0.243)			(0.243)
Subtotal PROPOSED UPDATES		11.231	(1.305)	(1.663)	8.263
Potential Investment Areas:					
CET: Additional Team East Sussex (TES) support	AH	0.030			0.030
CET: Work on the pan Sx tourism brand with WSCC	AI	0.070	0.025	(0.055)	0.040
ASC: Voluntary Sector / Community Hubs / Shielded Group	AJ	0.880			0.880
Subtotal Potential Investment Areas		0.980	0.025	(0.055)	0.950
DEFICIT/(SURPLUS) AFTER NORMAL AND PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE MTFP		11.548	5.158	7.154	23.860

A Business Rates Retention and Growth

The current planning assumptions on business rates have been updated to reflect the latest inflation estimate by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) and to include 2023/24. Growth continues to be estimated at an average of 0.7% increase of the business rates base. Whilst unrealistic, given the impact of the pandemic it allows visibility of the full reduction as a result of Covid-19 which is then shown as a pressure, this will form part of the LGFutures review and will be subject to refinement.

Since Full Council, updated estimates on business rates income from District and Borough Councils (NNDR1 forecasts) have been received. This showed a small improvement in income. Business rates have been updated to reflect these estimates. However, much has changed since these estimates were made. Business rates will continue to be monitored and

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along with the collection fund, reviewed with the District and Borough Councils alongside their final accounts and latest collection forecasts to understand the impact for 2021/22.

As per normal practice the next inflation update to the MTFP will be made in October when the September Inflation figures are published.

B Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

At final settlement government confirmed that the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) would be increased in line with the increase to the small business rates multiplier. With the delay to Business Rate reform and the Fair Funding Review, until 2022/23 at the earliest, the plan assumes we will be no better or worse off. The calculation of RSG has been updated to reflect the latest OBR inflation estimates on the small business rates multiplier, while still assuming the Spending Funding Assessment (SFA) will not see an inflationary increase.

C Council Tax Base Growth

Growth for baseline purposes is being estimated at 0.9% for 2021/22 to 2023/24 in line with normal average annual growth. Whilst unrealistic, given the impact of the pandemic it allows visibility of the full reduction as a result of Covid-19 which is then shown as a pressure, this will form part of the LGFutures review and will be subject to refinement.

D Council Tax Inflation & Adult Social Care Precept

The assumption is a council tax increase of 1.99%; the current limit before referendum is triggered post 2020/21.

E Council Tax Collection Fund

It is expected there will be a reduction in Council Tax income in 2020/21 through lower collection levels and increased Local Council Tax Support. This is based on current estimates from Ds and Bs. The actual figure will be confirmed within Districts' and Boroughs' final accounts. Whilst unrealistic, given the impact of the pandemic it allows visibility of the full reduction as a result of Covid-19 which is then shown as a pressure, this will form part of the LGFutures review and will be subject to refinement.

F New Homes Bonus (NHB) Reduction

Government indicated at settlement that NHB will be wound down. The final legacy payment will be due in 2022/23 with no further income expected for 2023/24. The 2021/22 amount will be confirmed at Local Government Finance Settlement and is assumed now to fund capital. The bonus could be used for revenue, although with the risk that the amount could decrease further.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
New Homes Bonus	0.252	0.114	0.000

G Savings Profiling - One-off temporary mitigations

Update to the Savings Profile for the 2023/24 financial year.

H Treasury Management Pressure

Update to the MRP and interest calculation to include IT&D investment over 10 years rather than over 30 years and reduced interest rates respectively. Also, to include the additional year of 2023/24 in regard of the 10 year capital programme.

I General Contingency

This is calculated at an agreed formula of 1% of net budget less treasury management.

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J Pensions Final Revaluation

The triannual pensions revaluation was finalised after the budget for 2020/21 was approved. The impact is a reduction in the secondary contribution required for all years.

K Levies Increase

The figures are reflective of the latest estimates of the Flood & Coastal Protection Levy, Sussex Inshore Fisheries Levy and New Responsibilities Funding.

L Pay Award

Service inflation model has been updated to include 2023/24 and for a 2.0% pay award in all years (previously assumed at 2.5%). This is offset by the increase in award for 2020/21 to 2.75% (approval by Governance Committee for LMG and Chief Officers pending).

M Contractual Inflation (contract specific)

The service inflation model has been updated for an additional year and a small drop in rates in 2021/22. The methodology provides inflation to services for large contracts as per the contract but does not provide for inflation on running costs or small contracts.

N Normal Inflation for Contracts

The service inflation model has been updated for an additional year using the inflation figures published by the OBR at the Budget statement in March.

Outside normal inflation provided for in approved models there is additional provision for inflationary pressures in ASC and CSD, agreed under the Pressures Protocol.

P ASC & CSD Growth and Demography

Updates to 2021/22 and 2022/23, and a forecast for 2023/24 has been added to the current plan.

Q CSD: SEND High Needs Block Additional funding

This has been updated to reflect that the additional funding is permanent and not expected to be removed.

R CET: Waste Housing Growth

The forecast pressure for 2023/24 has been added to the current plan. Further review and update will be required.

S Savings

Deliverability of existing savings targets for 2020/21 to 2023/24 has been reviewed by Services, the detail of which is shown at appendix 6. Any slippage in 2020/21 will be funded through reserves, but there will be an impact on the MTFP in future years.

T BSD: Accounts Receivable

Increased costs for address traces and the third party contract for printing/postage of invoices that are raised for the council. The third party contract is more cost effective than in-house provision, but increasing volumes mean that there is an identified pressure that cannot be mitigated.

U CET: Ash Dieback management

The number of ash requiring felling in East Sussex is expected to increase dramatically over the next few years of the spread of Ash Die Back (ADB) in the county.

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V CET: The Keep - BAU funding gap pressures

There are funding gap pressures at The Keep. These are due to;

- i. Increased cost for electricity, rates, other energy costs, premises costs such as increased maintenance costs.
- ii. Reduction in income due to the current room rental agreement with University of Sussex (UoS) ending August 2021.
- iii. All three partners, ESCC, BHCC and UoS are under financial pressure to make savings and reduce contributions to the Keep budget. They will all contribute less in 2021/22 due to KSP savings.

W CET: Trading Standards - loss of income

Loss of funding from the ending of our partnership with Checkatrade of £0.046m, plus a loss of business advice and Primary Authority income of £0.010m as a result of businesses opting not to pay for these services (particularly in the hospitality and restaurant business where 50% of our Primary Authorities are focused).

X BSD: St Marks House Rent Review

The St Marks House rent review has now been agreed following a consultation with the Landlord.

Y CSD: EH&SC Living Allowances

In response to COVID-19, the government increased Universal Credit payments. This requires an increase in Living Allowance for LAC and Care Leavers, to bring them in line with Statutory Sick Pay. The impact is the on-going increase in future years, further to those reported/ required in 20/21.

Z CSD: EH&SC LAC Placement Costs

As a direct consequence of the COVID-19 lockdown, further to what has been reported for 20/21 via the COVID-19 finance log, there has been an increase in the future year costs forecast for LAC. This is over and above what would normally be expected through the detailed LAC modelling and forecasting which assumes a certain level of growth and “churn” based on historic trends.

Essentially although overall LAC numbers have remained broadly stable, children that are coming into the system or who are moving around within it, are going into placements that are ‘higher tariff’ and hence more expensive. For example, children who would previously have been placed within a foster placement have had to go to a more expensive residential placement because no foster placements either in house or in agency are available. Children who were previously on the edge of care with packages to support them, have moved into the care system because of the additional pressure on families.

AA CSD: Child Protection Plans

We have seen a 23% increase in the number of child protection (CP) plans during the Covid pandemic. Our own predictive modelling (and that of the DfE) suggests we are likely to see a 20% surge in demand for children’s social care once schools return. However, as schools return and visiting families resumes, we would also hope to be able to cease a number of CP plans. At this stage it is not possible to predict with any degree of accuracy how many more plans will be started and how many plans we will be able to cease. We propose to review the data at the beginning of October, which should enable us to produce a more accurate assessment of whether a pressure is likely to arise.

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AB CSD: No recourse to public funds and Intentionally Homeless

It is presently unclear in future years whether and at what value additional costs will be incurred. However, pressures do appear likely around additional financial support for:

- i) Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF); and
- ii) Families who have been assessed as Intentionally Homeless by the D&Bs and who then present to CSD for support with rent in the private sector.

AC CSD: Home to School Transport

New Covid-Safe transport guidelines have been implemented for pupils returning to school. CET is in the process of calculating the additional costs and whether the new grant given to the County Council will cover the additional costs for the Autumn term. It is not clear whether the grant will continue for the rest of the financial year or for 2021/22 if Covid-Safe transport is still required.

AD ASC: Future Demand Modelling offset by Attrition

Additional independent sector packages of care due to volumes of hospital discharges between 19th March 2020 and 31st August 2020. As no assessments have been undertaken it is unclear how many of the existing clients will be eligible for ongoing LA funded packages of care and placements. Some will be eligible for CHC or will be self-funders. However, it is impossible to accurately predict until assessments start to ramp up.

It is estimated that this will be 60% of current clients but a more accurate figure is unlikely to be available until at least December. The figures quoted in this bid equal the ongoing cost of funding these clients less the usual budget for comparable activity in the period. Future reductions in cost are due to attrition, and further mitigation is provided by additional attrition due to excess mortality.

AE CSD: EH&SC Lansdowne income loss

Works on the building expansion of Lansdowne Secure Children's Home have been delayed due to COVID-19, resulting in a loss of income. Completion of the works and full re-opening is now likely during 2021/22. The allocation will be paid back in 2023/24.

AF Business Rates and Council Tax

LGFutures have been commissioned to carry out work to refine these figures for consistency and reasonableness. The £7.499m currently estimated by District and Boroughs to be the collection fund deficit is shown as spread over 3 years per the Government announcement that was made on 2 July, that fund deficits arising in 2020/21, could be spread over the next 3 years rather than the usual one year. More detail on how this will work and the authority to do this will be announced at the Spending Review in the Autumn.

AG ASC Mitigations

ASC have found budget reductions through S117 Additional Income and a Supporting People contract reduction which is re-commissioned from April 2021.

Potential Investment Areas: The following items are new areas of investment within the Council's Core Offer. Members are asked to consider whether to support them going forwards:

AH CET: Additional Team East Sussex (TES) support

An Economy Recovery Plan has been developed in response to the devastating effects of the pandemic on the local economy. In order for the department to be able deliver the plan to meet its key objectives, the EDSCI Service will require additional (part-time) resource.

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AI Work on the pan Sussex tourism brand with WSCC

Identified with West Sussex County Council is the need to collaborate together to jointly create a pan Sussex tourism brand. This will require a defined and resourced programme of work to enable the Tourism Sector ecosystem to continue to be a major economic driver for Sussex, whilst supporting a quality of life that residents and businesses expect from living and working in Sussex.

AJ ASC: Voluntary Sector / Community Hubs / Shielded Group

A multi-agency partnership worked to ensure no one in East Sussex was left on their own to cope with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic from March to August 2020, through a range of services and interventions to vulnerable and extremely vulnerable people.

It is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted pre-existing pressures and vulnerabilities and that recent events have further exposed or exacerbated those difficulties. There is a general acceptance of a need to develop a longer-term approach to collectively address these problems, and that building on the ethos and model of Community Hubs provides a mechanism to achieve this.

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Appendix 5 – Normal Updates to the MTFP

Medium Term Financial Plan	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Approved Budget	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£million	£million	£million	£million
TAXATION & GOVERNMENT FUNDING		(403.437)	(405.678)	(419.715)
Business Rates (Inclusive of BR Pooling in 20/21)	(82.023)	0.639	(1.645)	(1.823)
Revenue Support Grant	(3.548)	0.903	1.437	1.601
Council Tax	(296.698)	(4.298)	(7.967)	(8.673)
Adult Social Care Precept	(5.771)			
New Homes Bonus	(0.767)	0.515	0.138	0.114
Social Care Grant	(14.630)			
TOTAL TAXATION & GOVERNMENT FUNDING	(403.437)	(405.678)	(413.715)	(422.496)
SERVICE PLAN				
Service Expenditure	359.787	365.210	383.785	396.215
Investment of unallocated funding – Revenue	2.453	(0.746)	(1.707)	
Inflation				
Pay Award	3.415	2.754	2.548	2.438
Contractual inflation (contract specific)	0.658	0.841	0.839	2.252
Normal inflation for contracts	9.182	8.143	8.703	7.435
Adult Social Care				
Growth & Demography	3.840	3.413	3.917	4.063
Future demand modelling net of attrition (Covid-related) Appendix 4 (AD)		1.133	(0.365)	(0.132)
Proposed updates Appendix 4 (AG)		(0.743)		
Winter Pressures	2.586	(2.586)		
Improved Better Care Fund	(21.137)			
Children's Services				
Dedicated Schools Grant	1.778	0.422		
Growth & Demography	1.555	1.070	2.635	0.993
Looked After Children	5.015	1.909		
Disabled Access Regulations for Buses/Coaches	0.012	0.043	0.098	
Residential Homes - staffing	0.549			
Looked After Children Placements (Covid-related) Appendix 4 (Z)		3.429	(0.795)	(0.789)
Proposed updates Appendix 4 (Y & AA – AC & AE)		0.184	(0.124)	(0.124)
SEND High Needs Block Additional funding	(1.276)	(0.814)	(2.138)	
Communities, Environment & Transport				
Waste Housing Growth	0.108	0.236	0.238	0.198
Street lighting Electricity/Re-payment of Investment	(0.195)	(0.655)		
Climate Change Officer	0.055			
Proposed updates Appendix 4 (U – W)		0.262	0.014	0.015
Business Services				
IT & Digital Licences	0.123	0.025		
IT & Digital Data Centre	0.093			
Apprenticeship Team	0.117			
Proposed updates Appendix 4 (T & X)		0.110	0.004	0.005

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Medium Term Financial Plan	2020/21 Approved Budget £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million
Governance Services				
Coroners - post mortems / pathology	0.033			
Potential Investments Areas				
Potential Investment Areas Appendix 4 (AH – AJ)		0.980	0.025	(0.055)
Savings				
Savings 2020/21 - 2021/22	(4.227)	(2.953)		
Temporary mitigations to savings	0.686	(0.198)	(0.388)	(0.100)
Savings Slippage Appendix 4 (S)		2.316	(1.074)	(1.242)
NET SERVICE EXPENDITURE	365.210	383.785	396.215	411.172
Corporate Expenditure		38.227	33.441	34.206
Treasury Management	18.238	0.471	0.221	
Treasury Management Capital Programme			1.000	1.000
Funding Capital Programme - base contribution				
Funding Capital Programme - New Homes Bonus	0.767	(0.515)	(0.138)	(0.114)
Investment of unallocated funding – Capital	1.242	(1.242)		
General Contingency	3.850	0.020	0.070	0.080
Contribution to balances and reserves	2.786	(2.138)		
Pensions	9.823	(1.400)	(0.400)	
Apprenticeship Levy	0.600			
Levies & Grants	0.921	0.018	0.012	0.012
TOTAL CORPORATE EXPENDITURE	38.227	33.441	34.206	35.184
TOTAL PLANNED EXPENDITURE	403.437	417.226	430.421	446.356
CUMULATIVE DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	0.000	11.548	16.706	23.860
ANNUAL DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	0.000	11.548	5.158	7.154

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East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24

APPENDIX 6

Department	Targets					Deliverability					Movement				
	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Total £'000	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Total £'000	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	Total £'000
Communities, Economy & Transport	1,362	629	388	100	2,479	323	594	1,462	100	2,479	(1,039)	(35)	1,074	0	0
Children's Services	770	1,835	0	0	2,605	536	2,069	0	0	2,605	(234)	234	0	0	0
Adult Social Care	248	0	0	0	248	248	0	0	0	248	0	0	0	0	0
Business Services / Orbis	1,161	787	0	0	1,948	570	136	0	1,242	1,948	(591)	(651)	0	1,242	0
Total Departments	3,541	3,251	388	100	7,280	1,677	2,799	1,462	1,342	7,280	(1,864)	(452)	1,074	1,242	0
<i>Impact on MTFP</i>											-	(2,316)	1,074	1,242	0

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Communities, Economy & Transport

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24		Savings Targets					Update: deliverability of savings					Movt				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Community Services																
Archives and Records Service	The Keep Sustainability Plan has been agreed and is a three-part savings and income plan to ensure the financial sustainability of The Keep. It would ensure that the partners still deliver our statutory and legal duties, and maintain a good degree of public access.. [2nd year of savings]	74	104			178	60	104	14		178	(14)	0	14	0	0
Road Safety Services	Reduced road safety education and no engagement with Community Safety Partnerships or Joint Action Groups. [2nd year of savings]	33				33	33			33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library Services	We will keep our Needs Assessment and Accessibility Analysis under review, and as a result we may in future provide a reduced library service.		240	288		528		240	288	528	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trading Standards	Carry out food sampling and food inspection only where the risk is high; carry out reactive animal health disease control and take enforcement action where necessary. There will be a reduction in our preventative and support work, to business, to people vulnerable to scams and the reduction in routine inspection may increase public health risks. NB: there is also a target of £100k for 2023/24			100	100	200			100	100	200	0	0	0	0	0
Transport																
Parking: Civil Parking Enforcement	Increase on-street parking charges where possible. Surpluses to be used for transport related funding. [2nd year of savings]	1,000				1,000			1,000	1,000	(1,000)	0	1,000	0	0	0
Transport Hub Services	Reduced staffing capacity may result in a reduction in the overall level of service in the Transport Hub. This may mean answering public queries and our ability to resolve problems with bus operators and transport providers will be slower. This could increase public dissatisfaction and complaints to the Council.	30				30	30			30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concessionary Fares	Generated from negotiations with Stagecoach on our fixed reimbursement contract arrangement.	70				70	70			70	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Communities, Economy & Transport

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24		Savings Targets					Update: deliverability of savings					Movt				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Rights of Way Services	We will provide a reduced footpath clearance focused on those priority / popular routes resulting in a deterioration in the condition of other paths. Staff reductions may also lead to delays and longer timescales for dealing with requests for Definitive Map modifications and requests for footpath diversions which may result in an increase in public dissatisfaction and complaints to the Council.	100					100				0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste Disposal																
Household Waste Disposal	Ongoing review of commercial saving opportunities, with possible reductions in the number of HWRSs		250					250			0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning and Environment																
Environmental Advice Services	Income generation through traded services. [2nd year of savings]	25	35					60			(25)	(35)	60	0	0	0
Ashdown Forest	Reduce financial support to conservators where possible. [2nd year of savings]	30					30			0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Communities, Economy & Transport		1,362	629	388	100	2,479	323	594	1,462	100	2,479	(1,039)	(35)	1,074	0	0

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Children's Services

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24		Savings Targets					Update: deliverability of savings					Movt				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Support to schools and pupils																
SLES: Performance monitoring	Reduce staffing and management capacity for performance monitoring across maintained and academy schools, only light touch monitoring where risk of serious failure has been brought to attention of LA. This could reduce the proportion of good or outstanding schools. [2nd year of savings]	410				410	410					0	0	0	0	0
I-Send: EHCP Assessment Services	Reduced staffing capacity may mean the process for completing statutory assessments will be slower. This could increase parental dissatisfaction and complaints to the Council and LGO and reduce the proportion of annual reviews we attend.	188				188	0	188				(188)	188	0	0	0
I-Send: Inclusion Services	From 2020/21 statutory duties in relation to attendance will be met wholly through DSG. This will reduce the number of families we work with to improve attendance and may lead to an increase in pupil absence from schools.	19				19	19					0	0	0	0	0
Early Years: Inclusion Services	No support to schools and early years providers to promote inclusion and share best practice. This may increase the proportion of pupils who are referred for statutory assessment, it may increase the proportion of pupils with EHCPs. We will need to continue to monitor the long term spend in SEN budget as the decisions made could have an impact throughout pupils' education.	85				85	85					0	0	0	0	0
Children's Social Care																
Safeguarding Services	The ACT service, an assertive outreach service for young people aged 16-24 who are at risk of or being exploited criminally; the problem solving team which supports the Family Drug and Alcohol Court; and Video Interactive Guidance which helps parents who are already in difficulty learn how to respond better to their children will continue alongside existing activity levels for families who are going through court proceedings and the Foundations Project which works with families who have already had children removed from their care. The deferment of savings in 2020/21 means the Family Group Conferences/family meetings when children are subject to child protection plans will continue and be expanded, subject to the budget being agreed. These services will be reduced if savings are made in later years.		854			854		854				0	0	0	0	0

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Children's Services

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24		Savings Targets					Update: deliverability of savings					Movt				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Early Help	Following Lead Member decisions and remodelling the Early Help Service, there will be a reduction in the family key work service, which has been deferred until 2021/22. Savings will be generated in 2020/21 as a result of ceasing to run services from 10 children's centres.	68	981			1,049	22	1,027			1,049	(46)	46	0	0	0
TOTAL Children's Services		770	1,835	0	0	2,605	536	2,069	0	0	2,605	(234)	234	0	0	0

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Adult Social Care

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24		Savings Targets					Update: deliverability of savings					Movt				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Working Age Adults: Nursing, Residential and Community Based services	Review care packages to ensure these are focused on those with Care Act eligible needs and deliver support in the most cost effective way. The average spend on Working Age Adults is significantly higher in East Sussex than in other south east councils. The intention is to deliver an overall level of support which is fair, reflects need and achieves a level of spend comparable to other councils. Any decisions to change care arrangements will be dependent on reviews that take account of a clients individual circumstances. Some clients may however have their support reduced or removed. [2nd year of savings]	248					248									
TOTAL Adult Social Care		248	0	0	0	0	248	0								

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Business Services / Orbis

East Sussex County Council - Savings 2020/21 to 2023/24		Savings Targets					Update: deliverability of savings					Movt				
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Activity	Savings Proposal and impact Assessment	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Business Services: Orbis and Managed on Behalf of (MOBO) services: Finance, IT&D, Procurement, Property Services, HR and OD and Business Operations	The Advisory and Change areas of support are being analysed and presented to the 3 partner Councils to determine which elements need to form part of the Core Offer as they are essential in supporting the partners deliver their priorities, and which elements will no longer be provided. The aim would be to reduce spending as set out in this table although the details of how this might be achieved is still being developed.	1,161	787			1,948	570	136		1,242	1,948	(591)	(651)		1,242	0
TOTAL Business Services / Orbis		1,161	787	0	0	1,948	570	136	0	1,242	1,948	(591)	(651)	0	1,242	0

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APPENDIX 7 – Capital Programme Update

1.1 Table 1 below summarises the movements to the approved capital programme since State of the County in July 2020. Noting that the first 3 years of the programme, to 2022/23, are approved, this years' RPPR process will add 2023/24. Whilst the remaining years to 2029/30 are indicative to represent the longer term planning for capital investment. The impact of COVID-19 on the programme will be reported as slippage and/or under/overspend as part of the capital monitoring process until its reset at Q2 as part of the normal RPPR process.

