



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**TOTAL POLICING**



***'Safe in Sutton'***

**Sutton Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy 2017-20**

ENSURING EFFECTIVE POLICING, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION  
IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LOCALITIES

Safer Sutton Partnership

## Foreword

Crime prevention and community safety is a substantial quality of life issue which impacts all of society, individually and collectively. Good community safety is multifaceted and not just about tackling crime and disorder. It is also about ensuring good health and wellbeing, suitable housing, safe and strong neighbourhoods and positive economic and social regeneration. It is about social cohesion, and requires all in Sutton to work towards shared objectives.

This cannot be achieved alone. Sutton's profile and reputation for public safety heavily influences its appeal as a place to live, work, raise a family and hold onto or attract new business. Community safety is a complex and multi-dimensional issue; no single agency can deliver all of the solutions effectively.

The Safer Sutton Partnership Service (SSPS) has since its launch in 2005 played a major role in responding to an evolving community safety landscape, and has forged dynamic partnerships with a range of agencies and community groups bringing together local knowledge and expertise to target resources and respond to need.

"Safe in Sutton", Sutton's Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy comes at a time when the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has produced 'A Safer City for all Londoners'; a new Police and Crime Plan (2017-21) for the capital and "Safe in Sutton" is our response.

"Safe in Sutton" also aligns with The Government's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy and Hate Crime Action Plan.

'Safe in Sutton' will contribute directly to the vision and delivery of the Sutton Plan, *'Building safe, strong and healthy communities and increasing economic growth and investment in Sutton making it a place of choice to live and work'*.

## Executive summary

Responses to crime disorder and associated safety issues that we face in Sutton are often complex and require the efforts of a number of agencies, notably Probation, Police, Children and Adult Social Care, Health and Fire and Rescue services.

There are often no quick or easy solutions to some of the more entrenched problems that communities may face. “Safe in Sutton” sets out the Community Safety Partnership’s ambition for a ‘Safer Sutton’ in terms of:

- Existing and emerging issues identified as being community safety priorities.
- Specific areas for attention and action to be able to effectively deal with these.

“Safe in Sutton” describes the new legislative context, requirements and drivers for community safety and our identified community safety priorities, setting out:

- How we will make best use of neighbourhood policing resources to prevent crime and tackle problems caused by anti- social behaviour, both in social housing and our public spaces.
- Our collaborative efforts to identify support and protect our most vulnerable young people from harm and exploitation.
- Our work to identify, prevent and protect women and girls from violence and abuse, with support for victims and survivors and also work to challenge and change the behaviour of those who perpetrate it (preventing domestic violence is a very high priority for action in Sutton).
- Our work to counter hate and extremism in the borough, to understand the motives and challenge the behaviour of those who perpetrate and or advocate this.
- The work that we are doing to ensure that our most challenging and persistent offenders are made accountable for their actions and are given the tools with which to desist from offending and face justice if they do not.
- The support that our commissioned local services are giving to our most complex and prolific offenders (male and female) to help them to stop offending and live more productive crime and substance free lives.
- The work that we are doing to improve the experience and support given to the most vulnerable victims of crime locally.

## 1. Introduction

“Safe in Sutton” is our community safety strategy for 2017-20. The safety and welfare of our residents and visitors is a key priority for the Community Safety Partnership which works with communities, the Police, businesses, the voluntary and private sectors and other statutory agencies to ensure that people, their property and neighbourhoods are kept as safe as possible. Community safety is managed through the statutory Community Safety Partnership, which in Sutton is called the Safer Sutton Partnership.

Crime prevention is everyone’s business and should be a part of our daily lives, even in safe boroughs like Sutton. Preventing crime doesn’t have to cost lots of time and money, but one of the biggest threats is not understanding how we can stay safe or even assuming that something won’t affect you.

Crime in Sutton is generally very low but this does not mean that we should be complacent in our collective approach to preventing crime in the first place.