Table 1 – Capital Programme (gross) movements

Capital Programme (gross) movements (£m)	MTFP Programme + 1				Future Years	Total
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/30	
Approved programme at July 2020	96.889	69.391	59.285	51.688	293.076	570.329
Approved Variations	0.535	1.850				2.385
Strategic Investment		0.132				0.132
Total Programme	97.424	71.373	59.285	51.688	293.076	572.846

1.2 The **approved variations** to the programme relate to fully funded schemes totalling £2.385m (the profiling of which is currently under review) as follows:

- **Emergency Active Travel Fund:** The council has been awarded £0.535m Tranche 1 funding in 2020/21 from the DfT Emergency Active Travel Fund to support the installation of cycling and walking facilities following the Covid-19 pandemic. Further funding allocations have been announced as part of Tranche 2 of the fund, approval of which to include in the capital programme will be through the variation process.
- **Schools Capital Allocation Grant:** The council has been awarded an additional £1.850m Schools Capital Allocation grant, in addition to funding already allocated, towards building condition improvements. This has been profiled to reflect the projected programme of works.

1.3 Additionally, it has been agreed that **strategic investment** of £0.132m be made in utilising automation to support the Core Offer. The RPPR process in 2022/23 (next year) will look to confirm the impact of the investment and any savings that will be embedded.

1.4 This increases the gross programme to £572.846m The detailed approved capital programme is attached at Annex 1

1.5 At Q1 there were a number of overspends relating to the pandemic reported amounting to £1.762m. Should mitigations within programmes not be forthcoming or other funding be made available from Government, then there are two options for funding. They could either be absorbed within the current programme, at the risk of not meeting the basic need targets set. Or, as reported at February 2020, a capital risk provision of £7.5m is held. This is a permission to borrow for emerging risks and is managed through ensuring Treasury Management capacity rather than representing funds that are within the council's accounts. If utilised to fund Covid overspend it would, therefore, require additional borrowing.

APPENDIX A

1.6 Ahead of further announcements and decisions there is no material updates to the overall funding position. Work will continue as part of the RPPR process to review and update estimates of CIL/Section 106 income, capital receipts and updates to formula grants following government announcements, as well to reflect the capital programme refresh as part of the Quarter 2/2.5 monitoring process and normal reset.

APPENDIX A

Annex 1

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 to 2029/30 (£'000)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/30	Total
Adult Social Care						
Older People's/LD Service Improvements	50	50	50			150
Greenacres	264					264
Adult Social Care Gross	314	50	50			414
Business Services						
SALIX Contract	440	350	350	350	2,100	3,590
Property Agile Works	374					374
Lansdowne Secure Unit - Phase 2	1,457	96				1,553
Special Educational Needs		800	1,600	800		3,200
Special Provision in Secondary Schools	2,379	60				2,439
Disability Children's Homes	242					242
Westfield Lane (delivered on behalf of CSD)	1,200					1,200
Core Programme - Schools Basic Need	13,308	19,688	12,002	6,650	37,225	88,873
Core Programme - Capital Building Improvements	9,214	9,833	7,982	7,982	47,891	82,902
Core Programme - IT & Digital Strategy Implementation	4,634	4,251	11,580	8,978	33,998	63,441
IT & Digital Strategy Implementation (utilising automation)		132				132
Business Services Gross	33,248	35,210	33,514	24,760	121,214	247,946
Children's Services						
House Adaptations for Disabled Children's Carers Homes	104	50	50			204
Diploma Exemplar Programme						
Schools Delegated Capital	791	760	729			2,280
Conquest Centre redevelopment	83					83
Children's Services Gross	978	810	779			2,567
Communities, Economy & Transport						
Registration Ceremonies Website						
Hastings Library						
Southover Grange						
Broadband	4,279	3,276	3,277			10,832
Bexhill and Hastings Link Road	1,652	643	252			2,547
BHLR Complementary Measures	219					219
Economic Growth & Strategic Infrastructure Programme						
Economic Intervention Fund - Grants	542	460	599	407	492	2,500
Economic Intervention Fund - Loans	500	500	500	500	1,000	3,000
Stalled Sites	152	150	47			349
EDS Upgrading Empty Commercial Properties	7					7
EDS Incubation Units						

APPENDIX A

LGF Business Case Development						
Integrated Transport						
Community Match Fund	769	307	250			1,326
Terminus Road Improvements						
Newhaven Port Access Road	4,054	170	20	20	21	4,285
Real Time Passenger Information	284		44	60	61	449
Parking Ticket Machine Renewal	291					291
Queensway Depot Development (Formerly Eastern)	1,153					1,153
Hailsham HWRS	97					97
The Keep	24	73	49	96	849	1,091
Other Integrated Transport Schemes	3,235	3,152	2,969	3,069	18,114	30,539
Emergency Active Travel Fund - Tranche 1	535					535
Core Programme - Libraries Basic Need	670	262	619	449	2,694	4,694
Core Programme - Highways Structural Maintenance	18,404	17,850	12,946	18,644	124,215	192,059
Dropped Kerbs	1,000					1,000
Core Programme - Bridge Assessment Strengthening	1,267	1,285	1,260	1,626	10,834	16,272
Core Programme - Street Lighting and Traffic Signals - life expired equipment	1,331	1,712	1,545	1,592	10,587	16,767
Street Lighting and Traffic Signals - SALIX scheme	935	1,869				2,804
Core Programme - Rights of Way Surface Repairs and Bridge Replacement Programme	596	565	565	465	2,995	5,186
LEP/SELEP schemes - delivery not controlled by ESCC						0
Eastbourne Town Centre Phase 2	3,014					3,014
Bexhill Enterprise Park North	1,940					1,940
Exceat Bridge Replacement (Formerly Maintenance)	1,500	1,651				3,151
East Sussex Strategic Growth Package						0
Eastbourne/South Wealden Walking & Cycling Package	2,988	363				3,351
Hailsham/Polegate/Eastbourne Movement & Access Corridor	1,203	206				1,409
Hastings and Bexhill Movement & Access Package	6,169	309				6,478
Queensway Gateway Road	504					504
Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub	435					435
Skills for Rural Businesses Post-Brexit	2,189	500				2,689
Bexhill Creative Workspace	946					946
LEP/SELEP schemes sub total	20,888	3,029				23,917
Communities, Economy & Transport Gross	62,884	35,303	24,942	26,928	171,862	321,919
Total Gross	97,424	71,373	59,285	51,688	293,076	572,846

Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	19 November 2020
By:	Assistant Chief Executive
Title:	People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Purpose:	To review and agree items for the People Scrutiny Committee's future work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) review and agree agenda items for future Committee meetings, including items listed in the work programme set out at Appendix 1;**
 - 2) agree topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the Committee's future work programme; and**
 - 3) review upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's Forward Plan as set out at Appendix 2 and to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.**
-

1 Background

1.1 The work programme is an important tool in ensuring the correct focus and best use of the Committee's time in scrutinising topics that are of importance to the residents of East Sussex, and the efficient and effective working of the Council. It also provides clarity for those who may be requested to give evidence to the Committee on the issues under review, and the questions the Committee requires answers to.

1.2 Discussion of the work programme provides the Committee with the opportunity to consider topics that it may be of value to scrutinise, and to decide whether further scoping work is required. This provides a basis for deciding the best way of scrutinising a topic, the timescale, and who from the Committee will be involved in carrying out the review work. If there are a number of potential topics for review, Members can determine the priority of the work within the resources available to the Committee.

2 Supporting information

Work programme and future scrutiny reviews

2.1 The Committee is asked to review and agree any amendments to the items set out in its work programme (attached at Appendix 1). This includes reviewing and agreeing the Committee's future agenda items, its list of potential future Scrutiny Reviews, the work of its Reference Groups and the subject matter for any reports for information.

2.2 When considering potential topics for inclusion in the work programme, the Committee is asked to consider a range of questions. These include:

- Is the topic relevant to the Council's Corporate Priorities?
- Is the issue of concern or of relevance to East Sussex residents?
- Can Scrutiny have an impact and add value by scrutinising this issue, service or policy?
- Is the issue one that the Committee can realistically influence?
- Are the resources needed to undertake the review available?

2.3 Any suggestions for potential Scrutiny Review topics should be discussed with the Chair, or the relevant Senior Democratic Services Adviser, in advance of the Committee meetings.

Forward Plan

2.4 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 November 2020 to 28 February 2021 is included at Appendix 2. The Committee is requested to review the forthcoming items on the Forward Plan to identify any issues within the remit of this Committee that may require more detailed scrutiny. The Forward Plan is revised and published on a monthly basis and Committee members should regularly review the Forward Plan.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 An important part of managing the work of the People Scrutiny Committee is to have an agreed future work programme. This involves the Committee assessing its priorities, ensuring its ongoing reviews are completed in a timely fashion and identifying new areas for scrutiny.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Stuart McKeown, Senior Democratic Services Adviser

Tel. No. 01273 481583

Email: stuart.mckeown@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

People Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Current Scrutiny Reviews		
Title of Review	Detail	Proposed Completion Date
School Exclusions	<p>The Committee agreed in March 2020 to undertake a Scrutiny Review of issues related to school exclusions. The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference proposed by the Scoping Board and appointed a Review Board to undertake the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Review Board: Cllrs Field, Liddiard, Loe and Mr Matthew Jones (Parent Governor Representative) (Chair) and Mrs Nicola Boulter (Parent Governor Representative). • In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the availability of schools to contribute to further work on this review, it has been paused with the intention to recommence it at a suitable future date 	<p>Review currently on hold due to pressures arising from COVID-19</p> <p>Capacity to restart to be reviewed November 2020</p>
Initial Scoping Reviews		
Subject area for initial scoping	Detail	Proposed Dates
Loneliness/resilience	<p>The Committee agreed in November 2019 to conduct an initial scoping exercise into issues relating to how the Council can incorporate addressing loneliness into its existing work, particularly the community resilience workstream. A briefing on the implications of the national Loneliness Strategy was circulated to the committee in April 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Initial Scoping Board: Cllrs Clark, Galley, Ungar and Whetstone. The Committee agreed Councillor Ungar would act as Chair for the scoping exercise. • The Scoping Board will consider the subject of loneliness and resilience for both older people and children and young people. • In light of the impact of COVID-19 on the Public Health Team's ability to support the review, the Committee agreed to defer meeting until January 2021. 	<p>Scoping meeting to be arranged for January 2021.</p>

Suggested Potential Future Scrutiny Review Topics

Suggested Topic	Detail
Developing Care Markets/Bedded Care Strategy	Following an initial scoping exercise of issues relating to the developing care market and the Council's bedded care strategy, the Committee agreed on 14 November 2019 to postpone further scrutiny activity on this area for 18 months (to mid-2021). This will allow the Adult Social Care department to continue to develop its workstreams in relation to this area of work.
Elective Home Education	The Committee has noted issues relating to an increase in the numbers of children being home educated and that home education could increase further in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee was informed that a relevant Private Member's Bill has not yet completed its progress through Parliament. The expectation is that national guidance will follow in due course (although there is not a clear date for this). The Committee therefore agreed to revisit this subject once the Government has published its guidance.
COVID-19 response and implications	<p>A range of topics related to COVID-19 have been suggested for future scrutiny by Committee Members, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health role – e.g. planning, resources, working with others. • The work of care staff during the pandemic and impact on recruitment and retention, including use of agency staff and experiences of BAME care workers. • Support to care homes, including health service input. • The experience of carers during the pandemic. • The impact of Covid-19 on Departments and the services they provide. <p>The Committee will consider whether to undertake work on these topics at the appropriate time when capacity allows.</p>

Scrutiny Reference Groups

Reference Group Title	Subject area	Meeting Dates
Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) Reference Group	<p>The Committee agreed to establish a Reference Group to monitor progress of the East Sussex Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HASCIP) and identify areas for future scrutiny. It will review HASCIP progress reports provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and meet on an ad hoc basis as required to consider issues arising in more detail.</p> <p>The Reference Group last met on 28 October 2020.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>Relevant Health and Wellbeing Board reports to be circulated to</p>

	Membership of the group: Cllrs Ungar (lead), Davies, Webb, Ensor and Clark.	the group as they become available
Strategic Commissioning Review of Early Help Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>The purpose of this Reference Group is to provide scrutiny input into the Children's Services Department review of Early Help services.</p> <p>It was agreed by the Committee on 25 June 2018 that following Members would sit on this group: Cllrs Davies, Galley, Field and Whetstone.</p> <p>The Reference Group requested an opportunity to review progress with the implementation of the revised Early Help strategy in spring 2021, but as some changes were postponed this may be subject to review.</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Further meeting TBC if appropriate</p>
Educational Attainment and Performance Scrutiny Reference Group	<p>Reference Group established in light of discontinuation of the Education Performance Panel. It was agreed by the Committee on 25 June 2018 that this group would meet once per annum to review data on educational attainment in East Sussex and related issues.</p> <p>The disruption to school exams and attendance caused by the pandemic means that relevant performance figures will not be available in January 2021 as planned. With that in mind, the Committee welcomed the Director of Children's Services offer of a briefing session on the work being undertaken by the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) to help prepare for the anticipated exams that will take place in summer 2021.</p> <p>Membership: Cllrs Davies, Field, Galley and Cllr Whetstone and Matthew Jones and Nicola Boulter (Parent Governor Representatives).</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>8 February 2021</p>
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)	RPPR Board meeting to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of the scrutiny committee.	Next meeting: 17 December 2020
Reports for Information		
Subject Area	Detail	Proposed Date
Schools Coping with Change Scrutiny Review	Final brief update on issues covered by the Review to be requested for circulation by email.	Late 2020
Scrutiny Review of the Changing Care Market: Information and Signposting	Confirmation to be requested by email that the planned changes to the website, recommended by the Review Board, have been made.	Late 2020
Scrutiny Review of the Changing Care Market: Adult social care workforce	Update to be requested by email in relation to the Review Board's recommendations where possible, including the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on recruitment and retention.	Late 2020

Training and Development		
Title of Training/Briefing	Detail	Proposed Date
Briefing on ASC Green Paper	To gain a better understanding of the potential implications of the Government's Green Paper/Adult Social Care reforms once published.	Dependent on publication by Government
Future Committee Agenda Items		Author
11 March 2021		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2021/22	To provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its input into the RPPR process for 2021/22.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP) - Annual Report	Presentation of the annual report of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership.	Independent Chair, East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report	To update the Committee on the work of SACRE, with the report to include a further update on secondary school performance in relation to the requirements of the National Curriculum and Religious Education.	Roy Galley, Chairman of SACRE / Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services
Scrutiny Review of the Changing Care Market: Adult social care workforce	Proposed date for 12-month monitoring report on progress with the Review's recommendations.	Keith Hinkley, Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Scrutiny Review of Support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	12-month monitoring report on progress with the Scrutiny Review's recommendations.	Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Democratic Services Adviser

17 June 2021		
Annual Review of Safer Communities Performance, Priorities and Issues	To update the Committee on performance in relation to Safer Communities in 2020/21 and the priorities and issues for 2021/22 that will be highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan.	Tom Hook, Assistant Director - Planning, Performance and Engagement
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Democratic Services Adviser
16 September 2021		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2022/23	The Committee will begin the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2021/22 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Democratic Services Adviser
Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report	The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report outlines the safeguarding activity and performance in East Sussex during the previous financial year, as well as some of the main developments in place to prevent abuse from occurring.	Chair, Safeguarding Adults Board
18 November 2021		
Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2022/23	The Committee will continue the process of examining the Departmental Portfolio Plans and budget for the 2022/23 financial year.	Becky Shaw, Chief Executive
Committee Work Programme	To manage the committee's programme of work including matters relating to ongoing reviews, initial scoping reviews, future scrutiny topics, reference groups, training and development matters and reports for information.	Senior Democratic Services Adviser

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EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

The Leader of the County Council is required to publish a forward plan setting out matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a key decision by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet member in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent four months). The Council's Constitution states that a key decision is one that involves

- (a) expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the County Council's budget, namely above £500,000 per annum; or
- (b) is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions.

As a matter of good practice, the Council's Forward Plan includes other items in addition to key decisions that are to be considered by the Cabinet/individual members. This additional information is provided to inform local residents of all matters to be considered, with the exception of issues which are dealt with under the urgency provisions.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

- Page 67
- the name of the individual or body that is to make the decision and the date of the meeting
 - the title of the report and decision to be considered
 - groups that will be consulted prior to the decision being taken
 - a list of other appropriate documents
 - the name and telephone number of the contact officer for each item.

The Plan is updated and published every month on the Council's website two weeks before the start of the period to be covered.

Meetings of the Cabinet/individual members are open to the public (with the exception of discussion regarding reports which contain exempt/confidential information). Copies of agenda and reports for meetings are available on the website in advance of meetings. For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact Andy Cottell at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, or telephone 01273 481955 or send an e-mail to andy.cottell@eastsussex.gov.uk.

For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet/individual member please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned.

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE

For copies of reports or other documents please contact the officer listed on the Plan or phone 01273 335274.

FORWARD PLAN – EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (including Key Decisions) –1 November 2020 TO 28 February 2021

Additional notices in relation to Key Decisions and/or private decisions are available on the [Council's website](#).

Cabinet membership:

Councillor Keith Glazier - Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

Councillor Nick Bennett – Lead Member for Resources

Councillor Bill Bentley – Lead Member for Communities and Safety

Councillor Rupert Simmons – Lead Member for Economy

Councillor Claire Dowling – Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Councillor Carl Maynard – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Sylvia Tidy – Lead Member for Children and Families

Councillor Bob Standley – Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

Date for Decision	Decision Taker	Decision/Key Issue	Decision to be taken wholly or partly in private (P) or Key Decision (KD)	Consultation	List of Documents to be submitted to decision maker	Contact Officer
2 Nov 2020	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	Newington Court Agreement is being sought from the Lead Member to commence a consultation on the way care is delivered at Newington Court Extra Care scheme in Ticehurst		Local Members	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Angela Yphantides 01273 336599
2 Nov 2020	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Notice of Motion calling on Her Majesty's Government to publish its White Paper on the reform and future of Adult Social Care.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Keith Hinkley 01273 481288

		To consider a response to a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor John Ungar and seconded by Councillor David Tutt in relation to the Adult Social Care White Paper.				
10 Nov 2020	Cabinet	Coronavirus Update To update on the measures the Council has taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic and the next steps			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 01273 335517
10 Nov 2020	Cabinet	Scrutiny Review of Road Markings To consider the report on the Scrutiny Review of Road Markings undertaken by the Place Scrutiny Committee.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Martin Jenks 01273 481327
16 Nov 2020	Lead Member for Economy	Growth Hub Services To assess the progress and effectiveness of Growth Hub services delivered by East Sussex County Council and to determine future delivery			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ioni Sullivan 01273 482701
17 Nov 2020	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Well Managed Highway Code of Practice update: Highway Maintenance and Consideration of Character To consider a proposal for a new policy regarding the approach to the choice of materials used in the management of highway assets including those of particular conservation and historical interest			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Stephanie Everest 01273 482644
23 Nov 2020	Lead Member for Education and	East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020	KD		Report, other documents may	Jane Spice

	Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	To seek Lead Member approval to publish the East Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020.			also be submitted	01323 747425
24 Nov 2020	Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development	Getting Building Fund - updated Service Level Agreement with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) To approve East Sussex County Council (ESCC) entering into an updated Service Level Agreement with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP Ltd) and Essex County Council as the accountable body to SELEP in order to deliver the government's Getting Building Fund (GBF).			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Dave Evans 01273 335706
8 Dec 2020	Cabinet	Council Monitoring: Quarter 2 2020/21 To consider the Council Monitoring report for the second quarter of the financial year 2020/21 as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) budget monitoring process.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Stuart Russell 01273 336361
8 Dec 2020	Cabinet	East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan (ERP) Cabinet is asked to consider and endorse the plan that the County Council and partners will implement to help the East Sussex economy recover from the COVID-19 impacts.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Richard Dawson 01273 482305
8 Dec 2020	Cabinet	Looked After Children Annual Report 2019-20 To consider the annual progress report of		Corporate Parenting Panel	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Liz Rugg 01273 481274

		Looked After Children's Services 2019-20				
8 Dec 2020	Cabinet	Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 and mid-year report 2020/21 To consider a report on the review of Treasury Management performance for 2019/20 and the outturn for the first six months of 2020/21, including the economic factors affecting performance, the Prudential Indicators and compliance with the limits set within the Treasury Management Strategy.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
15 Dec 2020 Page 71	Leader and Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development	Local Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund allocations To agree and approve the Local Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund spend for 2019/20 and forecast for 2020/21			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Marwa Al-Qadi 01273 336439
17 Dec 2020	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	To Approve the ESCC Funding Formula for 2021/22 After consulting with ESCC Schools and Academies, approval is now being sought from Lead Member to change the ESCC Funding Formula factors for 2021/22.	KD	All ESCC Primary and Secondary Schools / Academies	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Beale 01273 337984
18 Jan 2021	Lead Member for Transport and Environment	Delegation of powers to declare a Local Nature Reserve - Ninfield To seek agreement to the delegation of power to Ninfield Parish Council to designate a Local Nature Reserve in their area			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Kate Cole 01273 481621

18 Jan 2021	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	To approve the DSG Budget for 2021/22. The DSG allocations are notified to the Local Authority in December and the DSG budget requires approval.			Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ed Beale 01273 337984
26 Jan 2021	Cabinet	Conservators of Ashdown Forest Budget 2021/22 To approve the draft Conservators of Ashdown Forest budget for the financial year 2021/22 and to consider the contribution from the Trust Fund.	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399
26 Jan 2021 Page 72	Cabinet	Highways Contract Re-Procurement Project To present the outcomes and recommendations from the Outline Business Case for the Highways Contract Re-procurement Project (HCRP) for review and approval by Cabinet.	P KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Phil McCorry 01273 335993
26 Jan 2021	Cabinet	Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) 2021/22: Draft Council Plan To consider the revenue budget, savings proposals, capital programme and draft Council Plan for 2021/22 (including Equality Impact Assessment, Engagement and Scrutiny feedback).	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Claire Lee 01273 335517
26 Jan 2021	Cabinet	Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 To approve the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2020/21. This	KD		Report, other documents may also be submitted	Ian Gutsell 01273 481399

		includes setting the Prudential Indicators as set out in the Prudential Code and approving the Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22.				
22 Feb 2021	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability	Admission arrangements for Community and Controlled schools in East Sussex 2022-23- determination The Lead Member will be asked to approve the final admission arrangements for Community and Controlled schools in East Sussex for 2022-23 academic year at the meeting in February 2021 as required by law.	<i>KD</i>	Consultees: Parents/carers and schools in East Sussex, neighbouring local authorities, diocese of Chichester, diocese of Arundel and Brighton.	Report, other documents may also be submitted	Jo Miles 01273 481911

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Report to:	People Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	19 November 2020
By:	Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Title:	Annual Review of Safer Communities Performance, Priorities and Issues
Purpose:	To update the Committee on performance in relation to safer communities in 2019/20 and priorities and issues highlighted in the Partnership Business Plan 2020 to 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To consider and comment on performance in 2019/20 and the priorities and issues identified for 2020/23**

 - (2) To consider if there are any specific issues that should be considered for inclusion in the Committee's future work programme**
-

1 Background Information

1.1 Over the last few years new challenges and new types of crime have surfaced. There has been a notable shift away from traditional crime types to new emerging threats such as cyber-crime, human trafficking, child exploitation and serious organised violence related to County Lines¹.

1.2 The County Council's priorities for community safety are informed by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership business planning process.

1.3 The Safer Communities Partnership has a three-year business planning cycle. In preparation for the next three-year plan research was undertaken by the Safer East Sussex Team (SEST) to inform the partnership priority setting process. The information was then shared with partners at a partnership development morning. Following agreement by the Board on the community safety priorities for the next three years, the SEST, in conjunction with partners, developed a more detailed plan; the draft of which is attached at **Appendix 1** of this report. This document sets the direction for partnership work over the next three years.

2 Headline Activity

2.1 Over the past three years there have been significant changes nationally in the way that performance information is viewed. Agencies have moved away from numerical targets and measures, focussing instead on broader outcomes over longer periods. This is reflected in the

¹ County Lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) with gangs using both vulnerable children and adults to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'.

Sussex Police and Crime Plan for 2017/21, and the Sussex Police Operational Delivery Plan 2019/20. The Safer Communities Partnership has also mirrored this trend and has developed a headline report, which monitors outcomes and activity as opposed to output targets.

2.2 On the 23rd March 2020 the UK went into lockdown, significantly changing the way people live, and the way in which criminals operate. Restrictions on people's movements caused dramatic changes in crime opportunities. Nationally, many crime types from shoplifting to burglary declined, while other crime types, including domestic violence and online crimes (from fraud to child sexual abuse) increased. As we ease out of lockdown, the nature of criminality will change once again, and it is a challenge to predict the impact that the lifting of restrictions will bring, and the further impact of a predicted second wave on society. Many of the crimes that will have occurred during the pandemic are harmful and hidden crimes that are under-reported, and there are many vulnerable groups of people needing support.

2.3 In the year to end March 2020 Sussex Police recorded a total of 38,116 offences on East Sussex compared to 34,761 the previous year, an increase of 9.7% (+3355 crimes)². This increase is mirrored within Sussex which has an increase of 8.8%, which breaks down to 8.3% for West Sussex and 8.9% for Brighton & Hove. Contacting the Police has become easier with the national Single Online Home project providing the opportunity to report more crimes and incidents on-line and investment in Sussex Police Force Contact, Command and Control Department dramatically reducing non-emergency call wait times.

2.4 East Sussex remains a comparatively safe place to live with a lower risk of crime than elsewhere in the country. With a rate of crime per 1000 population of 68.7, (Total Crime). It is similar to West Sussex (68.2), but less than Sussex as a whole (73.9) and the England & Wales rate of 88.9. Wealden in particular has a low rate at 43 crimes per 1000 population which when ranked against other local authority areas in the country placed in it the top 10 low risk areas. Lewes and Rother both have rates below the Sussex average at 57 and 64 respectively with Eastbourne and Hastings showing higher at 90 and 108 crimes per 1000 population likely influenced by their urban, coastal locations and their night-time economy attracting more visitors than their rural counterparts.

2.5 There was an increase in the majority of crime types² when compared to the previous year. The largest percentage increase was in Drugs offences at 24.5% (217 more crimes) which is driven by the increase in Drug Possessions (+30%) and can often be attributed to proactive policing targeting known hotspots and offenders. The category with the second highest increase is Violence against the person offences (+13.8%), followed by Theft offences (+11.5%) and Robbery (10.9%). The increase in Violence against the person offences is being driven by an increase in the Stalking and Harassment sub-category offences at +681 offences (+26%). This increase is similar the Sussex increase (+29%) and although higher than the national 12% increase the rate of crime is lower at 6 offences per 1000 population for East Sussex compared to 8.4 in England and Wales.

2.6 Recorded Domestic Abuse crimes in East Sussex increased 10.4% (+618 offences) for the year to end March 2020 for a total 6545 offences³. 79% (5191) of DA crimes fall within the Violence against the person category which showed a higher 12% increase (+556 crimes) against the previous year period. Stalking and Harassments offences significantly contribute to

² Office for National Statistics 'Police recorded crime Community Safety Partnership open data tables, from year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2020' & 'Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area (22 July 2020 revision)

³ Sussex Police Performance Unit – Crimes & Outcomes report

the increase with a 28.8% increase or 414 more offences. The increase in Domestic related Violence with injury offences was less at +7.5%. There were 2 Domestic related Homicides recorded on East Sussex in 2019/20, 1 less than the previous year.

2.7 Between April 2019 and March 2020, there were 1,051 high risk domestic violence and abuse cases discussed at the East Sussex Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs). This was an increase of 18% when compared to the previous year. Repeat referral rates accounted for 32% of all cases discussed in Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden and 30% of all cases discussed in Hastings and Rother. These are both within the Safe Lives recommended range of 28% to 40%. There was a total of 1,700 children associated with the MARAC cases recorded in the year up to the end of March 2020⁴.

2.8 Sussex Police recognise that Domestic Abuse and Stalking crimes often go unreported. The force regularly raises public awareness of these crimes for improved recognition of offences and increased public confidence to encourage reports to be made. This allows for Intervention, support and advice to be provided. As such increases in volume could be a result of increased confidence and awareness with more people coming forward to report offences.

2.9 The reported instances of modern slavery and human trafficking are increasing nationally each year and the reported instances in Sussex have followed this national trend. In 2019, there were 103 potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism by Sussex Police (39 Adult, 61 Child and 1 not recorded), and 2 NRM referrals from East Sussex County Council, both for a child under 17 years. This compares to a total of 48 potential victims referred to the NRM in 2018, an increase of (+115%). The significant rise is likely due to the increase in NRM referrals relating to County Lines. Referrals for minors accounted for 61% of all potential victims⁵.

Covid-19

2.10 The impact of lockdown on total crime in East Sussex is evident, as looking at the crimes recorded between 23 March to 30 June, total recorded crime was showing a decrease of 19.6% (-2033 crimes) when compared to the same dates in 2019^{Error! Bookmark not defined..}

2.11 The reduction in crime was seen in the majority of crime and incidents types reported in East Sussex particularly in Theft offences (-42%) which includes Shoplifting (-45%) and Burglary Residential offences (-36%). The main crime types showing an increase during this period were:

- Drug Possession at +86 crimes (+41.7%)
- Stalking and Harassment at +79 crimes (+8.4%)
- Public Order at +24 crimes (+2.5%)

2.12 In East Sussex, there was a notable increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) made to police. Between April 2020 and June 2020, there were 5,302 reports of ASB (+90.4%)⁶. 86% of reports were recorded as 'Nuisance' ASB⁷. The increase can largely be

⁴ Safe Lives MARAC data, April 2019 to March 2020

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-referral-mechanism-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2019>

⁶ Sussex Police Community Safety Partnership - by crime type, Report Period – July 2018 to June 2020

⁷ Ibid

attributed to breaching lockdown restrictions including social gatherings in parks and neighbourhood disputes, including ASB and lockdown breaches by some individuals in temporary accommodation who have been housed under emergency COVID-19 powers. Substance misuse services in East Sussex have been working with providers of temporary accommodation, neighbourhood policing teams and other partners to address this.

2.13 Between April 2020 and June 2020, there were 1,558 reports of Domestic Abuse crimes in East Sussex. During the lockdown period, referrals to the specialist domestic abuse service decreased significantly from the end of March but started to rise steadily from mid-April and from mid-June were above the weekly average seen compared to the same week in 2019. The local refuge provision for those wishing to flee a domestic abuse situation remained steady, with an average of 3 units available each week throughout lockdown. In contrast referrals made to MARAC for those at the highest risk in East Sussex increased on average by 10% from mid-April in comparison to the same period in 2019⁸.

3 Partnership Priorities April 2020 to March 2023

3.1 The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership undertakes a Strategic Assessment of Community Safety every three years with an annual refresh in order to select work streams and plan activity for the year ahead. In two-tier areas one document may be produced which encompasses all of the districts within that area.

3.2 Partners have agreed the following priority areas for the Business Plan 2020/23:

- Serious Organised Crime - Prevent and protect vulnerable adults, young people and our communities from being exploited by Serious and Organised criminals in relation to County Lines, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking, and Fraud Related Harm.
- Serious Violent Crime - Prevent and protect individuals from becoming victims of Serious Violent Crime, including Knife Crime.
- Domestic Violence & Abuse, Rape & Sexual Violence and Abuse, Stalking & Harassment and Harmful Practices - Prevent and protect individuals from the serious harm of Domestic Violence & Abuse, Rape & Sexual Violence and Abuse, Stalking & Harassment and Harmful Practices.

3.3 Partners have also agreed that the following work streams would be maintained as "business as usual":

- Preventing Violent Extremism through education & training, and supporting individuals through the Channel programme;
- Assist in the implementation of the Offender Management Strategies through our joint work at the Reducing Re-Offending Sub-Group of the Surrey Sussex Criminal Justice Board;
- Helping people recover from Drugs and Alcohol misuse and preventing premature death;
- Raise awareness and identify hotspots, patterns and repeat victims of Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime within the community, and work with key partners to improve and manage partnership responses; and
- Working to reduce road casualties across Sussex with education, enforcement and engineering through the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership.

⁸ Information provided by Lucie Venables, Head of Commissioning

- A cross cutting enabler throughout all of our priority areas is to: Raise awareness of online safety and encourage young people to develop a positive and healthy relationship with social media, the internet and mobile phones.

3.4 For those areas that have not been agreed as priorities, such as street communities, it is important to note that these are being dealt with through other partnership structures. It is also important to note that the partnership remains interested and involved in these areas of work and provide support where appropriate. The full descriptions of the priorities are set out in the attached Business Plan (**Appendix 1**).

4 Community Safety Developments in East Sussex 2020

4.1 There are a number of challenges and opportunities on the horizon that will impact on partnership work over the coming year:

- The Serious Violence Bill which will place a new duty on schools, police, councils and health authorities to prevent serious violence;
- The Domestic Abuse Bill which aims to transform the approach of the justice system and other agencies to victims of domestic abuse;
- Probation Reform. The National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies will amalgamate into one service in June 2021 which means the National Probation Service will be responsible for all sentence management including interventions such as accredited programmes and Unpaid Work. The major change for partnership organisations will be that they will be dealing with one organisation;
- The independent review of Prevent will gather and analyse a range of information to underpin robust, evidence-based findings and recommendations on the government's strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism;
- The rollout of Dovetail will see changes to the Channel process aimed at de-securitise the process by transferring responsibilities for some elements of Channel from the police to local government, sitting more closely with local authorities' wider safeguarding responsibilities; and
- The rollout of the recommendations arising from the independent review of the Modern Slavery Act; which looked at the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, transparency in supply chains, Independent Child Trafficking Advocates and legal application of the Modern Slavery Act.

4.2 The COVID 19 pandemic required a fast operational response from our commissioned services to enable delivery to continue within national safety guidelines. Where possible strategic work to address the Safer Communities continued and this is outlined in **Appendix 2**.

4.3 In addition, Safer Communities are part of the change management program for adult social care and have identified a number of changes to the way we need to work as a result of the pandemic and are covered under three headings:

- Review and adapt, where necessary, current operational delivery models in light of COVID19;
- Investigate and, where beneficial, establish new models of working that take account of key challenges;
- Apply due consideration to COVID19: its evidential impact on communities and crime in future strategic and partnership planning and development

5 Supporting Information

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Police and Crime Commissioner funding for community safety is directly allocated to District and Borough Council based Community Safety Partnerships.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy has developed the community safety agenda to consider the broader threat of exploitation. A common theme of the work of the partnership continues to be people with complex needs, which would relate to any one or a combination of substance misuse, accommodation and mental and physical health. During the COVID 19 pandemic the Safer East Sussex Team continued to work with partners to deliver the Safety Communities Partnership priorities and support commissioned services for substance misuse and domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

6.2 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the performance and achievements of the Partnership and their plans for 2020 to 2023.

KEITH HINKLEY

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – The Partnership Business Plan 2020 to 2023

Appendix 2 – Work to address the community safety priorities identified by the Safer Communities Board, and support users of our commissioned services during the COVID 19 pandemic.

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EAST SUSSEX SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIPS PLAN 2020/23



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Foreword

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership (ESSCP) believes that crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime need to be tackled effectively through partnership working. Following some excellent partnership work in the last year it gives great pleasure to introduce the 2020/23 business plan. This further builds on the foundation work which has been completed by partners in 2019.

East Sussex remains one of the safest places to live in the south east - we recognise that many people who live here are vulnerable and need vital early intervention and prevention. We need to protect them from being targeted and exploited by others for personal, commercial or financial gain. Many have complex needs, which can relate to any one or a combination of substance misuse, accommodation and mental and physical health. It is therefore essential that we continue to ensure we are making the most efficient and effective use of resources across the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership. Sustaining existing work within the partnership and developing new and existing relationships with partners is of importance to ensure that we are supporting vulnerable individuals within the community and helping them feel safe and confident in their everyday lives.

This plan sets out how partners will work together to deliver community safety priorities and what we are planning to do to improve the services to support local people for the future.

I am once again looking forward to working with all our partners to deliver the community safety priorities. I welcome the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This plan will inevitably develop further as we progress, and the overall aim will be to make East Sussex an even safer place to live, work and visit.

Councillor Bill Bentley

Lead Member for Communities and Safety

East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership (ESSCP) is committed to: reducing and preventing crime, the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, re-offending, domestic abuse, combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and ensuring services are delivered effectively on a local level.

The ESSCP is the statutory County Strategy Group which provides strategic leadership for addressing community safety matters across East Sussex. The Partnership is accountable to the East Sussex County Council Scrutiny Committee and through the Lead Member for Adult Social Care. Agencies with a responsibility for community safety as required by [The Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) to share information and work together to address crime and disorder. This includes publishing a plan for the reduction of crime and disorder in their area.

The ESSCP priorities are cross cutting and continue to be closely aligned with other plans that involve working with local communities and partners to keep East Sussex safe.

A Joint Partnership Protocol exists between the Partnership and [East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board](#), [East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board](#), [East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board](#) and [East Sussex Children and Young People's Trust](#).

Members include statutory partners and local community safety partnerships which are accountable to their own scrutiny committees.



About this Plan

The East Sussex Safer Communities Business Plan outlines the priorities and work streams for 2020/23 which have been selected by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership. It provides information on the priority areas and what partnership activity will look like for the year ahead. It also details work streams identified through other partnership processes and District and Borough community safety work streams. This is a three-year business plan, which is refreshed annually, and will be delivered within a multi-agency, partnership framework.

East Sussex, covers 660 square miles, has an estimated population of 549,557. There are many affluent areas as well as areas of significant deprivation. East Sussex has 19 lower super output areas among the top 10% of the most deprived in England. In order to successfully address issues of crime and anti-social behaviour we conduct an annual Strategic Assessment.

The Strategic Assessment is written in the context of other priority areas and policies that have been identified at both a national and local level. It is supported by factual data from across the partnerships, and feedback from residents and the voluntary community sector on the crime and community safety issues that matter.

Many of the priorities do not change substantially from year to year as they follow long term trends and whilst the strategic priorities will be established for a three year period we recognise that we may, however, need to re-focus our priorities in response to emerging or changing trends in crime and ASB, the impact of previous interventions, emerging external national or local factors, and learning gained through delivery of existing priorities. Such requirements will be identified via the annual refresh of the Strategic Assessment to ensure that work-plans and outcomes are appropriately delivered.

The ESSCP discusses areas identified as those causing our communities the greatest harm at a development morning in July 2019. The outcomes helped to identify strategic priorities for the period 2020/23, and are listed on page 10 of this plan.

Challenges and Opportunities

The priorities do not change substantially from year to year as they follow long term trends and whilst our strategic priorities will be established for a three-year period, we recognise that we may need to re-focus priorities in response to emerging or trends. It is important that we keep up-to-date with national strategies and policies ([Appendix C](#)) and other challenges or changes when selecting priorities. There are several challenges and opportunities on the horizon which could impact on partnership working over the coming years and these include:

- The development of technology which will transform the future crime landscape; cyber-crime continues to rise in scale and complexity, affecting essential services, businesses and private individuals alike.
- Political and economic pressures and instability will continue to drive significant levels of legal and illegal migration, regionally and globally.
- The Government announcement, in October 2019, to undertake a formal review of serious and organised crime with a report and recommendations due in Spring 2020. The review will look to identify ways of bolstering the response to threats such as county lines, people trafficking, drugs, child sexual exploitation, fraud and illicit finance.
- A new duty to tackle serious violent crime; new laws will require schools, police, councils and health authorities to work together to prevent serious crime.
- The rollout of Dovetail (Changes to Channel panels) and new Channel Guidance: changing the way support is coordinated at a local level.
- The rollout of the recommendations from the independent [review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#).
- Government proposals to re-unify the [National Probation Service](#) case management function. The Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC's) will no longer exist, all cases will be managed by the National Probation Service from June 2021.
- The [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) transforming the approach of all agencies to victims of domestic abuse.
- Creation of duty of care on online platforms supported by an independent regulator.

Partnership Achievements 2017 to 2019

There have been many partnership achievements during the lifetime of the 2017 to 2020 plan.

- The launch of the [East Sussex Against Scams Partnership](#) with over 100 organisations committed to the fight against fraud, scams and improving protection and prevention for East Sussex residents.
- Think Protect Connect - a digital resilience programme delivered to over 5,000 young people in East Sussex.
- The 'Relationships Programme' delivered to over 1,000 pupils which helps build positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline
- Launched and published The East Sussex Stay Safe Directory for schools and colleges which provides a variety of programmes and workshops which are currently being offered by a range of organisations and focus on different strands of community safety, personal safety and online safety.
- The Modern Slavery Network has successfully established links with National and Regional Networks such as the Human Trafficking Foundation National Modern Slavery Co-ordinators Network, the Police and Crime Commissioner national network on Modern Slavery, and the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration in order to learn more about best practice and to gain a more holistic view of work around modern slavery.
- Working in partnership with the [Safeguarding Adults Board](#) and [Stop the Traffik](#) - Modern Slavery Single Point of Contact First Responder training for local authorities delivered to 70 key staff.
- During anti-slavery week in 2019 the award-winning production of 'My Mind is Free' performed by the Rah Rah Theatre Company to over 80 local residents.
- The Communities Against Exploitation Campaign has provided information and advice on how to spot exploitation and how to report it at 11 engagement events in the Rother area. Schools/colleges/businesses/the public/local organisations and local residents have participated in as well as supported this campaign.
- Over 300 training and awareness raising sessions delivered to organisations within the county, including schools, staff, partners and the wider community on exploitation, Prevent, county lines, modern slavery and fraud/scams.