Through ‘Safe in Sutton’ we want to explore new ways of working together to ‘design out’ and stop crime from happening in the first place. We want to make it easier for people to be able to report crime and we will be seeking to provide more information to the public about what the Community Safety Partnership is doing to stop crime and our successes in this.

Community safety is about much more than just criminality. It is about many aspects of ‘quality of life’ (personal, social and environmental) in which people, individually and collectively, are protected as far as possible from hazards or threats from the criminal or anti-social behaviour of others, and are equipped or helped to cope with those they do experience.

Community safety is not just an issue for the Emergency Services; the Council, the community and voluntary sector, and in fact all public bodies and stakeholders contribute to this in a variety of ways:

- Through tackling antisocial behaviour, in making our local housing and neighbourhoods feel safer and better ordered.
- Through emergency planning, ensuring that plans are in place to deal with emergency situations such as flooding, civil unrest or terrorist incidents.
- Through regulation, licensing and trading standards, helping to maintain public order, appropriate registration and certification for businesses, and preventing the sale of potentially dangerous items.

'Safe in Sutton' necessarily has a particular focus upon our most vulnerable citizens, be they young or old and the people who are most likely to be exploited, victimised and harmed by the criminal and anti-social pursuits of others.

'Safe in Sutton' is set out in seven sections:

- *Safe on our streets and in our neighbourhoods*
- *Safe from harm and exploitation*
- *Safe from violence and abuse*
- *Safe from hate and extremism*
- *Safe from crime and its consequences*
- *Drugs and alcohol*
- *Help and support for vulnerable victims of crime*

## **2. A Changing Landscape with New Priorities for Community Safety**

Crime prevention and community safety requirements are changing. This is acknowledged in the Governments Modern Crime Prevention Strategy (March 2016).

As levels of high volume crime have fallen, the nature of crime itself has changed. While traditional high volume crimes like burglary and street violence have more than halved, previously 'hidden' crimes like child sexual abuse and domestic violence have become more visible. There is also growing evidence of the scale of online fraud and cybercrime.

The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy identifies six clearly evidenced themes to crime that are both causal and offer opportunities to intervene:

- **Opportunity** – *Removing or designing out opportunities for criminals to offend, offline and online.*
- **Character** – *Intervening early with those exposed to factors that might lead to a high propensity to commit crime.*
- **Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (CJS)** - *Ensuring that the CJS acts as a powerful deterrent to would-be offenders.*
- **Profit** - *Making it harder for criminals, particularly organised criminals, to benefit financially from their crimes.*
- **Drugs** - *Publish a new drug strategy, which builds on the approach published in 2010 to restrict the supply of drugs and tackle the organised crime behind the drugs trade, prevent drug misuse in our communities, help people resist getting involved in drugs, and support people dependent on drugs through treatment and recovery.*

- **Alcohol** - *Making the night time economy safe so that people can consume alcohol safely without fear of becoming a victim of alcohol-related crime or disorder, enabling local economies to grow.*

The Government's Hate Crime Action Plan launched in July 2016 reaffirms Government commitment to tackling hate crime in all its forms. It sets out five key aims:

- *Prevent hate crime.*
- *Deal with hate crime in our communities.*
- *Get more people to report hate crime.*
- *Improve support for the victims of hate crime.*
- *Understand hate crime.*

Hate crime is a significant issue and more so in the wake of the referendum decision to leave the EU and recent terrorist incidents in the UK and across Europe.

Partnership work and collaboration between public agencies, business and communities is a strong recurring theme in both the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy and Hate Crime Action Plan.

A Safer City for All Londoners - Police and Crime Plan 2017 - 2021, sets out the London Mayoral objectives for policing and crime and explains to Londoners what they can expect from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). Underpinning the Police and Crime Plan are two overarching aims:

- *A safer city for everyone, no matter who you are or where you live.*
- *Extra protection and support for the most vulnerable people and places.*

The Plan identifies three areas for particular focus:

- *Violence against women and girls.*
- *Keeping children and young people safe.*
- *Hate crime and intolerance.*

The framework prioritises high harm crime and enables councils, residents and police to set local priorities. Sutton's work to combat anti social behaviour is showcased as best practice in the Plan.

### **3. A New Policing Model for London**

In the Police and Crime Plan the Mayor has confirmed plans to create larger command units (known as the 'One Met' model) moving from single to multiple boroughs. In two trial schemes, the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham and Havering and Redbridge, and also Camden and Islington are to be merged into single policing command units. No firm decisions about the new policing model for Sutton have been resolved but community safety partners will continue to advocate for most favourable arrangements for Sutton.

### **4. Sutton the Place**

Sutton is one of the southernmost boroughs of London. It is south of the London Borough of Merton, west of the London Borough of Croydon and east of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The local authority is the London Borough of Sutton. Its principal town is Sutton.

The 2016 GLA population estimate outlines that the population of Sutton is 201,751 and Sutton's household estimate is 84,612. The average age of a Sutton resident is 39 years old. According to the Census (2011), 49% of the population of Sutton are male and 51% are female which is comparable to London. The BAME population of Sutton is recorded as 25%, lower than the London average.

Sutton covers 4,385 hectares. The population density per hectare (2016) is 46.1. There are 1,600 roads in Sutton covering 400km. Sutton has ten railway stations that service the borough. Public transport use has increased by 22% since 2005/06. (Source: Successful Sutton).

Sutton has nine public libraries and a number of grade II listed heritage buildings, including the Honeywood Museum, Whitehall, and Little Holland House.

Over 6,600 businesses make up Sutton's business community. 2,027 new businesses started up in Sutton in 2011, an increase of 15% compared to 2010.

The economic activity rate among working age people in Sutton is 78.3%, which is higher than the London and England averages (75.1% and 76.5% respectively).

Sutton is divided into 18 wards. Each ward is represented by three councillors, 54 councillors in total. Sutton has six local committees each comprised of three wards, designed to give residents a bigger say over council decisions. Local Committees have the power to decide how money is spent on local improvement projects, and can raise crime and community safety issues with local councillors and officers.

## **5. Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment interprets and presents the findings of an analysis of data provided by the Police, the Council and partner agencies. It identifies current and possible future issues from sound evidence and robust analysis.

Its purpose is to help inform the Safer Sutton Partnership Service's (SSPS) work programme for the coming year and beyond. The Community Safety Partnership adopts a problem solving approach by analysing data from a combined victim, offender and location perspective in order to:

- Provide support, advice and protection to victims, repeat victims and potential victims of crime and;
- Identify problem locations and reduce the opportunities for crime and disorder to occur.

The Strategic Needs Assessment is a statutory requirement for local crime and disorder partnerships. It is undertaken on an annual basis. From 2017 it will be a three year assessment that is annually refreshed.

## **6. Local Crime and Community Safety Profile**

The Safer Sutton Partnership Services's approach to community safety has been characterised to date by a desire to provide the best possible outcomes for residents through:

- Innovation and working differently across agencies.
- An evidence based approach to commissioning.
- Co-production of solutions at a neighbourhood level.
- An evaluation of risk and of best practice.

Crime and disorder in Sutton is under the average level for both London and the Home Office Most Similar Group, making it one of the safest boroughs in London.

During January 2016 to December 2016 total crime stayed nearly identical when compared to the previous year. There is a significant and sustained trend of reduction in total crime from a high point of over 16,000 offences in 2004 to approximately 11,000 now.

Sutton is a low crime borough in respect of Total Notifiable Crime. Sutton has the second lowest level of offences across the MPS. In terms of Sanction Detention

(solved crime) over the last rolling year Sutton is within the top 5 of all London Boroughs (20.7%). This is higher than neighbouring boroughs Croydon and Merton.

MOPAC crime consists of burglary, violence with injury, criminal damage, motor vehicle crime, robbery & theft (person). Sutton has the second lowest number of MOPAC offences across the MPS. The total number of MOPAC offences in the 2016 calendar year was 5,192, similar to the previous year (5,155).