- Launch of the new East Sussex Adult Drug and Alcohol Service in 2019 - a free dedicated drug and alcohol community recovery service which has been remodelled following feedback from both stakeholders and service users.
- A Drug Related Death Working group to learn from drug related deaths.
- An East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Innovation Fund made available for pioneering work and 5 projects commissioned, with three of these embedding the ethos of Wellness Recovery Action Planning into the daily lives of service users, staff and volunteers.
- The South Coast User Forum Conference held in 2018 at the De La War Pavilion, Bexhill -this event combined recovery stories, dramatic and musical performances and a display of art work which highlighted the many different paths to recovery.
- Sussex was one of 6 regions across the country in 2018 to be successful in gaining a grant of almost £194,000 over three years from the Ministry Of Justice Whole System Approach for Female Offenders Funding.
- A new Strategic Framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls is in place.
- **1273** medium and high-risk domestic abuse victims supported by CGL at The Portal
- A current MARAC Hub model pilot- which may lead to a permanent change in the way that MARAC cases are assessed.
- Current recommissioning programme for specialist services for domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Refuge/accommodation based domestic abuse services. (New services will start on the 1st October 2020).
- Development of a multi-agency Victims Hub proposal- seeking to improve outcomes for victims through clearer service pathways; operating in a trauma informed way.
- Multi-agency delivered course on Coercion and Control developed and delivered in East Sussex.

Community Engagement

Central to planning community safety activity in East Sussex is how we engage and listen to the concerns of our communities, and through consultation with local communities we can hear their concerns and views along with what action they would like to happen in order to improve local areas. We will be continuing to develop the active involvement of the wider community in the work of the partnership. An example of this over the past year has been the launch of the Communities Against Exploitation campaign, which raises awareness of emerging crime types and equips the community with the latest preventative measures.

The [East Sussex Against Scams Partnership \(ESASP\)](#) with over 100 member organisations committed to the charter's three key aims: raising awareness and de-stigmatising scams, prevention and protection and identification and recording. We hold an annual engagement event with charter partners that include a cross-section of members from private businesses, voluntary and public sector.

Sussex Police Prevention Support and Engagement Officers continue to support the Sussex Police Prevention teams with engagement within our communities. This includes setting up 'Mobile Police Stations' where advice can be given to members of the public and providing them with the opportunity to report crimes. This also provides an opportunity to gather intelligence in our communities. Other events throughout the year include Operation Sceptre, Eastbourne 999, Rural Crime Prevention days and Charity events.

An East Sussex Reputation Tracker Survey is carried out annually to gather information from a cross section of 1,000 East Sussex residents. The survey asks residents to select three community safety priorities and three types of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) that they feel are most important for the ESSCP to tackle. These results are used to inform our strategic assessment and in selecting the priorities.

Communications

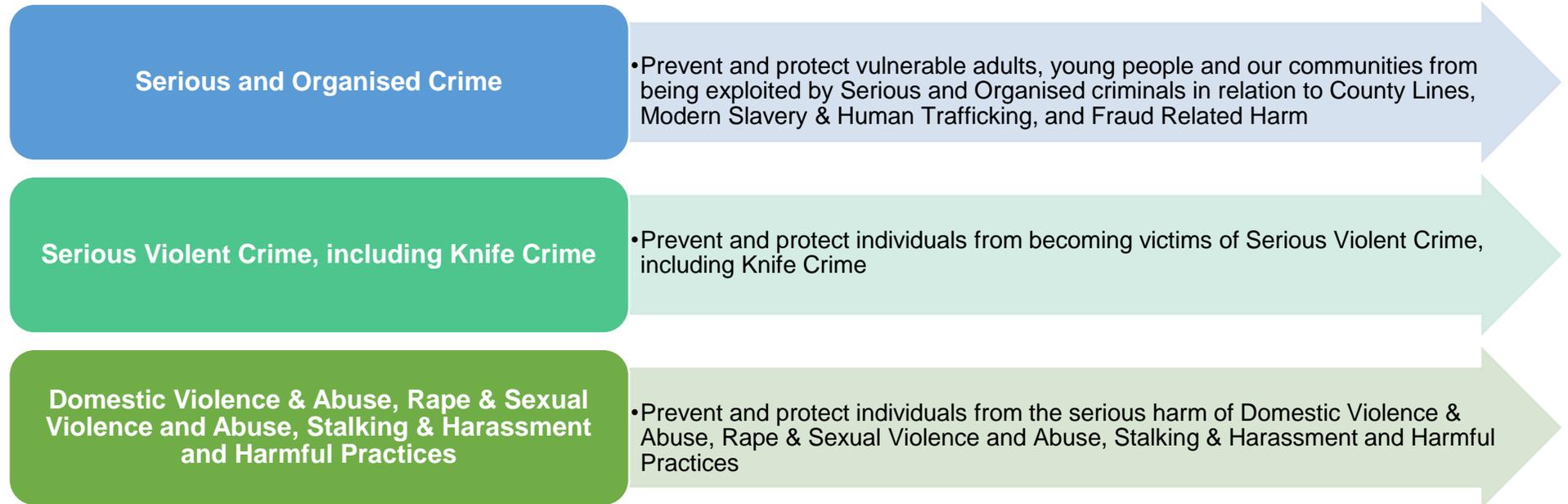
Communication is important in delivering community safety messages and the work of the partnership. We engage effectively with partners around their communication plans and messaging in order to expand our reach. Our communication methods include:

- A newsletter that highlights the work the Partnership undertakes. This newsletter is distributed to over 2,500 residents and partner representatives.
- A newly designed [website](#) which provides information on our community safety priority areas, including signposting and information for professionals and communities.

- The Safer Communities [Twitter](#) account continues to grow, with 1,600+ followers. We use this to highlight specific awareness campaigns; community safety related news items, as well as promoting local events.

Partnership Priorities 2020 to 2023

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership has agreed the following priorities for 2020/23:



In addition to these priorities and work streams a cross cutting theme was identified:

- Online safety, social media, the internet and mobile phones - Raise awareness of online safety and encourage young people to develop a positive and healthy relationship with social media, the internet and mobile phones.

The indicators to which performance is monitored on these priority areas can be found in [Appendix A](#)

Preventing vulnerable adults, young people and our communities from being exploited by Serious and Organised criminals

County Lines, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking and Fraud Related Harm

The local picture

County Lines - typically involves a gang from a large urban area travelling to smaller locations (such as a county or coastal town) to sell class A drugs. County lines can be associated to serious violence, murders and Organised Crime Groups.

There are currently some 90 'deal lines' in operation in Sussex at any one time, often overlapping with other force areas, but that figure fluctuates on a regular basis. Work to tackle this issue is coordinated by the [East Sussex Multi Agency Child Exploitation Group \(MACE\)](#) and the [East Sussex Partnership Violence Reduction Unit and Serious Organised Crime meeting](#), which assesses the countywide risk of people being drawn into serious organised crime.

There has been a significant increase in the number of high-risk children discussed at MACE during 2018/19 compared to the previous year, which coincides with the wider focus of the group on all forms of child exploitation. On average, 23 young people were considered to be at high risk to child exploitation each quarter during 2018/19, compared to an average of 13 during 2017/18.

In the 6 months to April 2019, 49 young people had been discussed at the MACE Group. The latest report available shows that of this cohort they were predominately aged 15 to 16, male and were subject to criminal exploitation. Almost a quarter were Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET). In September 2019, there were 21 young people open on the MACE list. Of these 6 (29%) were rated as high-risk.

The MACE Strategic Group provides oversight of children who are reported missing. In the 6 months to September 2019, there were 600 notifications of missing episodes in East Sussex, an increase of 30% compared to the previous year. This cohort is also often known to other services and there is a concern that going missing increases the risk of sexual or criminal exploitation.

Modern Slavery & Human trafficking - during 2018, Sussex Police recorded 170 Crimes relating to offences within the [Modern Slavery Act](#), 40 of which related to East Sussex. During 2019, 45 have been reported in East Sussex and 135 in Sussex as a whole - but national changes to recording rules mean the amount is likely to be significantly higher.

Between January and March 2019, there were 18 potential victims within the Sussex area referred to the [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#). The referring agency was Sussex Police (17) and East Sussex Local Authority (1). This is an 80% increase on the same 3-month period in 2018 when there were 10 potential victims. The significant rise is likely due to the increase in NRM referrals relating to County Lines. Referrals for minors accounted for 76% of all potential victims.

Of the 18 victims, labour exploitation most recorded (76% of all referrals and all males). There were 4 referrals of sexual exploitation (all females). Nationals from the UK accounted for 76% of potential victims and Albanian nationals 24%.

East Sussex partners continue to contribute to the [Discovery](#) project, a multi-agency partnership which includes district and borough councils and other agencies aimed to protect people from modern slavery and take action against those responsible for it.

Fraud Related Harm – fraud accounts for over 50% of all reported crime and it is believed that only 20% of fraud is reported to the police. 76% of all fraud in Surrey and Sussex is cyber-enabled, with individuals most frequently report advanced fee fraud, online shopping and auctions and computer software service fraud. The greatest financial loss is through other financial investments and doorstep crime.

[Operation Signature](#) is the Sussex Police process to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud within Sussex. In the 12 months to September 2019, there were a total of **371** reports to Operation Signature in East Sussex, an increase of 36% when compared to the previous 6-month period.

Between April 2019 and September 2019, there were **53** reports of Doorstep Crime in East Sussex to Trading Standards. This is a 20.5% increase on the same 6 months in the previous year.

Partnership plans

- Our successful Communities Against Exploitation Campaign¹ will be expanding to other areas in East Sussex which will continue to raise awareness of County Lines and other types of exploitation within our communities. We will do this work in collaboration with key partners including the Discovery Project.
- The 'Relationships' programme will continue to be delivered within Primary Schools. The programme aims to build resilience and recognise when and how to ask for help and teaches basic techniques for resisting pressure to do something dangerous, unhealthy or which makes young people uncomfortable.
- We will continue to work with our partners and contribute to wider community prevention efforts through the Multi Agency Child Exploitation Group, Sussex Police and Schools to raise awareness of County Lines in order to better protect those who are vulnerable to exploitation. This will include contributing to Contextual Safeguarding system interventions directed at the wider context in which harm takes place (locations, schools or peer-groups), outside of the family environment. Because they address the contextual factors that influence harm in a location, these types of interventions will hopefully reduce the risk and improve the safety of these contexts for other young people.
- The partnership will support and contribute towards the development and implementation of the East Sussex Modern Slavery Community Action Plan in partnership with Stop the Traffik, Discovery and local partner organisations.
- By strengthening our countywide Modern Slavery Single Point of Contact network, we will be continuing to support these professionals with new and updated information/resources and ongoing support ensuring our response to recognising and managing Modern Slavery cases is effective.
- The partnership will hold an annual ESASP Charter Partner event in 2020 to share key developments crucial in the fight against scams and further develop our communications strategy to maximise output to the community, charter partners and professionals regarding key scam prevention messages.
- We will continue to provide strategic support to develop digital safety in the county to prevent cyber enabled fraud.
- The Sussex Police Volunteer Fraud Prevention programme will be developing a wider programme of Fraud Awareness Events for victims and public. Through the provision of protective advice packages and via email or letter- 24 volunteers have been recruited across Sussex to work from local Police stations.

¹ Communities Against Exploitation is to raise awareness of emerging crime types and equip the community with the latest preventative measures.

Prevent and protect individuals from becoming victims of serious violence crime, including knife crime

The local picture

In the 12 months to December 2019, in East Sussex, there were:

- **19,041** incidents of Violent Crimes². An increase of +12.2% when compared to 2018.
- Almost half (48.9%) of all Violent Crime occurred in a Public Place.
- **17,270** incidents of Violence Against the Person. An increase of 1,986 (13%).
- **340** incidents of Serious Violent Crimes, an increase of 33 (+10.7%) on the previous 12 months. Serious Violence³ has increased by +32% in the last 3 years in East Sussex.
- **197** incidents of Serious Knife Crime⁴. An increase of 78 (+65.5%).
- **31** incidents of Gun Crime. An increase of 13 (+72.2%)

In April 2018 the government published its [Serious Violence Strategy](#) in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England. Sussex was identified, by the Home Office, as being disproportionately affected by knife related hospital admissions. The county, via the [Sussex Police Crime Commissioner \(PCC\)](#) was allocated funding, in 2019m to establish 'Violence Reduction Units' (VRUs) to assist in reducing this threat and trend. This 'VRU' model is based on success in the Glasgow and Cardiff areas in tackling these issues.

The [East Sussex Violence Reduction Unit](#) has been established to assess the countywide risk of people being drawn into serious violence. It has developed an action plan to manage the threats, risks and vulnerabilities to individuals and communities. It is made up of community safety partner agencies including education.

²Sussex Police CSP Performance report - January 2018 to December 2019 (Violence against the Person, Possession of weapons, Public Order, Sexual offences)

³Sussex Police CSP Performance report - January 2018 to December 2019 (Murder, attempted murder, death or serious injury by unlawful driving, violence with injury)

⁴ Where a sharp instrument was used (with the introduction of the new crime system, glass is included which may or may not be 'sharp')

Partnership plans

- A county serious violent crime problem profile has been completed, identifying the extent of serious violent crime in East Sussex. The profile takes a public health approach⁵ to understand what the problem of serious violent crime is, and to identify the risk and protective factors which may associate individuals with serious violent crime. Recommendations from this analysis are used to target and plan relevant prevention, intervention and enforcement activities. Continued Home Office funding for 2020/21 will continue to develop the partnership with the aims of: protecting and educating young people, mitigating the impact of serious violence on our communities, supporting victims and strengthening our communities and targeting lawbreakers.
- Local and national initiatives such as [Operation Sceptre](#) the national campaign which looks to tackle the dangers that knife crime poses by educating various audiences and raising awareness, through operational work and campaign activities, will be delivered in partnership.
- The East Sussex VRU development plan will be implemented.

⁵ https://www.who.int/violenceprevention/approach/public_health/en/

Prevent and protect individuals from the serious harm of domestic violence, abuse, rape, stalking and harassment and other harmful practices

The local picture

Reported incidents of domestic violence and abuse, rape and sexual violence, stalking and harassment and harmful practices (such as forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation) continue to increase in East Sussex.

- **9,854** reports of domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes were recorded in the year up to the end of March 2019. **5,893** of these reports were crimes. There were 479 charges made.
- Ongoing increases in reporting are thought to be linked to an increase in domestic abuse-related incidents coming to the attention of the police. Improvements in crime recording practices and an increased willingness of victims to come forward have also contributed. This increase is also influenced by a greater awareness of domestic abuse, perhaps supported by media interest in the [Government's Domestic Abuse Bill](#) and high-profile cases reported in the news. Recognition of coercion and control is also having an impact on the numbers reporting crimes and incidents.
- **794** high risk cases discussed in East Sussex at the two Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). This represented an increase of 73 cases since 2015. Of the 794 cases, there were **179** repeat victims (22.5%) and a total of **1,255** children living in the household of victims.
- **1,345** reports of Sexual Offences in East Sussex. **76** charges were made.
- In 2018 there were **4** homicides in East Sussex where the victim's death was suspected to have been caused by domestic violence and abuse, 3 of which are subject to a '[Domestic Homicide Review](#)' (DHR). There were a total of 454 domestic homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales between April 2013 and March 2016.
- In East Sussex, in the 12 months to September 2018, Sussex Police received **14** Right to Know applications and **27** Right to Ask applications through [Clares Law](#).

A new strategic framework has been developed for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls. The strategic framework is supported Sussex-wide and highlights the following priorities:

- More Prevention and Early Intervention
- High Quality Trauma Informed Service Pathways
- Strengthened Response to Perpetrators
- Robust Partnership Working at both Strategic and Operational level

Partnership plans

- Implement the Strategy Delivery Plan for East Sussex including the local response to the Government's Domestic Abuse Bill, and new duty on the provision of accommodation based domestic abuse support.
- Complete the recommissioning of specialist Domestic Abuse, Rape and Sexual Violence and Abuse, Domestic Abuse Refuge/Accommodation Based Support, and Stalking and Harassment Services
- Implement the new MARAC operating model
- Continue to develop multi-agency training and awareness, including specialist support service providers. There will be an ongoing commitment to improve general awareness of the signs of, and how to support someone experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse (including Stalking and Harassment and Harmful Practices).
- Develop and improve a wider stakeholder and community network to support awareness raising and response.

Work Streams Identified Through Other Partnership Processes



Preventing Violent Extremism

Preventing violent extremism through education & training and supporting individuals through the Channel programme

The local picture

Prevent is part of the national counter-terrorism strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and extremism.

East Sussex continues to be a low risk area for violent extremism compared to other areas of the UK. The [East Sussex Prevent Board](#) continues to manage risk, threat and vulnerability as outlined in the annual [Counter Terrorism Local Profile \(CTLP\)](#). The CTLP identifies the risks within the county and region. The majority of referrals in East Sussex are from schools/colleges with mental health, Autism Spectrum Disorder (diagnosed/undiagnosed) and young males. For this reason our work in schools continues to be delivered, which includes delivering challenging extremism assemblies to over 4,000 pupils and providing Prevent training sessions for schools and other organisations.

[East Sussex Channel Panel](#) has a multi-agency membership and meets regularly to assess the risk and decide whether the person is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The Channel panel develops the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned.

Partnership plans

- Partnering with Sussex University to share knowledge, promote best practice and recognise some of the successful developments which have taken place at a local level to safeguard and support individuals and communities.
- Participating in a multi-agency training event, enabling key staff to respond in real time to both immediate critical pressured events and also to consider their strategic impact on both their institution and the public.
- Primary School pupils continue to participate in the 'Relationships' programme which includes themes on the values that Britain supports, , racism, hate crime and the development of extreme views. Secondary /FE students will have the continued offer of Challenging Extremism Assemblies and discussion groups.

Drugs and Alcohol Misuse

Helping people recover from Drugs and Alcohol misuse and preventing premature death

The local picture

Drug and alcohol related harm is a complex issue which has a wide range of impacts on individuals, families and communities. It is concentrated in the centre of Eastbourne and Hastings but there are also significant pockets of in other parts of East Sussex.

There is a dedicated service for those U19 who are affected by drug and alcohol misuse ([the under 19's service ESCC](#)). Workers are co-located with other relevant services (e.g. Youth Offending Team) to provide a holistic person-centred approach. This service demonstrates effective engagement with users. There is a very low rate of representation to adult services.

The treatment population for adults currently stands at 1397. The breakdown for different areas of treatment is as follows:

- Opiates – 1008
- Non – opiates – 150
- Alcohol – 239

The completion rates for those in formal treatment and do not represent to services within six months are as follows:

Area of Treatment	Local rate of completion/representation	National average
● Opiates	6.2%	5.8%
● Non-opiates	35.2%	34.4%
● Alcohol	37.8%	38.2%

Figures show, rates are slightly above the national average for opiates and slightly below for non-opiates and alcohol.

It has been identified that there is also significant levels of unmet need in certain rural areas. It is estimated that around 50% of those using opiates problematically and around 80% of those drinking at dependent levels are not receiving specialist treatment.

In order to support and sustain recovery, a number of initiatives have been funded, these include support to sustain the recovery of the street community and support for carers. These initiatives are effective in sustaining recovery, with 83% of individuals stating they can manage more independently as a result of using the service and 91% explaining they feel more confident as a result of using the service.

Historically, there are clear links between substance misuse and deprivation. This is currently reflected by the higher numbers of those in the treatment population which are from the wards in the county with the highest levels of deprivation. The largest segment of the treatment population is still those seeking support for opiate misuse. There is an increased use of dependence forming medication prescribed by primary care. There is also an increase in those drinking at dependent levels. Many of the members of these groups do not fit traditional drug and alcohol misusing profiles. The model of service delivery will need to be responsive to meeting the needs of these groups.