There were notable falls in theft from person (-10%), theft from motor vehicle (-3%) and burglary (-3%) over the last year, although it should be noted that Sutton has an increasing number of reports for theft of motor vehicle offences (35% increase) a difference of 184 offences.

The places in Sutton with the greatest level of recorded offences are Sutton Central, St Helier, and Wandle Valley wards. This is consistent with the last 4 years of data.

Current performance in acute alcohol related crime, such as violence with injury is increasingly positive with a large reduction in reported assaults across the borough.

Sutton Town Centre has seen a continued reduction in violence though it continues to be a hotspot for alcohol related violence primarily due to the business of the night time economy. This mostly occurs on Friday and Saturday evenings into the early hours.

There is a strong observed relationship between clusters of licensed venues and anti-social behaviour. The wards of Sutton Central, St Helier, Worcester Park and The Wrythe are most affected by this.

Continued regulatory work with Public Health, Trading Standards and the Police Licensing Unit is required to limit the availability and strength of alcohol.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and public perception of ASB is a key priority for Sutton. The strategic assessment scoring matrix places ASB the highest priority in the borough. Although not a formal description, ASB is commonly understood to include any initial low level intimidating or persistently inconsiderate behaviour by an individual or individuals against one or more members of the community.

In 2013 the Safer Sutton Partnership Service commissioned a housing focussed joint Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) in partnership with Sutton Police and Sutton Housing Partnership, the single largest stock holder in the borough.

The ASBU seeks to reduce personal forms of anti-social behaviour, reduce repeat victimisation, improve social tenant's satisfaction with ASB issues and improve resident's perception of safety in the communities in which they live.

Much of the recent reduction in Personal ASB volume outlined below is attributable to cases directly managed by the unit highlighting the importance of partnership working between the Police, Council and Housing Providers.

Calls to Police regarding ASB have fallen from approximately 6060 calls in 2012, to 3566 calls in 2016 a significant decrease of 41%. By way of comparison call volumes across London decreased by 23% during the same period. Most notably personal forms of ASB occurring in the borough have decreased from 21% of all ASB reports to 13% over the last three years bringing Sutton below the London average of 14%.

This is important because personal forms of ASB are the most impactful and damaging to the community.

In relation to Domestic Violence offences in 2016 Sutton has the fourth lowest number of domestic offences out of the 32 London Boroughs. Sutton has a higher percentage than those of near neighbours Richmond and Wandsworth but lower than Merton and Croydon.

The reporting and recording of Domestic Offences continues to improve and in terms of the Domestic Abuse Sanction Detection Rate in Sutton is 38% which outperforms the MPS Sanction Detection Rate of 30%.

Recent evidence from the Crown Prosecution Service would suggest Sutton has one of the highest Domestic Violence conviction rates across London at both Magistrate and Crown courts.

Currently in Sutton DV related crime represents 38% of total violent crime, joint highest in terms of this proportion with Bromley and Enfield. Changes in the recording practice of police in particular improving the recording of Violence with Injury (VWI) offences is a significant influence on the above and makes meaningful analysis against the previous year difficult and does not necessarily suggest the incidence of offences has increased.

Improved data from within the Sutton Children Services Directorate has highlighted Domestic Violence as a considerable contributing factor within local Child Protection issues and such cases have risen notably over the last 2 years. The peak age for reporting victims is currently within the 25 to 31 age group and showing a lowering trend year-on-year.

This is a notable and positive change suggesting victims in Sutton are reporting to Police earlier and the number of assaults endured before reporting is decreasing.

Areas with more dense residential housing, particularly Sutton Central, St. Helier, Beddington South and Wandle Valley are the peak venues for domestic incidents.

According to Safelives (2015), women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse, 95% of those going to MARAC or accessing an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service are women.

Whilst the number of reported offences continues to rise, repeat victimisation is down at all risk levels over the last 3 years with an increasing percentage of first time reporters. This suggests an improved confidence to report issues to local services and a signal that once cases are identified, local interventions are often effective in preventing further victimisation.

The repeat victimisation rate for cases discussed at the Sutton Domestic Violence MARAC has reduced by 18% over the last 5 years where the rate has fallen to a historic low of 26% from 44% in 2011. This has corresponded to an increase in IDVA provision in Sutton, following further funding from MOPAC and strengthened through improved attendance of victims at the Domestic Violence One Stop Shop in Sutton town centre.

## **7. London Crime Prevention Funding for 2017-20**

Sutton's crime prevention funding allocation has been set and agreed for the next two years, though with a mandatory London wide reduction to funding from 2018-19 of 30% that will fund a central co-commissioning fund. This is likely to mean tough choices about what services can and cannot be funded in future.

## **8. Ambitions and Outcomes for Crime Prevention and Community Safety**

Our overall aim for Sutton is to make it one of the most difficult boroughs in London in which to commit crime or behave anti-socially. By focusing our attention and resources on the most vulnerable and issues in the borough, we believe that we can over time largely eradicate much of the repeat offending and victimisation locally.

We will target and pursue the small number of individuals who are responsible for much of the harm, acquisitive offending and domestic abuse crimes committed in the borough, providing an incentive to change, with offers of help and support but ensuring that they face due sanction and justice if they do not take this up.

We will continue to actively target and deal with anti-social behaviour swiftly, when and where it occurs, recognising the nuisance and distress that it causes to people's lives.

We will continue to proportionately target and deal with harm and impact from our day and night time economies, recognising that while Sutton's economy provides

tremendous benefits and prosperity to the borough, it can be a source of nuisance and distress for some.

We will maintain a very strong commitment to supporting women and girls, as victims of domestic and sexual abuse, helping them to break free and recover from abusive relationships.

We will protect our children and young people from undue influence, harm and exploitation, acknowledging impact and role that modern technology may have in this.

We will stand vigilant in the face of threats from hate and extremism, ensuring that Sutton remains a safe and welcoming place in which to live, work and socialise.

We will continue to focus attention on people with disabilities, who are much more likely to be victims of crime, though may feel much less confident in asking for help and support about this. We will make it easier to report crime to the Police and third party services and offer more support to victims of crime.

If we achieve all of this, we will be able to clearly demonstrate and measure:

- Reductions in repeat offending.
- Reductions in repeat victimisation.
- Increased reporting of hate crime.
- Reduction in hate crime (particularly for the most vulnerable and at risk).
- Increased crime reporting.
- Greater protection of children and young people from harm and exploitation.
- Better health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Safer Neighbourhoods (through planning and designing out opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour).

## **9. Safe on our Streets and in our Neighbourhoods**

Improving neighbourhood policing is central to the Mayor's policing and crime manifesto, and in Sutton we will in partnership refocus an existing Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) capacity and resources to help prevent and detect crime and antisocial behaviour, protect vulnerable people and increase the trust and confidence our communities have in their Police service.

Sutton Police operational structures will change during the life of this strategy, though the configuration, timing and overall impact of this has not yet been determined.

Volume crime such as antisocial behaviour, violence with injury and burglary has serious impacts on individuals and communities wherever they take place. The Strategic Needs Assessment, crime statistics and residents views help us to contextualise and prioritise these issues into actionable policing priorities.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is a key neighbourhood safety and policing priority for Sutton. The Police in partnership with the Council operate a problem solving approach to this issue, targeting and deploying resources to hotspots, while channelling high risk cases through our Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

Sutton has a bespoke Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) staffed by Police, Council and Housing Officers. The ASBU handles all manner of ASB cases at low, medium or high risk levels, to proactively intervene to prevent escalation of risk and harm.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk and/or victims of ASB is a high priority, with very high risk cases being managed through our Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference. Effective ASB work is striking a balance between hearing concerns and protecting people and communities from harm, with proportionate enforcement and sanctions against those who are acting anti-socially, while also giving them the means and opportunity to understand the consequences of their actions, change their behaviour and live healthier and more productive lives.