Partnership plans

- Development of new alcohol strategy to address alcohol related harm
- East Sussex Alcohol Partnership to continue with work driven by the new strategy
- Development of project to address recreational use of cocaine
- Pilot project to assess impact of naloxone within Rough Sleepers Initiative
- A development of co-ordinated communications plan to ensure a cohesive approach to drug and alcohol misuse

Reducing Re-Offending

Assist in the implementation of the Offender Management Strategies through our joint work at the Reducing Re-Offending Sub Group of the Surrey Sussex Criminal Justice Board

The local picture

- In East Sussex, in the 12 months to December 2019, there were **37,886** reported incidents of crime. This was an increase of 3,564 (+10.4%) compared to 2018. This increase was comparable with West Sussex (+9.8%) and Brighton & Hove (+11.2%). Nearly all crime types recorded showed an increase when compared to the previous year. Some of the more noticeable increases were in Theft & Handling (+11.3%), Serious Acquisitive Crime (+17.5%), Business Crime (+9.5%), Domestic Abuse Crime (+14.6%), Violence Against the Person (+13%), Violent Crime (+12.2%) and Drug Possession (+23.7%).
- The Home Office estimates that nationally 0.5% of offenders commit 10% of offences; in addition, 10% of offenders commit 50% of offences. A significant proportion of crime is committed by a relatively small group of persistent or prolific offenders who cause harm and distress to individuals and to our communities.
- [Integrated Offender Management \(IOM\)](#) brings a cross-agency response to manage the small number of offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of crime. Historically, the IOM Sussex cohort consists of serious acquisitive crime offenders. From May 2017 offenders, regardless of offence type, who are having the most impact on our local communities will be considered for offender management arrangements by local IOM teams. This means the scheme will now manage a wider cohort of offenders including; Domestic Violence Perpetrators, [Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements](#), Serious Organised Crime and Child Sexual Exploitation.
- [Checkpoint](#) is an early intervention scheme to find a new avenue to reduce reoffending. It was launched in 2020 and will work in partnership with statutory and third sector organisations to deliver the [Ministry of Justice's Whole System Approach](#) to reduce reoffending by supporting diversion schemes, supporting offenders to make positive life choices to prevent reoffending and protect future victims from crime.
- [Sussex Criminal Justice Board \(SCJB\)](#) was established in 2003 to provide a structure for strategic leaders to meet, discuss and agree measures to improve the Criminal Justice System for the public.

- In East Sussex young offenders are managed by the [East Sussex Youth Offending Team](#). Children between 10 and 17 can be arrested and taken to court if they commit a crime. They are treated differently from adults and are dealt with by youth courts, given different sentences and sent to special secure centres for young people, not adult prisons.

Homeless ex-prisoners are significantly more likely to reoffend than those with accommodation. Research by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) showed that 79% of those who were previously homeless went on to be convicted in the first year after being released⁶.

In December 2017 the total prison population in the UK was 84,7462. Approximately 66,000 leave prison each year and 15% of men and 13% of women in prisons listed 'no fixed abode' as their accommodation status when leaving prison. (Prison population figures (December 2017).

Without housing ex-prisoners are unable to register with a GP, it's often difficult for them to seek employment or apply for benefits, these additional barriers all increase the risk of re-offending. Stable accommodation can reduce the risk of re-offending by 20%⁷.

The [Homelessness Reduction Act 2018](#) gave prison and probation services a duty to refer prison leavers to local authorities if they are at risk of homelessness.

Partnership plans

It is nationally recognised that early intervention and targeted prevention provides better outcomes for individuals and reduces costs to authorities. In 2019 the ESSCP established an accommodation for prison leaver's short life group, where the wider issues in terms of homelessness and prison leavers were discussed. The group has identified a need for current systems to change as multiple prison leavers continue to be homeless or no fixed abode on discharge, many of whom are repeat presentations.

The group have identified a number of work streams that would assist in addressing this issue and these include:

- Developing the evidence base on what happens to prison leavers with district and boroughs, including the costs associated with this;

⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278806/homelessness-reoffending-prisoners.pdf

⁷ Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, ICPS, 2002, P94

- Developing a Criminal Justice Specialist Role within the Rough Sleepers Initiative Multi-Disciplinary Team;
- Placing a Housing Options Officers in Lewes and Ford Prison;
- Developing bespoke accommodation units for people on the IOM program (this could be a single house or smaller dispersed units);
- Providing rapid rehousing support workers for people who are released from prison; and
- Developing move on accommodation pathways.

Anti-social behaviour and hate crime

Raise awareness and identify hotspots, patterns and repeat victims of Anti-social behaviour and hate crime within the community, and work with key partners to improve and manage partnership responses

The local picture

The [CPS hate crime annual report](#), published in October 2019, shows that Sussex is one of only four police force areas in the country, where defendants are convicted in more than nine out of ten cases. Sussex is second in the country for convictions on racially and religiously aggravated hate crime, with a 92.9% conviction rate. The figures show that the volume of homophobic and transphobic hate crime dealt with by prosecutors in Sussex fell slightly from 45 in 2017-18 to 42 in 2018-19. Disability hostility crime still remains low, with just 10 cases dealt with by the CPS in Sussex in 2018-19.

In East Sussex in the 12 months to December 2019⁸, there were:

- **9,000** (-3.8%) reported incidents of Nuisance ASB
- **971** (-18.5%) reported incidents of Personal ASB
- **594** (+3.7%) reported incidents of Environmental ASB

In East Sussex, Sussex Police Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime Coordinators in the Safer East Sussex Team, act as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for police officers, police staff and partner agencies and contribute to the Sussex Hate Crime Action Plan by:

- Increasing the reporting of hate crime, through improving the reporting process, encouraging the use of third party reporting and working with groups who may under-report
- Preventing hate crime by challenging the beliefs and attitudes that can underlie such crimes
- Responding to hate crime in our communities with the aim of reducing the number of hate crime incidents.

⁸ Sussex Police Community Safety Partnership - by crime type Version 3.2 - Report Period - January 2018 to December 2019

- Improving support for the victims of hate crime.
- Building our understanding of hate crime through improved data, including the disaggregation of hate crimes records by religion.

Underpinning the Sussex Hate Crime Action Plan are two key themes working in partnership with communities and joining up work across the hate crime strands to ensure that best practice in tackling hate crime is understood and drawn upon in all our work.

Anti-social behaviour⁹ (ASB) is a broad term used to describe the day-to-day incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that make many people's lives a misery – from litter and vandalism, to public drunkenness or aggressive dogs, to noisy or abusive neighbours.

The ASB and Hate Crime Coordinators continue to work closely with key partners to ensure ASB and hate crime is accurately recorded as well as ensuring High and Medium risk ASB and hate crime cases and those involving repeat victims are identified and problem solved effectively with partners. This process is undertaken through the multi-agency risk assessment conference process for medium and high risk victims.

Such a wide range of behaviours means that responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between a number of agencies, particularly the police, local councils and social landlords. Please see the District and Borough Overviews in this document for localised ASB plans.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-police-bill>

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership

Working to reduce road casualties across Sussex with education, enforcement and engineering.

The [Sussex Safer Roads Partnership](#) brings together teams from Sussex Police, East and West Sussex County Councils, East and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services, Brighton and Hove City Council and Highways England. The partnership aims to create a safer environment for all road users, significantly reduce life-changing injuries and eliminate fatalities.

Using the wealth of knowledge and experience within the partnership, they provide advice and support to all road users across Sussex. They refine and develop strategies to promote road safety and to encourage everyone to consider how they use the roads and how everyone can become safer. Recommendations and guidance are offered to urge everyone to share the roads and to foster an attitude of safety for all on our roads.

There are still too many collisions in Sussex and some of these can be avoided. Through a range of campaigns and initiatives, the partnership raise awareness of; laws, key messages, preventative measures, information and guidance to create safer roads for all.

For plans in relation to road safety please see the District and Borough Community Safety Plans. These include information and work of on the Wealden, Lewes and Eastbourne Road Safety Action Group and the Hasting & Rother Roads Group.

District & Borough Community Safety Plans

There are four local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in East Sussex:

- Safer Wealden Partnership
- Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership
- Safer Hastings Partnership
- Safer Rother Partnership



Safer Wealden Partnership

The priorities for the year 2020/21 remain the same as the previous year. They have been informed from several sources: The views of residents have been taken into account, these have been collected in a variety of local surveys; what the local crime data informs the partnership about what is happening in the district; and insights from people in this area of work.

It is important that the partnership reflect in its priorities, what all partners working together can bring to an issue, rather than focussing on a list of crime types. These priorities create a more dynamic working environment and partnership, which has the ability to focus on any crime type or issues which emerge as posing a threat, risk or harm to the communities we represent. In addition it gives the Partnership more flexibility with the projects it can consider funding to support the many local communities across the district.

The one exception to this flexible approach is road safety as it is of major concern to so many of the parishes and towns across the district. Wealden has the worst serious collision record in the County and that is why it is a priority in its own right.

The partnership is keen to continue to work to protect young people and build a constructive relationship with them. Part of this work will be to have a continuing conversation with young people to gain insight about the possible reasons for getting involved in crime and also importantly why the vast majority do not get involved. Hopefully this will improve knowledge about this important topic and provide pointers as to the way forward.

Working to ensure local people feel safe and secure and reducing the fear of crime

Taking a dynamic and flexible approach to emerging threats and rising crime types

Working together to reduce the number of people killed or injured on Wealden's roads and to improve road safety awareness

Developing an engagement strategy relating to the protection of young people from serious crime

Partnership achievements

The Partnership has continued to work hard for the communities we serve to reduce crime and the fear of crime. As a partnership we are intelligence led and we also, wherever possible, evaluate our projects and interventions to ensure they make a difference and represent a good return on investment.

We have joined up with the Lewes and Eastbourne areas on the subject of plans to improve road safety and road safety awareness. The Wealden, Lewes and Eastbourne Road Safety Action Group have gone from strength to strength and now include members from the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust and Network Rail.

The group has championed several partnership projects aimed at making the areas roads safer. A bid has been made to the Road Safety Trust to take the 'We're keeping an eye on you' project across the County and for this we have teamed up with the Hastings and Rother Road Safety Action Group.

The Action group has continued to see the number of 'Community Speedwatch' groups in the district increase steadily over the year. The project works with local volunteers to monitor the speed of vehicles in an area, those drivers / riders caught exceeding the speed limit are referred to 'Operation Crackdown' and they receive an appropriate warning letter from Sussex Police about their driving behaviour.

Many successful projects have been carried out directly by partners or funded by the Safer Wealden Partnership to improve community safety and increase awareness of the issues over the year. These projects have included:

- The Friday Night Project sponsored by Hailsham Town Council provides diversionary activities for young people in the Hailsham area on Friday evenings and is aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the town. Increased funding has also permitted the opening of the project of other nights too and has permitted young people from the neighbouring Heathfield area to participate in some of the planned activities too.
- The partnership has funded a number of outreach youth work sessions, which the police can deploy into areas where there is youth related anti-social behaviour.

- Operation Blitz continues to be funded. It continues to provide a dedicated, visible and accessible policing resource for tackling nuisance behaviour and low level crime across the Wealden area at weekends and on specific occasions such as Halloween and Bonfire Night.
- The very successful Safety in Action project organised by [East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service](#) has been supported. This project provides important personal and community safety advice to young people.
- A number of other valuable youth related projects have been supported including 'Clued-Up' in Crowborough, Uckfield Youth Club and Heathfield works.
- The Partnership has funded 'Mediation Plus' which helps to resolve anti-social behaviour related neighbourly disputes.

Partnership plans

- Continue to work hard for the communities we serve to reduce crime and the fear of crime and deliver on our priorities.
- Be intelligence led to gain insights from crime data and other sources to improve the effectiveness of any interventions. We will also use these insights to help predict local threats and develop interventions and projects to tackle them.
- Many of the projects highlighted above will continue to be developed during the year ahead.

Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership

What are the Eastbourne priorities and why?

- **Street Communities** – Anti-social behaviour associated with street communities in the town remains a source of concern for Eastbourne residents, businesses and visitors. Our new Eastbourne and Lewes Street Community Strategy recognises that people living and sleeping on our streets are amongst the most vulnerable in our community. We will work closely with the new Eastbourne and Lewes Street Communities Partnership to ensure we address the issues presented by street communities in an effective way whilst ensuring appropriate services are in place which meet their needs and reduce the need to be on the streets.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Anti-social behaviour remains a key priority for residents of Eastbourne adversely affecting their quality of life. Young people involved in ASB are being targeted by criminal gangs and are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into criminal activity. We will work with Children’s Services, the police and other partners to develop specific projects to reduce anti-social behaviour amongst young people and protect them from the risk of serious exploitation.
- With the nature of crime continually changing we need to support our most vulnerable residents from new and emerging threats which they may be particularly at risk of falling prey to. We will continue to respond proactively **to Emerging Threats and Priorities Based on Threat, Risk and Harm**. We are concerned by the growth of violent crime and organised crime and, in particular, the impact of this on young people, particularly in relation to drugs. In partnership with members of the Eastbourne Youth Partnership, we will explore ways of preventing young people from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and substance misuse.
- Contributing to the Work of Agencies and Partnerships that have a Leading Role in **Working with Victims and Offenders** – we will continue to work closely with local partners to meet the needs of victims and offenders. Where the Community Safety Partnership does not have a leading role in delivering these services, it can play a key part in supporting and raising awareness of these. Our contributions will include support with funding and using our networks and communications to promote services and campaigns.

Partnership achievements

- Established weekend resource centre provision, providing warm shelter, a hot meal and access to advice services. This means that the street community & rough sleepers have access to such services seven days a week.
- Supported an extensive summer programme of activities, targeting places at young people at risk of being drawn into serious crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Funded a domestic abuse learning event for local professionals. Attendees heard the 'lived experience' of six women who have experienced abuse to underline the impact of abuse on individual women and their children.
- Raised awareness of domestic abuse through the Rita project and the White Ribbon Campaign and funded a drop in service for victims of domestic abuse.
- Re-establishing a regular forum where representatives from foreign language schools, the police and Council meet to discuss measures that help safeguard the 15,000 students who study in the town each year.

Partnership plans

- Review the demand for outreach engagement with street communities and continue our work with the Eastbourne and Lewes Street Communities Partnership and Rough Sleeping Initiative.
- Complete a review of our Joint Action Group to ensure we deliver effective responses to anti-social behaviour in local neighbourhoods.
- Work with the Eastbourne Youth Partnership to help young people at risk of being drawn into anti-social behaviour and crime.
- Continue our work to raise awareness and reporting of domestic abuse and address the needs of those affected.
- Support the Discovery Project to identify the extent of human trafficking and modern slavery in our area and support victims.
- Deliver a programme of campaigns through our social media with a particular focus on Scams.

What are the Lewes priorities and why?

- **Anti-Social Behaviour** is a key priority for residents of Lewes District and a particular focus for members of the Community Safety Partnership.
- **Road Safety** - Road safety in the district continues to be raised as a concern by residents affected by speeding and dangerous driving in their local area and can affect people's lives and feelings of safety.
- **Young people at risk** - Young people involved in anti-social behaviour are being targeted by criminal gangs and are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into criminal activity. We will work with Children's Services, the police and other partners to develop specific projects to reduce anti-social behaviour amongst young people and protect them from the risk of serious exploitation.
- **Organised crime** - We are particularly concerned by the growth of violent and organised crime across the south, particularly in coastal towns. The Partnership will continue work to focus on the impact and issues facing young people across the District.
- **Domestic abuse** continues to be under-reported. The Community Safety Partnership can play a key role in raising awareness and encouraging reporting, as well as ensuring services are in place to support the people affected.

Partnership achievements

- Worked in partnership Sussex Police, the Council's Neighbourhood & Housing Teams and Sussex Community Development Association to create a multi-agency team set up to address anti-social behaviour across Newhaven and surrounding areas.
- Supported Connected Youth, an outreach programme delivering services to young people in the District. The project supported 55 young people in the first 3-months.
- Promoted road safety campaigns and supported the development of community speed watch initiatives and fund research into tackling traffic dominance in Lewes.
- Funded Safe from Harm a project providing emotional and practical support to high-risk victims of hate crime and anti-social behaviour across East Sussex.

Partnership plans

- Continue to work with Town and Parish Councils and local groups to identify the impact of anti-social driving on local people and communities.
- Focus on the crime and dis-order issues faced by young people and addressing the impact of serious and organised crime faced by the wider community.
- Work to raise awareness of domestic abuse, by focussing on young people and continuing to raise awareness of the specific issues facing rural communities.
- Support the Discovery Project to identify the extent of human trafficking and modern slavery in our area and support victims.
- Deliver a programme of campaigns through our social media with a particular focus on Scams.

Safer Hastings Partnership Plan

Working together to make Hastings safer

Across Hastings Borough all of issues identified in this business plan apply. A greater part of the activity discussed is incorporated in the activities of the Safer Hastings Partnership.

The Safer Hastings Partnership and the Safer Rother Partnership continue working jointly, at a strategic level to conserve resources. However, local emphasis is addressed by separate Joint Action Groups.

The main drivers of the crime and disorder issues reported in Hastings, and beyond, are drug misuse and addiction, alcohol addiction and abuse, acquisition of wealth and a lack of community awareness/understanding. The Safer Hastings Partnership has been dealing with the symptoms of these drivers for quite some time. Refocusing activity to help reduce reported crime and disorder is key to future action.

What are the partnership's priorities now, and for 2020/21?

- **Tackling street and community related anti-social behaviour** – street based antisocial behaviour, fuelled mainly by drug and alcohol misuse causes fear, alarm and distress to all. Tackling this behaviour involves the whole community.
- **Managing violent crime (including Domestic Abuse)** – violence, either in public or at home is unacceptable. Public violent behaviour, again fuelled largely by alcohol, should not be tolerated anywhere. Hidden violence and abuse continues to rise. The SHP wants to promote reporting of domestic abuse, whilst limiting the impact of public violent displays.
- **Reducing youth crime and supporting young people** – provision of activities to divert young people away from inappropriate crime generating circumstances. Efforts to protect young people as well as explain the consequences of actions are underway.
- **Improve road safety** - inconsiderate driving behaviour continues to be at the root of traffic collisions. Improving understanding of other road users is key.

- **Not tolerating modern slavery and human trafficking** – these continue to emerge as partners investigate community intelligence reports. Hidden in variety of circumstances from hand car washes to nail bars and care homes. The exploitation of individuals across the area is of considerable concern to all partner agencies.

What's been/being done in Hastings now, and into 2020/21?

Action in Hastings continues to tackle local issues:

- Modifying the ASB PSPO now including a larger area of prohibitions associated with alcohol misuses and unacceptable behaviours.
- Redesigning public spaces and installing gates, reduces the impact of local nuisance. Replacing graffiti with local community art.
- Helping steer the local Business Crime Reduction Partnership to help manage the night time economy and tackle shop theft.
- Promoting the reporting off domestic abuse through the annual White Ribbon Campaigns, to the relevant authorities to ensure action occurs.
- Actively participating in the modern slavery and exploitation Discovery project.
- Providing additional engaging activities for young people out into their neighbourhoods and informing them about the dangers of knife carrying and exploitation.
- Sharing road safety messages across the partnership ensuring messages are reinforced by all partners.
- Supporting the Fire Service lead 'Safety in Action' pupil awareness raising events.
- Evaluating the innovative Community Alcohol Partnership: concentrating on under age alcohol consumption in eastern Hastings and Ore.

Safer Rother Partnership Plan

Working together to make Rother a safe place to live, work and visit

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour committed across Rother is managed and addressed on a daily basis by joint working through the Safer Rother Partnership's Joint Action Group (JAG), associated working groups and day to day multi agency initiatives by local agencies.

The Safer Hastings and the Safer Rother Partnerships continue to work together through a joint strategic partnership board. This enables us to maximise the effectiveness of resources and organisational staff time across shared priorities.

The joint work focuses on actions that improve communication between partners, pools resources and makes the impact of interventions, initiatives and projects far more effective and long lasting. There are also joint Hastings and Rother working groups to address anti-social behaviour and hate crime, road safety, modern slavery (Discovery), cuckooing and Serious Organised Crime and domestic abuse.

Rother residents and businesses also suffer from criminal activity crossing Rother, Hastings, Wealden and the Kent area.

Joint Community Safety priorities for now, and for 2020/21?

Community safety priorities which continue to evolve as issues are investigated and examined by partner agencies. The annual Strategic Assessment demonstrates the range of community safety issues needing to be addressed, alongside those identified by intelligence and data led prioritisation at a local level. Local residents still consider antisocial behaviour (in all its forms) as the main issue that needs addressing.

The Safer Rother Partnership will continue to work with the Safer Hastings Partnership to support and address the wide range of issues described in the Strategic Assessment but will focus on:

- **Street & community related anti-social behaviour** – street based anti-social behaviour, in all its forms, causes alarm and distress to all. Medium and High Risk victims continue to be supported through the multi-agency ASBRAC process.
- **Violent Crime (especially Domestic Abuse)** – violence, either in public or at home is unacceptable. Public violent behaviour will not be tolerated in any of the town centres or in rural areas. Reported hidden violence and abuse continues to rise. More is also being dealt with. The safer community partnerships want to continue this positive activity and promote reporting of domestic abuse.
- **Youth Crime and vulnerable young people** – reducing young people as victims of crime and anti-social behaviour whilst working in partnership to reduce both the occurrence and impact of young people involved in crime and ASB.

- **Road Safety** - the Safer Hastings & Rother Roads Partnership group, delivers a range of campaigns and actions needed to reduce injury and make road use safer.
- **Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking** – this hidden issue can be found in a variety of circumstances from caring and domestic services, farming, hand car washes to nail bars and take-aways. It also includes people trafficking UK residents across the country. Joint work across Hastings and Rother is delivered through the Discovery project.
- **Partnership communications and reassurance messages** –Improving and focusing on messages that are important to residents, visitors and businesses will be developed.

What has been achieved in Rother in 2019/20...

The Partnership has continued to focus on:

- Rough sleepers and members of the street community. Worked with partners to identify rough sleepers in Rother, engage and support them to access services including housing, mental health and substance misuse and working on housing solutions and a jointly funded night shelter in Bexhill and Seaview's Outreach service.
- A Joint Hastings and Rother response to deliver our White Ribbon Campaign – '16 Days of Action' at locations across Rother and Hastings, including a social media drive.
- The implementation of the Rother Public Space Protection Order to address Nuisance Behaviour and the Consumption of Alcohol in a Public Place by Rother District Council with partnership support.
- Continued investment of resources by Rother District Council and Police to address modern slavery and cuckooing across Rother, as a priority.
- Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Rother with intensive but effective work by council environmental health, housing officers, police and social housing colleagues and Safe From Harm. Finding solutions to neighbour disputes, youth and street community ASB.
- Housing related issues for both victims of ASB and Domestic abuse and our responsibilities for high risk offenders and rough sleepers.

The Safer Rother Partnership's Joint Action Group and Rother District Council helped fund a number of diverse projects and initiatives over the last 12 months e.g.

- Safe From Harm service to provided dedicated Rother case work for victims of hate crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Street outreach by Seaview for rough sleepers in Rother and a night shelter.
- Providing young people with a safe space with activities after school between 3 and 5pm.

- Rent deposits for new homes in the private rented sector for victims of anti-social behaviour.
- Work with the police, probation and substance misuse services to provide assistance with accommodation for ex-offenders as part of rehabilitation initiatives.
- Safety in Action and other road safety initiatives.
- Variable Messaging System Modem to provide remote access to update and change messaging, for both road safety and crime prevention messages including White Ribbon and other campaigns.
- CCTV at leisure facilities and public conveniences to address, criminal damage, drug dealing and taking, rough sleeping and issues with young people involved in ASB/drug dealing.

The emerging Rother priorities for 2020/21 include:

- Rural Crime - including cross border crime especially burglary, speciality thefts e.g. large plant and vehicles. This includes joint initiatives with Wealden, Surrey and Kent Policing and partner agencies in Rother.
- County Lines – drug supply and cuckooing in both urban and rural areas of Rother. This work will continue to focus on victims of cuckooing, reducing the impact on the wider community and young people and will require periods of intense joint work when county lines move/expand into Rother from Hastings and other areas.
- Acquisitive crime within retail, it's links to community reassurance and addiction which will include working with the business sector, residents, support and enforcement agencies.

Although work has been carried out during 2019/20 the following continue to be prioritised in Rother and interventions will continue during 2020/21:

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – Discovery.
- Rough Sleepers and the Street Community.
- Delivering interventions to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour through multi agency interventions (e.g. ASBRAC), Council interdepartmental working, the use of Public Space Protection Orders, Community Protection Warnings and Notices.

Appendix A: Partnership Performance Measures

Measure
The number of reports of fraud by East Sussex residents to Operation Signature
The number of reports of Doorstep Crime in East Sussex to East Sussex Trading Standards
The number of partners signed up to the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership Charter
The number of young people in East Sussex considered to be at high risk to child exploitation and discussed at the Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE)
The number of <i>episodes</i> of children who are reported missing in East Sussex
The number of Cuckooing cases in East Sussex
The number of community safety training and awareness raising sessions delivered to organisations within the county, including schools, staff, partners and the wider community
The number of potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking referred in to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by Sussex Police
The number of potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking referred in to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by East Sussex Local Authority
The number of reported incidents of Serious Violent Crime in East Sussex
The number of reported incidents of Knife Crime in East Sussex
The number of referrals accepted onto the REBOOT scheme
The number of Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes recorded in East Sussex
The total number of cases discussed at the MARAC in East Sussex
The % of people affected by rape, sexual violence and abuse have improved coping strategies upon leaving the service
The % of people affected by domestic violence and abuse who feel safe upon leaving the service
The number of Adults in treatment for Substance Misuse in East Sussex (rolling 12 months)
The number of Young People accessing the East Sussex Under 19s Substance Misuse Service
The % of people accessing mutual aid recovery services who feel they can manage more independently as a result of using the service
The % of all in treatment, who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months (2.15)
The % of people accessing mutual aid recovery services who feel more confident as a result of using the service
The number of drugs related deaths in East Sussex

Appendix B: Plans and Strategies that support the development of Safer Communities

Checkpoint

This is an early intervention scheme to find a new avenue to reduce reoffending. It was launched in 2020 and will work in partnership with statutory and third sector organisations to deliver the Ministry of Justice's Whole System Approach to reduce reoffending by supporting diversion schemes, supporting offenders to make positive life choices to prevent reoffending and protect future victims from crime.

More details can be found [here](#).

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG and Hastings and Rother CCG

The CCGs are GP led membership organisation responsible for commissioning the majority of health services for local people. They work closely with GP member practices, local patients and the public, neighbouring CCGs, provider organisations and other strategic partners such as East Sussex County Council to develop plans and strategies for how we will work to improve the health of local people.

Further information on the plans and strategies for the Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG can be found [here](#)

Further information on the plans and strategies for the Hastings and Rother CCG can be found [here](#)

Discovery Project

Launched in 2017, DISCOVERY is a partnership of government and non-government organisations coming together in the East Sussex area to tackle Modern Slavery and Human trafficking. Our aims are to protect these vulnerable people and remove the businesses and people that conduct these crimes.

Further information can be found on their [website](#).

East Sussex Against Scams Partnership

The [East Sussex Against Scams Partnership \(ESASP\)](#) is a county-wide project helping to protect residents against scams and fraud by raising awareness with them about the different types of scams. It is a partnership of organisations - businesses, charities, church groups, clubs, community enterprises, councils, societies, voluntary groups and other partners - all committed to taking a stand against scams with the aim of making East Sussex a scam-free county.

East Sussex Channel Panel

The East Sussex Channel Panel is a multi-agency membership and meets regularly to assess the risk and decide whether the person is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The Channel panel develops the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned.

East Sussex Children's & Young People Trust (CYPT)

The aim of the CYPT is to improve outcomes for children and young people. It aims to support those who are vulnerable to poor outcomes. The CYPT plan sets out the joint strategic priorities of the agencies which together make up the Trust partnership.

The [CYPT plan](#) constitutes the statutory Child Poverty Strategy for East Sussex.

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS)

The Community Safety (Crime and Disorder) Act 1998 requires the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation services and health services to work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

The ESFRS are committed to making our communities safer by:

- Delivering high performing services
- Educating our communities
- Developing a multi-skilled, safe and valued workforce
- Making effective use of our resources

Their Annual Plan 2019/20 and further details on Strategies, Plans and Performance Information can be found on their [website](#).

East Sussex Health & Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is committed to improving health and wellbeing across East Sussex, especially for people, places and communities who currently have the worst health outcomes. It will make sure there is a shared and comprehensive understanding of local health and wellbeing needs, and a clear strategy to meet them.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is an unusual council committee because officers vote alongside councillors and other local representatives. It has statutory powers and meets in public. [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019](#) – the Board's strategy is published on the website of the [East Sussex Strategic Partnership](#).

East Sussex Multi Agency Child Exploitation Group (MACE)

The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Group is the strategic planning group for partnership activity to address the sexual and/or criminal exploitation of children, including 'County Lines' and missing children. The MACE Strategic Group provides oversight of children who are reported missing.

Further information can be found [here](#).

East Sussex Partnership Violence Reduction Unit and Serious Organised Crime meeting

has been established to assess the countywide risk of people being drawn into serious violence. It has developed an action plan to manage the threats, risks and vulnerabilities to individuals and communities. It is made up of community safety partner agencies including education.

East Sussex Prevent Board

Manages risk, threat and vulnerability as outlined in the annual [Counter Terrorism Local Profile \(CTLP\)](#).

East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)

The SAB is a multi-agency partnership, made up of statutory and voluntary partners as well as lay-members, established to promote well-being and oversee Safeguarding Adults work county-wide. The Care Act 2014 sets out the first ever statutory framework for adult safeguarding, which stipulates local authorities' responsibilities, and those with whom they work, to protect adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. These provisions require the local authority to:

- Carry out enquiries into suspected cases of abuse or neglect
- Establish Safeguarding Adults Boards in their area. The role of these Boards is to develop shared strategies for safeguarding and report to their local communities on their progress.

Further information can be found in the [SAB strategic plan](#).

East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership (ESSCP)

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 created new duties for the police, health and the local authority to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. From October 2019 this arrangement will be called the '*East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership*' (ESSCP). The three local safeguarding partners are East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups (Eastbourne, Hailsham & Seaford CCG; Hastings & Rother CCG and High Weald Lewes Havens CCG) represented by the Sussex and East Surrey (SES) Commissioners.

The ESSCP will act as a forum for safeguarding partners to:

- agree on ways to coordinate safeguarding services in East Sussex
- act as a strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging other agencies across East Sussex
- Implement local, regional and national learning, including serious child safeguarding incidents.

Further information can be found within their [2018/19 Annual Report](#) and on their [website](#).

East Sussex Under 19's Service

The Under 19's Substance Misuse Service works across East Sussex. ESCC leads the service with staff from different teams all working together. The service offers tier 2 to tier 4 (prevention to treatment) provision. This includes an assessment, casework function and direct access to a range of holistic specialist interventions

East Sussex Youth Offending Team

Made up of staff recruited from the Police, Probation, Children's Services (including Education), Health and the voluntary sector, the Youth Offending Team (or YOT) aims to prevent offending by children and young people. The YOT works mainly with children and young people aged 10-17 who have offended and received a caution from the police or who have been sentenced by the court to a community or custodial penalty.

More information on their work can be found [here](#).

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

IOM brings a cross-agency response to manage the small number of offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of crime. Historically, the IOM Sussex cohort consists of serious acquisitive crime offenders.

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC)

KSS CRC provides probation services in Kent, Surrey and Sussex that deliver the sentence of the court, reduce the likelihood of reoffending and minimise the risk of harm to others. They work closely with the National Probation Service, police, prisons, courts and community organisations to reduce reoffending and enable individuals to make positive changes to their lives.

They are responsible for:

- The management of low and medium risk service users who the court has sentenced to a community or suspended sentence order
- Managing and supporting low and medium risk service users who are on a licence or post-release supervision after prison
- Supporting the resettlement of prisoners via the Through the Gate initiative

Further information can be found within the 2019/20 [KSS CRC Annual Service Plan](#).

National Probation Service (NPS)

The National Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community.

[HM Prison and Probation Service Business Plan 2018-2019](#)

Operation Signature

Operation Signature is the Sussex Police process to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud within Sussex

Further information can be found [here](#).

Reboot

Sussex Early Intervention Youth Programme aimed at encouraging young people to make positive choices instead of becoming involved in crime or serious violence. Further information can be found here: [REBOOT](#)

Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)

Hastings and Eastbourne Borough Councils received funding from 1st October 2018 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to work with partners to improve rough sleeper's ability to access to statutory support services, temporary accommodation and long-term housing solutions. MHCLG funding was made available to the other districts and borough in 2019.

The focus of the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) is to work with 32 of the most complex cases across the 2 boroughs. Rough sleepers will be assessed with those who have the most complex multiple needs being prioritised for the programme.

Further information can be found within the [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2023](#)

Stop the Traffik

STOP THE TRAFFIK is a pioneer in human trafficking prevention. Working to unite people around the world by inspiring, informing, equipping and mobilising communities to; know what human trafficking is, know how to identify it and know how to respond appropriately if they saw it

More information can be found on their [website](#)

Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB)

The Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB) was established in 2003 following a government directive as a result of recommendations in the Auld Report. The SCJB was created to provide a structure for strategic leaders to meet, discuss and agree measures to improve the Criminal Justice System for the public. The key purpose of the SCJB is to set the direction for the delivery of improvements through multi-agency consultation and working. Further information can be found in the [SCJB Constitution](#).

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) has a statutory duty to set the policing and crime objectives for their area through a Police & Crime Plan. A new Police & Crime Plan was developed last year which sets out the strategic policing objectives for how policing services will

be delivered in Sussex across 2017/21. An Operational Delivery Plan sets out how the Chief Constable will use its resources to deliver policing services and achieve the objectives set out in the [Police & Crime Plan](#).

Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (SRJP)

Restorative Justice (RJ) has strong foundations in Sussex and several partners are involved in delivering RJ locally to strengthen service provision and design victim-led model that informs future commissioned services. The SRJP brings together all the agencies and authorities with an interest in RJ. The work of this group is being delivered through the Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB). The group, which is led by a Partnership Manager from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, includes a diverse range of people including practitioners, criminal justice agencies, community representatives and the voluntary and community sector. Further information can be found on the OSPCC [website](#)

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership

The [Sussex Safer Roads Partnership](#) brings together teams from Sussex Police, East and West Sussex County Councils, East and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Services, Brighton and Hove City Council and Highways England. They believe that, together, they can create a safer environment for all road users, significantly reduce life-changing injuries and eliminate fatalities.

Appendix C: National Strategies and Policies

Vulnerable People being exploited by Organised Crime Groups

- In **May 2018**, the National Crime Agency (NCA) published its annual [National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2018](#)
- Sussex Police **Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Local Profile** is produced by Sussex Police to help inform local and national partnerships of the profile of the SOC threat within each local area and to update on some of the activity that has taken place over the year.
- In **September 2018**, the Home Office Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance
- In **November 2018**, the Government published the [Serious and Organised Crime Strategy](#).

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

- In **March 2015**, the Government published the [Modern Slavery Act](#) which gave law enforcement the tools to fight modern slavery, ensure perpetrators can receive suitably severe punishments for these appalling crimes and enhance support and protection for victims.
- In **August 2018**, the Government published the [‘Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: terms of reference’](#).
- In **October 2018**, the [2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery](#) was published.

Fraud Related Harm

- In **May 2018**, the UK Government published its response to the [Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper](#).
- In **September 2018**, the Department for Education published their revised [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) 2018 statutory guidance.

Serious Violent Crime

- In **April 2018**, the Home Office published the [Serious Violence Strategy](#)

Preventing Violent Extremism

- In **June 2018**, the [National Counter Terrorism Strategy \(CONTEST\)](#) was refreshed.
- [Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#)
- In **July 2018**, the Government developed a [Commission for Countering Extremism](#) which supports society to fight all forms of extremism.

Drug and Alcohol Misuse

- In July 2017, the Government produced a [Drug Strategy which](#) sets out how the government and its partners, at local, national and international levels, will take new action to tackle drug misuse and the harms it causes.
- In April 2018, the Government developed a [Serious Violence Strategy](#) which considers how to best tackle County Lines and the misuse of drugs

Domestic Violence and Abuse, Stalking and Sexual Violence

- [Clare's Law](#) - scheme allowing police to disclose to individuals details of their partners' abusive pasts. This includes having the:
 - 'right to ask' - this enables someone to ask the police about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. A precedent for such a scheme exists with the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme; and
 - 'right to know' - police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.
- The [Government's Domestic Abuse Bill](#) 2019-2021 will
 - raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families
 - further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
 - strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies

Hate Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- In **October 2018**, "[Action against Hate](#)", was published, which is the UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime 'two years on'.

Offending

- The [Homelessness Reduction Act 2018](#) extends the existing duty to provide advisory services by placing a duty on local housing authorities (LHAs) in England to provide free information and advice to any person in the LHA's district on preventing and relieving homelessness, the rights of homeless people or those threatened with homelessness, as well as the help that is available from the LHA or others and how to access that help. The service should be designed with certain listed vulnerable groups in mind (e.g. care leavers, victims of domestic abuse). It also permits LHAs to outsource advisory services.

Data Protection

In **May 2018**, the new data protection law came into force. It is based on the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and replaces the existing UK Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

APPENDIX 2: Work to address the community safety priorities identified by the Safer Communities Board, and support users of our commissioned services during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse

In July 2020, following an extended period of stakeholder engagement, the Joint Unit published the Pan Sussex Strategic Framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse 2020 – 2024. The Framework is focused on four key priorities:

1. Prevention and Early Intervention
2. Service Provision
3. Pursuing Perpetrators
4. Partnership Working

In the second half of 2020/21, the Joint Unit alongside the OPCC will review governance structures and establish a Partnership Board as will be required by the Domestic Abuse legislation currently making its way through parliament.

Delivery Planning groups that sit under the Partnership Board and which will take forward action planning to implement the high-level priorities in the Strategic Framework are being developed.

The Joint Unit is also in the process of recommissioning domestic and sexual violence and abuse, stalking and harassment services, with new contracts to go live from 1st April 2021. A strong thread running through all Lots is the expectation that providers collaborate in a co-ordinated community response to DVA and SVA and work alongside commissioners to maintain focus on victim experience, service improvement and growth;, alongside an expectation that services are fully inclusive to everyone, including those with protected characteristics. The specification is outcomes focused, with core requirements around active partnership working, service accessibility and service standards and outreach for each Lot specified.

Substance Misuse

The Covid-19 (C19) pandemic has affected the substance misuse landscape extensively and led to several significant changes to the delivery of services. The drug and alcohol treatment service and other commissioned services had to pivot overnight to provide safe delivery of interventions for both service users and staff due to the national lockdown. Most of these interventions, including the digital delivery of services, have been very successful and have now been absorbed into mainstream delivery.

The dependence forming medication service was paused in March 2020 for six months due to the closure of primary care settings for face to face contact. A realigned service was delivered through the main treatment service for those affected by use of this medication during this period. This service has re-commenced face to face work within primary care as of October 2020.

The project to address the recreational use of cocaine has been redefined due to the impact of the lockdown on the night-time economy. This work is now being delivered as part of the violence reduction work plan.

During the pandemic the East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Innovation Fund made a direct award to the Seaview project to extend the work of the RADAR project (due to the vulnerability of the cohort involved). Other services that were commissioned included:

- OWRS (delivered by the Oasis Project) - a gender specific project to support those who identify as female in recovery.
- The East Sussex Veterans Hub (ESVH) which supports veterans to address manage and maintain recovery from substance misuse.
- Adfam - a service to support those caring for those affected by a substance misuse disorder or those in recovery from a substance misuse disorder.

A countywide consultation- "a conversation about drugs and alcohol" has been carried out to inform the commissioning of these services. A second consultation "continuing the conversation", which was co-produced with Public Health, has taken place to inform the East Sussex Alcohol Harm Strategy.

The drug related death working group will address any operational gaps that have been identified by the most recent drug related death inquiry. The impact of C19 on drug related deaths will be explored once the Coroner's office have been able to process the cases. This inquiry is expected in mid- 2021.

A range of interventions have been commissioned to support the Street Community in Hastings through the additional funding made available to Directors of Public Health. These interventions aim to reduce harm caused by drug use by those living in temporary accommodation through a programme delivering harm reduction messages and diversionary activities directly to those affected and by delivering a series of training sessions to staff in temporary accommodation settings to enable them to reinforce these messages. There has also been extra staff resource made available to Merrick house in Hastings and the addition of three further substance misuse specialists to supplement the work of the Rough Sleepers Initiative. These interventions aim to contribute to the work to prevent those housed under Covid Powers from returning to the street. There is work underway to identify suitable funding to replicate this work in Eastbourne.

A proposal has been agreed in principle by the Home Office to provide significant funding to address drug related harm in Hastings – known as Project Adder. It aims to reduce drug related deaths, reduce drug related offending and reduce the prevalence of drugs in the town. Hastings has been identified as one of four areas in the country to benefit from increased funding (an investment of £3m) over the next two and a half years. This funding will be used to underpin a whole system approach that enhances existing assets that address substance misuse in the town. The project focuses on the harm associated with heroin and crack cocaine use and work has been divided into three works streams – enforcement, treatment and recovery and diversion. Each strand has a range of interventions which contribute to:

- increased Police and other partner related activity to break up serious and organised crime structures around drug supply,
- increase the number of heroin and crack users who enter treatment and who go on to enter and sustain recovery, and
- to increase the number of people who are diverted away from the court system due to drug related offences.

Outcomes of the project include an increase in the number of children and other vulnerable people safeguarded, a reduction in costs to local Police forces, the court system and health and social care systems and a reduction in drug related deaths. The project is expected to begin in November 2020.

Serious Violence

In April 2018 the government published its Serious Violence Strategy in response to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England. Sussex was identified, by the Home Office, as being disproportionately affected by knife related hospital admissions.

The Home Office have selected 18 Police Force areas, based on accident and emergency statistics, to receive additional support and resources. Sussex is one such area and the Home Office have a Violence Reduction Unit grant of £880k, of which £130k has been allocated to East Sussex for interventions

Much of the partnership development activity thus far has focused on understanding the impact and causes of violent crime in East Sussex. Following production of an East Sussex serious violence profiles partners were consulted on and agreed a proposal to deliver this work. This consists of:

- An Executive Group chair by the Safer Communities Manager and the Superintendent for Crime and Operations;
- A perpetrators / Reducing Re-Offending Group led by Sussex Police, the Probation Service and Children's Services;
- A Victim Group which is in development; and
- Two hotspot groups in Devonshire and Castle Ward led by the District and Borough CSPs in Hastings and Eastbourne.

Home Office Funded **East Sussex Violence Reduction Unit** (VRU) initiatives include:

- Dedicated YOT practitioners working with Pupil Referral Units to engaging the students on a variety of subjects and topics related to offending and exploitation.
- MACE Key workers intensive family services.
- Through the Home Office Vulnerable Children's Charities VRU Funding 3 local charities were awarded grants: Priority 1-54, Project Rewild and Gizmo Theatre Company to work with young people at risk of serious violence in Eastbourne and Hastings.

Other East Sussex Partnership developments include:

- Mapping existing and Proposed VRU Interventions across the partnership;
- A partnership project to develop a Forum Theatre workshop for Year 8 pupils around crime: serious violence including knife crime, domestic abuse, county lines, and online harms.
- Developing a Community Engagement proposal specifically for the two identified hotspot areas in Eastbourne and Hastings.
- Development of a perpetrator profile looking at the top 20 perpetrators of serious violence, causation factors and the interventions they have received.
- East Sussex has been asked to lead on the Sussex Reducing Re-offending workstream for the Sussex Serious Violence Steering Group. A consultant employed by the Group is developing an outcomes framework which will focused around the 7 pathways to reducing offending.
- The work also has strong links to Op Safety (Knife Crime surge funding).