We will continue to work with partners in the Police, Council and Voluntary Sector to tackle environmental and social factors that can blight communities and may facilitate crime and disorder and generate anxiety and fear, (such as graffiti, dangerous dogs and poorly lit areas).

We will work with housing developers to ensure new builds have added safety and security which effectively 'design out' opportunities for criminal behaviour and activities before they occur.

We will continue to use Public Space CCTV as an appropriate and visible situational crime prevention tool and to deter would be offenders. CCTV cameras are able to assist in the detection and arrest of offenders, enabling officers on the ground to respond in a timely manner to significant incidents and so that the local criminal justice system can pursue the offenders' conviction. We will also ensure appropriate cooperation and use of non - Police and Council systems in our localities, such as those operated by Transport for London where possible.

Neighbourhood Watch Sutton is an important organisation and deterrent to crime in Sutton. Neighbourhoods work together through excellent coordination to make their communities safer and help people protect themselves and their properties to reduce fear of crime through improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting

of suspicious incidents to the Police and by fostering a community spirit. As a civilian response, it helps to directly support our Safer Neighbourhood teams in preventing crime in our localities.

Young people are often implicated in ASB, with groups of youths congregating in local parks, housing estates and public spaces, causing anxiety and concern to local residents.

To counter this, the Safer Sutton Partnership Service commissions a local Voluntary Community Service (VCS) organisation, (Riverside Community Association) to provide the 'On the Street' Youth Engagement & Diversion Service targeting and supporting young people who are at risk of involvement in crime or of committing anti-social behaviour.

A range of positive activities are delivered by youth workers who will also refer particularly vulnerable young people into helping services (particularly for substance misuse & mental health support).

On the Street takes its lead from MPS Problem Solving Meetings with youth workers targeting and operating within specific locations in the borough. Targeted Youth Support is currently an area we are keen to work with partners to support and ensure that the complimentary 'Off the Street' and other similar services are commissioned.

Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNBs) were set up as a way of helping local areas to meet statutory functions and duties for crime and policing community engagement and accountability, at borough level. They consist of local people who come together on a quarterly basis. The terms of reference include a role of holding local Policing to account. One meeting per year is a public meeting.

SNB's help Police focus on the priorities of local communities. Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels operate as ward specific consultation groups. They agree ward policing priorities and feed up into the SNB, and are an important part of Police community engagement. The Community Safety Partnership is committed to continuing to resource and support local SNB activities.

The Safer Neighbourhood Board is also able to support MOPAC derived grant funding to local initiatives. Sutton's SNB directly funds bespoke projects which contribute to improving our neighbourhoods and the way in which people who live there perceive them.

## Safe on Our Streets and in our Neighbourhoods Summary

**New neighbourhood policing model** to ensure that the resources that we have are put to best use in fighting crime and disorder on our streets and in our neighbourhoods.

**Anti-Social Behaviour Unit** as our main response to anti-social behaviour, to support victims of ASB, and to ensure that culprits desist in this behaviour and are given the motivation to change.

**Environmental crime and disorder issues** are being proactively tackled to reduce anxiety, fear and opportunities for crime to occur.

**Public space CCTV** is being used as both a means of preventing crime and also as a tool with which to increase successful prosecution rates for the borough.

**Neighbourhood watch Sutton supports** our local Police teams to prevent crime and helps local people to protect themselves and their properties from crime.

**YOT Triage & Diversion Service** helping some of our most vulnerable young people to stay out of trouble and avoid prolonged contact with the criminal justice system.

**'On the Street'** targeted youth service taking help and support to young people in the places that they go to.

**Safer Neighbourhood Board** helping the Police to focus on the priorities of local communities, by enabling neighbourhoods to set policing priorities and through this ensures 'policing by consent.'

## 10. Safe from Harm and Exploitation

The Mayors Police and Crime Plan suggests that high harm crime and protecting vulnerable people from child sexual exploitation, gangs, knife crime and gun crime should be included in local priorities in every Borough to ensure that the Police and local partners are focused properly on these most serious and harmful offences.