Nationally Lancashire VRU have been tasked by the Home Office to develop a Blueprint to involving Health Partners in this work. The Blueprint is due to be published in October.

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is an umbrella terms for a number of types of exploitation. The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is committed to working with partners in a structured approach in order to identify victims of slavery, signpost support and disrupt and prosecute the traffickers to prevent slavery.

A pledge to meet the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 has been developed by the Pan Sussex Anti-Slavery Network for use by Local Authorities across Sussex. It is intended to promote this pledge to raise awareness of this terrible crime during Anti-Slavery week.

To underpin this pledge East Sussex County Council has formed an internal working group to oversee the duties placed on Local Authorities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and subsequent reviews. Bespoke training has been delivered to Trading Standards, the Gypsy and Travellers Team and County Councillors.

The Safer Communities Partnership have been working with colleagues in the Safeguarding Adults Board to create local multi-agency training resources which can be used for all public sector staff and those that are designated as First Responders under the Modern Slavery Act. A range of on-line training materials are available for all partners some of which are targeted at first responder organisations.

Accommodation for Prison Leavers

Reducing re-offending by improving outcomes for those in the Criminal Justice system in both a National priority and a priority for the Safer Communities Board. During 2018/19 41% of all referrals to the East Sussex Rough Sleeper Initiative had spent time in prison. (However, this number is believed to be far greater as this was an optional disclosure).

The Prevention of Homelessness for Prison Leavers short-life group (a sub-group of the Safer Communities Board) have been working to address these issues. Activities to date:

- Embedding Criminal Justice Multi-Disciplinary posts in the Rough Sleepers Initiative Team to develop Housing pathways and understanding the impact of the Rapid Rehousing Project in supporting prison leavers.
- Looking at the feasibility of a dedicated Integrated Offender Management (IOM) housing units and placing a Housing Options Officer in local prisons with the East Sussex Housing Officers Group.

In February 2020 the HMPPS Reducing Reoffending Directorate wanted to identify four local sites capable of galvanising a 'whole-system approach' to reducing reoffending and to test new ways of working with partner agencies and stakeholders and have recently confirmed that an application made by East Sussex has received trailblazer status based on the strength of collaboration between a wide range of partners.

There is no additional funding available beyond what partners locally are able to provide or that is available through other sources such as VCSE involvement. There may be opportunities to access additional funding for systems leadership initiatives through a Local Leadership and Integration Fund at a later date. Successful trailblazers will receive direct support from the Reducing Reoffending Directorate to help unblock issues, particularly at the

national level with other Government Departments. There is also targeted training on systems leadership to each Trailblazer area for their cross-system leadership group.

Preventing Violent Extremism

East Sussex remains a non-funded Prevent area and although the risk here is less than other areas within the UK we remain committed in upholding and adhering to the requirements of the Prevent Duty. The East Sussex Prevent Board assesses the countywide risk of people being drawn into terrorism and coordinates Prevent partnership activity. The Board meets four times a year and shares regional and national threat information with partners, identifies which areas within the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) it can support and what activities would be beneficial to reduce any identified risk.

Prevent training for staff and partner's is delivered on a need basis. Other training and awareness activities include an online e-learning module; Extremism Assemblies to Secondary Schools; and a RelationSHOP's programme in Primary Schools.

The Channel program has continued and there is a review process in place. There will be changes to the Channel Duty Guidance for England and Wales which is due for launch early November 2020. A series of 'virtual' roadshows will be taking place in November across the UK to support the launch of the publication.

The handover to local authorities for managing all Prevent Referrals is still taking place across the UK and the South East is expecting this to take place at some point in the future. This will involve sharing the coordination of referrals and the management of Channel with other local authority areas.

School Delivery and Education Programmes

There are a number of programmes and interventions delivered to schools, colleges and other youth organisations on a number of issues including Prevent. These are often adapted over time to reflect the current or changing trends with national and local crime patterns.

An annual directory is developed and shared with all schools and is available online. The **Stay Safe** Directory pulls together a variety of programmes and workshops which are currently being offered by a range of local agencies and organisations and focus on different strands of community safety and personal safety such as cyberbullying and preventing extremism. The directory is split into Primary and Secondary/FE sections for ease of searching and helps schools and colleges offer a current and modern programme on personal safety/ community safety which is well planned and co-ordinated. It also supports providers with up to date information and clear and factual advice and support on relevant, current and topical areas to their pupils. The directory also includes an extensive list of supporting external resources including cybercrime, substance misuse, county lines, hate crime and domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Communities Against Exploitation Campaign

The overall aim of this campaign is to stimulate the curiosity of local communities about organised criminal activities happening in their neighbourhoods, improve their observational skills so they become the local 'eyes and 'ears', empowered to identify possible safeguarding concerns linked to serious organised crime threats, and take appropriate signposted action in helping to protect people in the most vulnerable circumstances.

Bexhill Academy students helped design artwork depicting the types of exploitation and were used as part of the ongoing media campaign and a range of partners supported and helped to facilitate some of the workshops. The Project is locally tailored and delivered to meet the needs of communities from a diverse range of community based settings. These include:

- Community / voluntary organisations and local networks which support and help communities / individuals.
- Organisations that deliver and coordinate local youth provision.
- Residents living in key locations such as town centres (including residents' associations / registered social landlords).
- Businesses that employ staff and run and coordinate their work in the main town centres.

The campaign was delivered in Rother during 2019. It will be delivered in Wealden during 2020/21 as part of the planned Children's Service Contextual Safeguarding work taking place.

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 19 November 2020

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: Impact of COVID-19 on the ethnic minority population of East Sussex and staff

Purpose: To provide the People Scrutiny Committee with an update on the measures the Council has taken in response to the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on people of ethnic minority backgrounds.

RECOMMENDATION

The People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and note the report

1 Background

1.1 On 17th September 2020, a report was submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with a summary of the support being provided to Care Homes during the Covid-19 crisis and the work the local health and social care system are doing to support staff from black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) working in the care sector. The report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

1.2 As part of the feedback from the HWB, the People Scrutiny Committee requested further information about the impact of Covid-19 on our ethnic minority staff and residents.

1.3 People from ethnic minority groups are most likely to be diagnosed with Covid 19. Nationally, death rates from COVID-19 are highest among people of black and Asian ethnic groups.

1.4 An analysis of survival among confirmed Covid-19 cases and using more detailed ethnic groups shows that after accounting for the effect of sex, age, deprivation and region, people of Bangladeshi ethnicity had around twice the risk of death than people of White British ethnicity. People of Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Other Asian, Caribbean and Other Black ethnicity had between 10 and 50% higher risk of death when compared to White British.

1.5 Analysis of deaths, in the first wave of the pandemic, of NHS and social care staff has shown that BAME staff are particularly affected and account for 21% of NHS staff but 63% of COVID-19 deaths; 20% of nursing and support staff, but 64% of deaths and 44% of medics but 95% of deaths¹. It is not fully understood why this is

¹ <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/workforce-and-business/workforce-diversity/nhs-workforce/latest#by-ethnicity>

the case, but research suggests that it may be partly because ethnic minority staff are more likely to work on the front line in lower graded roles, may be less likely to raise concerns and are more likely to be agency staff, or nightshift workers. All these groups may be at additional risk.

2. Supporting Information: The East Sussex Picture

2.1 According to the 2011 ONS Census, the population of East Sussex is 96% white (including non-British white) and 4% black, Asian and minority ethnic. This compares very low in ethnic minority population as compared to England BAME population of 14.6%. There is no recent reliable data of the population, but it is anticipated that the ethnic minority population of East Sussex has seen an increase since 2011.

2.2 There is no robust local data available on infection and death rates linked to Covid-19 broken down by ethnicity as death certificates do not include ethnicity and more than a quarter of test results do not include ethnicity. Of the 429 cases reported in East Sussex between June and August 2020, 8% were from the black, Asian and minority ethnic community and 65% white. Since more than a quarter did not give their ethnicity, it is difficult to come to any firm inference whether there is significant over presentation of ethnic minority population affected by Covid-19 in East Sussex.

2.3 The public health intelligence team reviewing COVID-19 cases consider ethnicity (where it is available) as one of the factors when considering whether further actions are required to reduce the risk within East Sussex.

ESCC black, Asian and minority ethnic staff

2.4 4.7% of our staff have identified themselves to be of ethnic minority background, while 84.5% have disclosed themselves to be white. We do not have ethnicity data for the remaining 10.8% staff.

2.5 Of the total 32 staff members reporting absence due to confirmed Covid-19 during March and October 2020, 3 were of ethnic minority background whereas 22 were white (including non-British white). We do not have ethnicity data for a further 7.

Steps taken to reduce the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic staff

2.6 Taking into account the national data about ethnic minority population being disproportionately affected by Covid-19, the new ESCC individual risk assessment form includes a section for BAME staff alongside other Covid-19 high risk categories. The individual staff risk assessment includes a specific section on BAME alongside other high risk Covid-19 categories to enable assessment of individuals who fall in to clinically vulnerable and moderate risk groups and lists mitigating measures.

2.7 Guidance related to Covid-19 BAME disparity has been circulated to Adult Social Care providers via the Adult Social Care Covid-19 briefing on 24th June 2020. The briefing distribution list includes the whole social care system including Care Homes, Home Care services, Day Services, Personal Assistants, supported accommodation schemes, Extra Care Housing schemes, Commissioning Voluntary Sector organisations and Carer organisations.

Clinical Commissioning Group commissioned research report on the impact of Covid-19 on ethnic minority population in Hastings

2.8 Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) was commissioned to conduct research in Hastings and St Leonard's wards of East Sussex to understand the impact of Covid-19 on ethnic minority population. The report is attached as **Appendix 2**. The report did not find any disproportionate impact on ethnic minority population in the region potentially because infection rates in Hastings remained low during the first wave of the pandemic.

2.9 The HVA report recommends strengthening relationships with ethnic minority communities and to develop closer working relationship with organisations where ethnic minority people work and use services.

Steps taken by ESCC in response to national data on disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on ethnic minority populations

2.10 A Covid-19 Disparity group was set up in June 2020 which meets monthly to discuss matters of race equality amongst others. This has given a fresh impetus in the Council to issues of equality and the group has representations from all departments of the Council to take forward the agenda of equality, diversity and inclusion.

2.11 Since June 2020, as part of Sussex Health and Care Partnership, our staff have participated in a number of events to raise awareness about race equality and to participate in conversations around staff welfare and workforce development. These include:

- Staff Conferences in June 2020 and October 2020
- Race Equality Webinar in August 2020
- Inequalities in Health and Social Care webinar in October 2020
- Anti-Racist training in October 2020

2.12 Further steps have also been taken by all departments to ensure race equality is at the forefront of our work and integrated in our planning processes:

- Children's Services has launched Race Equality Guidance for Schools
- Adult Social Care and Health are launching Equality and Inclusion Strategy
- Corporate Governance are recruiting for an Equality Manager with remit to oversee diversity in workforce

- We are conducting a staff survey to encourage disclosure of diversity data by staff so we can understand, and address needs better

2.13 The Communications Strategy for Outbreak Plan specifically addresses how to reach ethnic minority populations with messaging, including plans to translate messages in top ten languages spoken in East Sussex as well as targeted messaging to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and smaller community groups representing ethnic minority populations.

2.14 The Communication and Inclusion Strategy for the Shielding Framework also has plans on how to get messages and information about shielding and related support out to those from ethnic minority backgrounds. This includes ensuring priority is given to those from ethnic minority backgrounds for receiving welfare check calls to those on the shielded list.

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and note the report.

KEITH HINKLEY
Director of Adult Social Care and Health

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Report to: East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 17 September 2020

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: Support to Care Homes and Covid-19 Impact on Black Asian Minority Ethnic Groups

Purpose: To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of support provided to Care Homes during the Covid19 crisis and work the local health and social care system are doing to support people from Black, Asian Minority Ethnic staff working in the care sector.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to consider and comment on the report.

1. Background

1.1 This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with a summary of the support being provided to Care Homes during the Covid-19 crisis and the work the local health and social care system are doing to support people from Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff working in the care sector.

1.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has raised particular challenges for care home residents, their families and the staff who look after them. Staff working in care homes have played a key role in the response to Covid-19. Care homes have opened their doors to rapid admissions from both the community and hospitals, and staff have worked hard to understand residents' wishes and to ensure that care plans respect these. Staff have gone above and beyond in caring for residents and have, in many instances, learned new competencies and skills to do so.

1.3 As early as April 2020, the Kings Fund reported 'Many care homes and the staff who work in them have been brought to their knees by Covid-19. The emotional trauma of losing a significant number of residents (referred to as 'family members' by some homes), who staff have known for a number of years cannot be overstated. Meanwhile, the impact of Covid-19 on staff cover is felt acutely in the small teams that are typical in care homes.'

1.4 Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK, Public Health England reports¹ have provided clear evidence that older age, ethnicity, male sex and geographical area are associated with a higher risk of getting Covid-19, experiencing more severe symptoms and higher rates of death. The evidence suggests both ethnicity and low socio-economic status are independently associated with higher Covid-19 mortality.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892085/disparities_review.pdf and https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

1.5 The unequal impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities is thought to be due to a wide range of inter-related factors such as occupational risk (BAME staff tend to be in higher exposure roles); socio-economic inequalities including poorer housing and riskier living conditions; use of public transport; and greater risk of health conditions which increase severity of Covid-19 e.g. obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Stakeholders¹ reported that racism, discrimination, stigma made it harder for BAME groups to access Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or healthcare, and public health information and media messages may not have been culturally appropriate for all BAME or lower socio-economic groups, resulting in stay safe messages not being received.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Throughout the Covid19 crisis, Health and Social Care have been supporting care homes and care providers in a number of ways. Some examples are provided below:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

2.2 The key elements of the East Sussex response are:

- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has procured PPE to support local Health and Social Care providers during Covid-19. Providers have been able to access this stock, free of charge, since April. The PPE has been used to support providers whose stocks are running critically low, and where all other options of supply have been exhausted
- Between April and August, 563,018 items of procured stock were issued
- More broadly, the Adult Social Care and Health Department have been responsible for the issuing of both Local Resilience Forum PPE supplies, which have been allocated to Local Authorities to support local businesses through the pandemic. These supplies have been used to support a wide range of businesses including Registrars; pharmacies, schools and funeral directors
- At the time of writing (19/08/2020) 989,034 items from Local Resilience Forum (LRF) stock have been issued since the beginning of April
- Alongside the provision of PPE, all national PPE guidance has been shared with independent sector care providers throughout the pandemic through the Adult Social Care provider bulletin. Telephone support has also been provided to care homes by Public Health, the Adult Social Care Market Support Team and Clinical Commissioning Group Infection Control Team

Infection prevention and control (IPC)

2.3 The key elements of the East Sussex response are:

- As part of the Sussex Covid-19 response, Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have formed an Infection Prevention and Control Care Homes work stream. In partnership with ESCC Adult Social Care, ESCC Public Health Team and Acute and Community providers this work supports the Covid-19 response to care homes
- By the end of May 2020, Infection Prevention Training had been provided by the CCG Infection Control Nurse Specialists to all providers including Nursing and Residential care homes and Domiciliary providers across Sussex. This training included the use of Personal Protective Equipment
- In addition, Sussex CCGs in partnership with local authorities are implementing the National Infection Prevention training programme which includes the practical application of Personal Protective Equipment
- The Sussex CCGs Infection Prevention and Control team provide a follow up call to all care homes and providers who declare a suspected or confirmed COVID19 outbreak via Public Health England outbreaks reports. This call includes providing homes with advice and guidance on following national IPC and PPE guidelines for Covid-19.

Advice is provided on how to isolate and cohort residents within the care home environment according to their circumstances

- Care homes are also given support on ensuring IPC measures in relation to staff and the care home environment are taken to limit transmission this includes advice on managing laundry, refuse and cleaning regimes
- The weekly Incident Management Team response call chaired by Public Health is attended by representatives from across health and social care. It ensures that additional support regarding infection prevention and control is in place to assist homes experiencing an outbreak

The experiences of Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff during the current Covid-19 pandemic

2.4 The key elements of the East Sussex response are:

- A BAME Covid-19 Disparity Programme has been set up by the NHS Improvement and NHS England (NHSI/E) nationally and a South East BAME Mortality Disparity Advisory Panel has also been established. Sussex Health and Care Partnership is co-ordinating a programme of work to address the disparity of the impact of Covid-19 for the BAME population and health and social care workforce
- As part of this Programme Hastings, Brighton & Hove and Crawley have undertaken studies into Covid-19 and the impact on the BAME population in their local areas. Hasting Voluntary Action published their report in August. The report considers the causes, understanding and awareness within the BAME community of Hastings and St Leonards of the increased risk they faced from Covid-19; it begins to consider the effect of increased risk based on the pre Covid-19 experiences of the BAME community of using NHS services and looks at the formal and informal networks and sources of influence within the local BAME communities. The recommendations from the reports will be considered by the Sussex Health and Care Partnership and we will ensure they link into the East Sussex Race Disparities group's work.
- Risk assessment templates and supporting information for managers has been prepared and shared with Adult Social Care independent sector care providers. There is an ongoing dialogue with the independent sector about the impact of Covid-19 on the BAME workforce
- The [East Sussex Outbreak Management Plan](#) covers approaches to deal with outbreaks in a range of settings including care homes, and plans to support more vulnerable groups including BAME
- ESCC staff were invited to share their pandemic experiences and help us plan for recovery by completing the Time to Talk survey. A summary of the [staff survey feedback](#) has been published on the intranet. The feedback will help inform ongoing reviews about working arrangements over the next few months. The data is being analysed into themes affecting specific groups such as frontline workers, BAME staff and those shielding
- We have also conducted online and telephone survey with our residents to understand how the pandemic has affected them. This data has been analysed across various demographics and used by various teams to plan recovery and services during a further outbreak
- An ESCC working group has been set up in response to the Covid-19 related disparities and to prepare ourselves for Recovery and/or a potential second wave which addresses any underlying inequalities in how our staff and population from different backgrounds have been affected by the pandemic
- In ESCC a range of training and development opportunities already exist, including those listed below:

- Equality & Diversity elearning – mandatory for all staff at induction
 - Unconscious Bias elearning
 - Racial, National and Ethnic Equality elearning
 - Trans Awareness elearning
 - Social Model of Disability elearning
 - Neurodiversity in the workplace elearning
 - Equality & Diversity course
 - Equality & Diversity for Managers course
 - Mitigating Unconscious Bias course
 - Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Community Awareness elearning
- On 15th July Diversity Resource International ran a Resilience in Adversity seminar in East Sussex, supported by ESCC. The event was a community conversation with local people from ethnic minority communities with circa 100 people on the call. One of the key themes from the seminar was the need for a consistent and sustainable commitment to addressing the challenges of inequality from East Sussex statutory organisations; using our social purpose to develop mutually beneficial and sustainable relationships within the local community.
 - The future of the Community Hubs established during Covid-19 are currently being decided and there is an opportunity to ensure they are developed with an enhanced focus on reaching ethnic minority populations.
 - Adult Social Care and Health Department (ASCH) has commissioned Activmob to undertake research with ASCH service users and wider population to understand how our services and communication have fared during lockdown. The learning from this can be shared more widely. Recruitment of participants for this research has been done to ensure that there is proportionate representation from all strands of equality.
 - Recognising that there has been an increased incidence of racism to people from ethnic minority communities and possibly to our staff, we are developing Continuing Professional Development training for our internal staff which coaches on how to coach staff who have experienced racial harm.

Mental health and wellbeing support for care workers and managers

2.5 The key elements of the East Sussex response are:

- East Sussex County Council has a web page dedicated to resources and support available for social care providers and the wellbeing of their staff:
<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/providers/covid-19-asc/staff-wellbeing/>
- The web page includes sections on:
 - Psychological support for staff
 - Wellbeing information and resources
 - Dealing with stress, trauma and death
 - Free visa extensions for care workers
- The Adult Social Care provider bulletin regularly promotes this support and highlights different types of support available for care staff. This includes guidance, training; services staff can access for support; resource packs; posters; checklists and guidance for managers.
- We are working on a briefing on worker's rights specifically looking at Covid-19 and care homes which we encourage our providers to share with agency staff to enhance the understanding of rights on accessing PPE equipment, risk assessments, shift work and access to testing.

Mental Health services and the impact of Covid-19

2.6 The key elements of the East Sussex response are:

- Support targeted at BAME populations in East Sussex has continued throughout the pandemic. Supporting and engaging with local communities in the Hastings and Eastbourne area ensuring people get access to advice and support for health as well as mental health as early as possible according to their needs. Also, specific support for the Gypsy and Traveller communities has continued to provide support during Covid-19
- East Sussex has a Race Equalities Support Resource that supports engagement approaches for local services as well as translation available for people who don't speak English. In some cases, the officer will provide liaison support for people experiencing difficulty with mental health services. They review and monitor all mental health services quarterly to ensure they are accessible and engaging with local BAME populations
- Throughout the pandemic in East Sussex, local telephone support and advice has also been available for all levels of mental health through a mental health action line
- Local mental health services are now developing their approaches for re-establishing local services and how they can re-establish provision safely

3. Conclusion and recommendations

3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to consider and comment on the report.

KEITH HINKLEY

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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Coronavirus and the Impact on the BAME Population of Hastings and St Leonards-on- Sea

Marc Turczanski
August 2020

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Introduction

This study and subsequent report aims to focus on assessing awareness of the personal risks faced by the BAME population living in Hastings and St Leonards on Sea in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic. We also aim to acknowledge how these challenges have existed for many years and to establish the connection with the increased risk of infection.

The increased negative impact and risk of the COVID-19 infection on the BAME communities is still being understood and assessed by government, health services and academics. However, the Marmot Review (Marmot et al., 2020) highlighted that people living in deprived areas and those from a BAME background were not only more likely to have underlying health conditions because of their disadvantaged backgrounds, but they were also more likely to have shorter life expectancy as a result of their socioeconomic status.

Where you live, what you can afford to eat, how much green space you have, how much exercise you are able to take, and the impact of poverty and racism all play key roles in health outcomes.

Where the health issue relates to infection, BAME community members are more likely to be in higher risk vocational sectors of employment with far less opportunities to exercise choices to keep themselves safe by, for example, working from home.

The Runnymede Trust report “Over-Exposed and Under-Protected” June 2020 concluded that:

“...pre-existing racial and socioeconomic inequalities resulting in disparities in co-morbidities between ethnic groups have been amplified by COVID-19. Our survey findings unequivocally show that COVID-19 is not just a health crisis; it is also a social and economic crisis” (pg. 2)

“...the ability to cope, to protect and to shield oneself from coronavirus is vastly different for people from different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.” (pg. 2)

Through long-term local engagement activities and direct service user experiences, the health challenges and inequalities faced by the BAME communities in Hastings and St Leonards pre-COVID 19 were already an area of concern. Progress has been made to address these issues through local NHS equalities programmes, targeted engagement activities and efforts to improve understanding and removal of barriers to access help and advice for those from a BAME background. A key tool has been the development and maintenance of strong and lasting community relationships.

Hastings Voluntary Action has been involved for many years with work around equalities, race relations, improving access to services and health outcomes for BAME communities. It has provided extensive support to local BAME/Black-led organisation such as Hastings Mosque, the Bangladeshi Association and the Hastings Intercultural Organisation. It has also been part of the development of a number of studies, strategies and needs assessments for the BAME communities living in Hastings and St Leonards on Sea.

Executive Summary

Research Rationale

- To consider the causes, understanding and awareness within the BAME community of Hastings and St Leonards of the increased risk they faced from COVID-19
- To begin to consider the effect of increased risk of COVID-19 on the BAME community based on their pre COVID-19 experiences of using NHS services
- To look at the formal and informal networks and the sources of influence within the BAME communities

Methodology

- Development of a 14-question questionnaire
- Face-to-face interviews
- Creation of a project “Challenge Panel” made of key local stakeholders and academics partners

Limitations

- Limited development and delivery time
- Reduced opportunity for large scale engagement due to operational restrictions due to COVID-19
- Low infection rates of COVID-19 within Hastings and St Leonards

Key Findings

- The BAME communities within Hastings and St Leonards do not see themselves as a single homogenous group making the development of a single engagement strategy very difficult
- The term BAME itself creates a barrier to effective engagement
- Past direct experience of using NHS services has affected trust
- Stigma of being diagnosed with COVID-19 potentially prevented accessing support and advice
- Risk of infection from COVID-19 within BAME communities increases/decreases in line with socioeconomic factors i.e. poverty, unemployment, education and immigration status, more so than with ethnicity
- Community leaders and influential sources of information within communities are not easy to identify but are critical to reach to bring about effective change
- Effective engagement was hampered due to previous BAME engagement strategies and/or targeted health awareness raising activities that did not bring about lasting change or ended without proper feedback/community consultation

Summary Recommendations

- To critically assess previous reviews, assessments and reports on BAME access to NHS services and effectively report back to the community on results
- To support and train all frontline NHS staff to ensure fairer and better access for BAME patients
- To strengthen relationships at a grassroots community level
- To utilise new methods of online contact/engagement through social media but to acknowledge that not all communities will be able to use these due to cost, capacity and knowledge
- To develop closer working relationship with industries/local employers where there are more BAME workers

Methodology

The methodologies used were adapted to ensure maximum reach and ease of access to the questionnaire. This includes using a targeted approach relying on the community engagement resource within Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) as well as direct access to the service users of the Links Project drop-in whose clients are asylum seekers, refugees and migrant communities living in East Sussex.

There was an emphasis on the use of interpreting/translating support to ensure fair and wide reaching representation.

We adopted a qualitative method involving semi-structured interviews with 15 participants from a number of ethnic minority groups.

The effect of the lockdown on access to and being able to have meaningful face-to-face contact with the relevant population in Hastings and St Leonards was a significant challenge for this study.

The following methodologies were used:

- Development of a 14-question questionnaire aimed at gathering experience of using NHS during the Coronavirus pandemic as well as to gather experience of accessing NHS for other non-CV19 reasons.
- Face to face assistance to complete the questionnaire during the weekly Links Project drop-in session
- One to one interviews with 15 individuals carried out by HVA staff and volunteers
- Development of a “Challenge Panel” to review results and develop recommendations.

Members of the panel are:

- Alex Ntung - is a PhD researcher at the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent, UK. He is investigating the interplay between religious beliefs and modern politics in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Author of Not My Worst Day, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a professional member of the UK Expert Witness Institute, and a DRC political and security analyst. Alex has been involved in political mediation for civil society organisations in conflict-affected areas, for which provides insights into issues of war, security, and cultural insensitivity in conflict resolution. Alex was born into a family of cattle herders, semi-nomadic, pastoralist people in South Kivu in the DRC.
- James Johnson - Retired. Background in social work and mental health management. Visiting lecturer and mentor to Black students Brighton University. Trustee, HVA and member of the Sussex Police Independent Advisory Group (Strategic and East Division).
- Dr Daniel Burdsey - a sociologist at the University of Brighton. His research explores the relationship between racism and place, especially in non-urban

environments (such as coastal and rural locations) and non-traditional sites of immigration.

- Steve Manwaring – Director of Hastings Voluntary Action. His research has focused on a number of key areas including HIV/AIDS, access and shared care arrangements, Community Resilience. Steve currently chairs the Hastings COVID 19 Community Response Hub

Data received from the questionnaire has been statistically analysed using Survey Monkey.

Result from the one to one interviews assessed by report author.

Due to the lockdown restrictions and operational changes to service delivery, the opportunity to carry out interviews in person was problematic. For example, no community venues were available to hold group discussions involving more than four people. We also struggled to find willing participants to agree to meet face-to-face in groups and so the decision was taken to focus on single person interviews.

Our intention is to hold the group discussions at some point in the future as all the face-to-face contact we managed to have gave very useful and important results.

Although there has been a significant increase in the use of online discussions platforms, i.e. Zoom etc. the short timescales for the engagement activities for this study meant that this restricted the opportunity to use this medium due to access, knowledge/skill and limited funds of participants to pay for data. The challenges around effective engagement are also included in the recommendations.

Demographics

Hastings (and St Leonards on Sea) is a seaside town on the South Coast of England approximately 50 miles south of London. It has 16 electoral wards and has a population of 92661.

Hastings and St Leonards is ranked 13th in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and has two wards in the 1% most deprived LSOAs in the UK.

61% of the population are of working age (16-64), 19% aged 16 or under and 20% aged over 65.

In the 2011 census, 94% of those who responded gave their ethnicity as White (British, Northern Irish, White Irish and other White). 2% recorded their ethnicity as mixed heritage and 4% as Black, Arab or Asian. For the purposes of this report into the risks faced by the BAME community with consideration given to skin pigmentation, the relevant population is approximately 3706 individuals (men, women and children).

Anecdotally, there are wide ranges of nationality groups within the town but there is no single “largest” group by ethnicity.

Hastings has operated as an asylum dispersal area since 1999, which has brought in a very wide range of nationalities to the town. Some of these individuals chose to settle here once their asylum applications were determined. The largest of these groups are Kurdish (Iraqi and Iranian), Albanian and Chinese. There was already an established Bangladeshi

community in the town and there are a number of African nationality groups including Zimbabwean, Congolese, Nigerian, Eritrean and South African.

Within Hastings, there are a small number of communities of shared interest that have a significant proportion of their membership from BAME groups. These include the Hastings Mosque, FACE (Friends of African and Caribbean), HopeG and the Bangladeshi Association. There has been no single BAME representative group since the Hastings Intercultural Organisation (HIO) ceased to exist.

Results and Key Themes

The questionnaire results were broken down and assessed in four categories:

1. User data
 - a. Ethnicity
 - b. Location
2. Experience/knowledge of CV19
 - a. CV19 status
 - b. Using the NHS specifically for CV19
 - c. Experience of using the NHS for CV19 and/or reason for not accessing the NHS for support
 - d. Source of information about CV19
 - e. Risk of being infected with CV19
3. Information received about potential increased risks to BAME population
4. Experience of using general NHS services
 - a. Using NHS for non-CV19 related issues during lockdown
 - b. Experience of using NHS for non-CV19 issues

The overall response to the questionnaire (53 responses) was slightly lower than hoped but it was felt that the responses represented a wide enough range of the various BAME communities within in the town based on HVA/The Links Project; this is supported by the available ethnicity data.

We completed 15 face-to-face interviews that were based on an open discussion around four questions:

- *Have you or any of your family had Coronavirus?*
- *Where do you get information on how to protect yourself from Coronavirus?*
- *Did you know that some ethnic groups have a higher death rate from Coronavirus?*
- *What would you like in place now so you and your family feel safe and protected as possible?*

Some of the longer free text responses from the questionnaire have been consolidated with the face-to-face interview results.

Questionnaire Results

1. User Data

a. *Ethnicity*

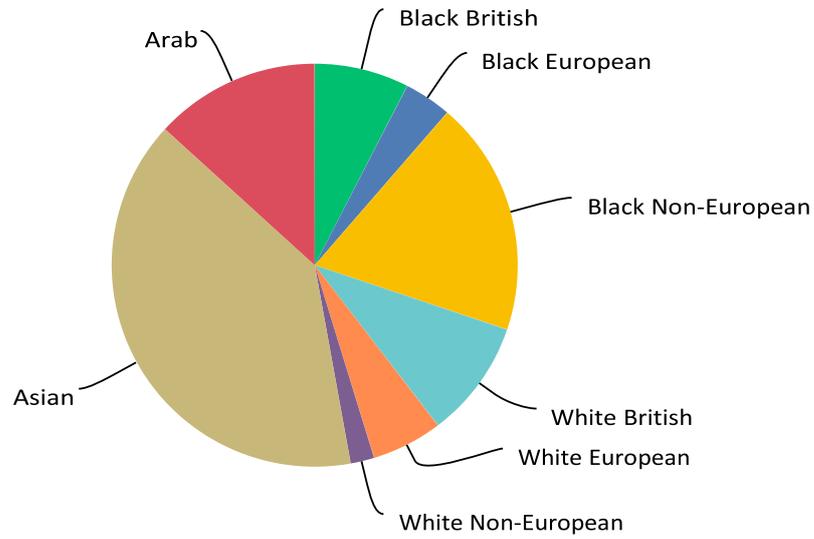
Figure 1. below, gives a breakdown of the ethnicity of the participants that completed the questionnaire.

The ethnicity categories used within the questionnaire were simplified although still based on standard categories used in surveys, questionnaires and public engagement activities. It should be acknowledged that there could be a cross over between the groups “Asian” and “Arab” from a geographic perspective.

The overall response was reflective of the known existing ethnicity groups within the town as captured through the 2011 Census, attendance statistics of the Links Project drop-in and HVAs engagement activities

Leading up to and during the active engagement period of the research, it became obvious that term “BAME” was being met with some confusion but also resistance. This resistance was based on the unjustified need for there to be a category to define non-whites as a single homogenous group, which it is not. Although this result is not relevant for the purposes of this study, it was felt important to capture and will form part of the recommendations.

Q1 Which cultural group do you identify with?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Black British	7.55% 4
Black European	3.77% 2
Black Non-European	18.87% 10
White British	9.43% 5
White European	5.66% 3
White Non-European	1.89% 1
Mixed Heritage	0.00% 0
Asian	39.62% 21
Arab	13.21% 7
TOTAL	53

b. Location

64% of responses came from postcodes TN37, and TN38. These postcodes include Central St Leonards and Hollington both of which can be found in the top 13% of deprived areas in the IMD.

TN34 received 21% that covers Hastings town centre, Broomgrove and Ore. These also include LSOAs included in the top 13% most deprived.

TN35 had 9.6% responses that covers Old Town but also areas out of Hastings.

The location information matches exiting data of the postcodes for Hastings/St Leonards with lower quality more affordable housing which are also areas where the majority of BAME communities live.

2. Experience/Knowledge of CV19

a. CV19 Status

90% of those who responded to the question about their Coronavirus status did not have any symptoms and were not tested. There was only one individual who had symptoms and was positively tested for CV19.

b. Using the NHS specifically for CV19

26% tried to get specific help from the NHS about CV19 either about themselves or family members.

c. Experience of using the NHS for CV19 and/or reason for not accessing the NHS for support

71% reported specific CV19 support provided by the NHS as being either adequate or good.

28% reported that their experience was poor or very poor.

83% responded that they did not feel the need to go to the NHS for CV19 specific enquiries

3% responded that they did not go to the see their GP as they previously had had a bad experience

8% were unable to get an appointment with their GP

d. Source of information about CV19

81% responded that the internet was the main source of information

57% said UK television and/or radio

48% Friends and family in the UK and 40% friends and family outside the UK

e. Risk of being infected with CV19

47% believed that they were high risk of being infected and 56% believed they were low risk.

Responses explaining high-risk status included:

“I work in the health sector”

“Because other people don’t use masks and use precautions”

“Age ethnicity medical conditions”

“Racial background and type 2 diabetic”

“The media says I am”

“I am black and disabled”

“I’m foreign”

3. Information received about potential increased risks to BAME Population

76% felt that they had been given or had enough access to information to keep themselves and their families safe.

4. Experience of using general NHS services during the lockdown

48% used the NHS for non-COVID medical issues and 90% of these were to see the GP. 22% to access secondary/hospital care. 4% used the dentist. No other health services were accessed by any of the respondents i.e. maternity, sexual health or mental health support.

52% felt that the response they got was good or very good and 25% felt that the response was poor or very poor.

Free text response of experiences included:

“My wife who has dementia was not examined before diagnosis of urinary infection and had 3 failed antibiotic treatments...Not good. So very mixed.”

“I got a phone call and was told not to worry”

“They guess what you have as telephone consultation was not thorough enough and superficial”

“My appointment was cancelled and I have not been able to get another one”

“I only got one phone call and did not understand”

“It will take too long”

Face-to-Face Interviews

We carried out 15 face-to-face interviews in the following languages

- Russian (x1)
- Arabic (x4)
- Tigrinyan (x3)
- English (x5)
- Kurdish Sorani (x1)

- Farsi (x1)

The ethnicities of the interviewees were:

Eritrean, Russian Federation, Syrian, Iraqi, Bangladeshi, British and Chinese

Conversations were wide ranging and started with a question about current and past CV19 status. However, none of the participants had direct experience of having the virus. It is worth mentioning that there remain very low infection rates in Hastings, which is somewhat anomalous and will likely require further study.

Main discussion topics were:

- effectiveness of messaging from Central Government and NHS/other “official” sources
- general experience of using the NHS as non-Whites
- differences between white and non-white communities

Central Government messages were largely felt to be contradictory and mixed. All of the participants said they watched the BBC News of the government briefings. However, all broadcast discussions and briefings were delivered in English, which meant that translations needed to be sought from other members of the household or community. It was acknowledged by two of the participants that this often resulted in an “interpretation” of what was said where the meaning could be changed especially when the messaging was contradictory.

Only one of the participants was aware that their ethnicity could make them more of risk of infection. None of the participants had received any official information directly about personal risks due to ethnicity. Two of the participants said that this interview was the first they were aware of increased risks due to skin pigmentation.

In the discussions with participants where English was not their first language, there was unanimous agreement that this continues to be a major challenge and barrier when accessing health care not just during the pandemic.

Although access to interpreters for GP appointments has improved, there was still an element of embarrassment to ask for an appointment with one but also one of the participants said they were made to feel that they were being “difficult” by asking.

Two of the participants said they received different treatment to white patients especially when

The biggest challenge (pre-CV19) for those without English as a first language was with engagement with practice/administration staff and not necessarily medical professionals. However, there was an example given where a GP was using “Google Translate” during an appointment.

Booking GP appointments during lockdown became more problematic for those without English as a first language especially when asked to explain the reason for needing an appointment, or requesting an interpreter for a phone consultation. One participant said this made them only ask for help only when absolutely necessary and the thought of contacting the GP for reassurance about CV19 risks was dismissed.

There was an awareness of the risks specifically faced by the BAME community by some of the participants although again, information on this was largely delivered in English. Technical details about risks associated with skin pigmentation/Vitamin D levels were not well known, even by those with English as the first language.

Some key quotes:

“White British culture is more reserved when compared to most Black cultures. We visit each other’s homes more, we are more tactile and we share everything with friends and family”

“Black people do all the jobs that white people don’t want to do”

“I worked as a carer for many years and even then we are understaffed and under-supported. I have heard from old colleagues that they were not being given any protection equipment during the lockdown – I’m not surprised they were infected more”

“Reading up, it seems BAME backgrounds disproportionately affected (although how much this is due to living/working conditions as opposed to genetic factors/vit D am unsure. I am a keyworker as is my husband, so risk of exposure greater. However, am lucky that I don’t need to use public transport or live in multi-generational home”

“I had a job in a restaurant but I was furloughed and then quickly made redundant – a lot of my friends lost their jobs as well and some even lost their homes. One friend does not have any papers – I do not know what he will do.”

“I have felt very isolated and lonely during the lockdown. I have not been able to pray or see my friends.”

“I am confused why you want to know my ethnicity. When can I be just “British”?”

The overall experience of the carrying out face-to-face interviews was very positive and as mentioned previously in the report, there is an intention to facilitate group discussions in the future. The topics raised by the participants were challenging and included some anger as to why there was a need to do more engagement work when previous similar activities either ended without results or brought about no change. As mentioned above, the term BAME was confusing for some. The differences between participants were more pronounced when considered through socio-economic factors rather than ethnicity and it would have been useful to explore these with groups.

Level of English spoken, employment conditions, housing, income and immigration status all had an impact of impact, perceptions and awareness of CV19. Economic factors had a significant impact on risks taken and as a consequence increasing the chance of infection. One participant had just completed a 70-hour working week as a carer, which left little time to rest and eat let alone watch governmental briefings or to make technical considerations of risk of infection.

Conclusions

This was a small-scale piece of research put together in a relatively short period of time. The strength of the study was being delivered in a small geographic area by a trusted CVS and local project allowing us to reach into and engage with the BAME communities in a way that made them feel comfortable to give honest answers. 95% of those who completed the questionnaire and 100% of the face-to-face interviews were from the target group.

Although ethnicity was common amongst the participants in that they were all “non-White”, what we found were that the factors that consistently increased risk were poverty, education and experience of life in the UK. Those with English as a first language or who had worked long-term in the UK were on the whole more informed about the risks of COVID-19 on the BAME community. They also tended to live circumstances that meant they could manage the risks more safely.

What came out very obviously in the face-to-face interviews, as well as the free text answers in the questionnaire, was that the strongest connecting factor between all participants was experience of accessing health services as a person of colour. This experience was unanimously seen as different from those with white skin and subsequently felt to reduce the likelihood of using NHS services and in some cases trusting the advice/messages.

Resistance to the term “BAME” was obvious from the start of this piece of work especially in the face-to-face work. Although the term “BAME” has been used throughout this report, it should be said that for the majority of the participants, it was seen as a barrier that needed to be overcome before we are able to begin to achieve meaningful engagement.

There was also a lengthy discussion within the “Challenge Panel” about the use of the term “BAME”. This included reference to the long running debate within academic circles over the need to have a single defining category for “non-white” that creates a group with no homogeneity. In addition, how the term “BAME” had been changed from “BME” without discussion and the negative impact this had on the engagement activities carried out for this report.

The stigmatisation of COVID-19 as a “BAME virus” needs to be avoided at all costs and it was agreed that this would be specifically highlighted within the report.

Recommendations

1. A commissioned critical literature review of previous race equalities, Comprehensive Needs Assessments and other research in East Sussex over the previous 10 years
2. NHS to work with local employers around COVID-19 awareness raising but in particular looking at the caring profession, manual labour, hospitality and seasonal work industries to ensure that their most at risk staff members are fully aware of COVID-19 risks
3. Developing better/more effective first experience of contacting GP/Primary Care especially when English is not the first language i.e. appointment booking apps in languages, option to speak to an interpreter to book appointments.
4. Re-promotion of Bilingual Advocacy service to GPs and local communities
5. NHS partnership with HBC Housing to promote COVID-19 awareness to all residents targeting areas where higher proportions of the housing is occupied by BAME households
6. NHS Commissioners to work with CVS partners to look at developing better commissioning opportunities/strategies for local black-led community groups and organisations.
7. Working with public and voluntary sector partners to develop and test culturally competent community based engagement and/or culturally sensitive awareness raising activities.
8. Ensuring that equalities is at the heart of recovery work undertaken at a local level by public, private and voluntary sector partners.

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Appendices

Questionnaire



HVA CV19
Survey.pdf