Sutton does not have a serious problem with youth violence and gangs, though some of our more vulnerable young people may be involved in neighbouring areas, where such activity is higher. More recently we have seen young people (some of who may be gang nominals) being resettled in Sutton from other London boroughs.

These young people are closely monitored by local Police and youth offending services.

Protecting children and young people and keeping them safe from harm and exploitation is a key safeguarding responsibility and priority for the Council and its partners.

In terms of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Domestic Violence & Abuse/Violence Against Women and Girls (DVA/VAWG), Community Safety Partnership work is aligned with work being undertaken through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB have a CSE Strategy and action plan which is monitored and updated quarterly.

Children and young people who are thought at risk of CSE are being monitored by the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel; a multi-agency subgroup of the LSCB that has been developed to gain a clear understanding of the prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Sutton and to signpost support to children or young people who may be at risk of or are experiencing CSE.

Some of our most vulnerable young people particularly 'runaways' could be drawn into unsafe activities, perhaps in neighbouring boroughs, where gangs and other such threats may be more of an issue.

Child Sexual Exploitation is now recognised in the Strategic Policing Requirement as an issue of national importance. In Sutton and our Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) investigates allegations of abuse against children under 18 years of age, involving family members, carers or people in a position of trust.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for professionals to report safeguarding concerns and through its operations we can significantly improve the sharing of information between agencies, helping to protect the most vulnerable children and adults from harm, neglect and abuse. The MASH receives safeguarding concerns from professionals such as teachers and doctors as well as members of the public, family members and from voluntary sector agencies.

Once a young person has offended and entered the criminal justice process, it is difficult to get out. The Community Safety Partnership seeks to identify and intervene with young people who are at highest risk of becoming offenders, through a series of coordinated actions and activities by the Police, youth offending team and children's social services to prevent crime and reduce the arrest rate of these individuals who may be looked after children placed in children's homes or in foster placements.

As part of this the Community Safety Partnership is funding the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to provide a specific 'Triage and Diversion Service' for early/first time entrants to the criminal justice system. These are some of the borough's most

vulnerable young people who may be negatively influenced by others and are at risk of multiple harms and prolonged contact with the criminal justice system if not helped and diverted early.

Prevention is a key factor in protecting young people and reducing crime over the long-term. When young people are victimised, they are at much higher risk of both offending themselves and re-victimisation. The Safer Sutton Partnership Service is supporting Riverside Community Association with a Safer Neighbourhood Board bid in 2017/18 for a new Youth Assertive 'In-Reach' ('Off the street') Service and as an extension to the 'On the Street' work described previously. This is aimed at helping young people with complex needs who are not engaging with statutory (YOT) supervision orders and who are non-attenders of other services.

If successful as a pilot in 2017/18, the Community Safety Partnership will seek to extend the project, bidding for additional money for this service from the MOPAC co-commissioning fund, which launches in 2018/19.

Young people at risk and not engaging with help and support are more likely to be misusing alcohol and other drugs and/or to have more serious mental health problems, which in turn can make them less likely to accept and stay in contact with help and support.

The Switch Sutton - Young Person's Community Drug Service offers a confidential and welcoming substance misuse service for children up to the age of 18. Alcohol related hospital admissions for under 18's in the borough remain high in comparison with other local authorities, though it should be pointed out that the actual number of children involved is very low.

The Community Safety Partnership is working with colleagues in the Police and the Council's People Directorate to develop more generic age appropriate online safety training for school aged children, some of which is being delivered as part of the Sutton Life Centre's education programme in 2017-18. Online safety training is designed to give children a clear appreciation and understanding of how to use the internet and other digital technology safely and of some of the risks that it may potentially pose to them.

The Community Safety Partnership is working across Licensing and Trading Standards Enforcement Services to identify and crack down on irresponsible retailers who may knowingly be supplying minors with 'Zombie' or 'Hunting' knives and other such weapons on the borough.

## **Safe from Harm and Exploitation Summary**

**Sutton MASE Panel** to monitor and be a point of referral for children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

**Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)** investigating allegations of abuse against children under 18 years of age, involving family members, carers or people in a position of trust.

**A Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** as a single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns.

**YOT Triage & Diversion Service** helping some of our most vulnerable young people to stay out of trouble and avoid prolonged contact with the criminal justice system.

**Off the Street** youth service targeting very vulnerable young people and offering them additional help and support to stay in contact with services that are in place to help them.

**Switch Sutton - Young Person's Community Drug Service** confidential, friendly and welcoming substance misuse service for children up to the age of 18 years.

**On Line Safety Training** to give children a clear appreciation and understanding of how to use the internet and other digital technology safely

**Joint Licensing and Trading Standards Enforcement Work** to identify and reduce the potential supply and sale of weapons to under 18's.

## **11. Safe from Violence and Abuse**

Statistics from the Crime Survey for England and Wales indicate that each year around 19,000 adults in London experience serious sexual assaults and/or rape.

The vast majority are women (85%) and this is equivalent to an average of 11 sexual assaults and rapes of women in every Borough, every week of the year. Tackling

Domestic and Sexual Violence is a high priority for Sutton and it is understood that much of the sexual violence occurring locally is happening within physically or emotionally violent relationships.

Sutton has a mature Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA), and a three year strategy and commissioning programme (*Identify, Prevent and Protect*) for DV. The Community Safety Partnership currently funds a number of services in Sutton through the London Crime Prevention Fund and through core Council funding including:

- An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service – offering advice and support to medium and high risk victims of abuse.
- A DV One Stop Shop Service – as a walk in service for anyone who is worried about domestic abuse.
- A Women's DV Support Programme (Freedom) for women in violent relationships and looking for help and support to 'safe exit.'
- A DV Perpetrator Group programme ('Phoenix') for men who are violent and wanting help and support to stop this.

The Community Safety Partnership also coordinates the DV MARAC that manages the highest risk cases in the borough.

The current DVA/VAWG strategy and work programme will be reviewed and refreshed in 2017/18, with the introduction of a new commissioning strategy and plan for the borough.

The Sutton Domestic Violence Partnership (DVA/VAWG Strategic Board, DV Commissioning Sub Group and DV Forum) as local stakeholders and overseers of the domestic violence prevention programme has been considering the overall strength of our Coordinated Community Response (CCR) has determined (through a guided self-assessment) that while services for medium and high risk victims are 'good' overall, capability and capacity to identify early help and prevent abuse is much less so.

There are also some gaps in services for children affected by DV. This position with a proposal for transformation and further investment in domestic violence work locally has been taken to senior leaders and council officers, with a decision made to provide funding from the Council's Transformation Fund (2017-20) to help bridge gaps and reengineer the CCR over the next three years. This will include:

- Communication and shifting perception.
- Working with a nationally recognised DV authority.
- Earlier identification, help and support for victims.

- Therapeutic services for children.
- Specialist Domestic Abuse provision for LGBT services.
- Specialist DV training for Children and Families Services.
- DV education training and workforce development for all frontline services in the borough.

Sutton has recently been through an Ofsted Inspection of its Children's Services and processes which include the 'Toxic Trio' of domestic violence, mental health issues, and substance misuse.

Sutton continues to fund and support refuge provision through Women's Aid to house and support women and their children escaping domestic violence.

A support for victims of domestic violence and abuse in Sutton website is now live and accessible on a number of mobile platforms. The website is designed to raise public awareness and consciousness of Domestic Violence and Abuse and to signpost where people affected by DVA can get help and support from services.

The Safer Sutton Partnership Service (SSPS) and the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) are supporting and funding a specialist teenage relationship mentoring and peer support project. Limes College is a Pupil Referral Unit rated as outstanding by Ofsted in the recent inspection and with a high percentage of its pupils (90%) having experienced DVA and a third of young females attending there having experienced rape or sexual assault.

The project provides group work and individual support for young survivors of abuse. Repairing young lives and breaking the cycle of abuse in teenage years is highly significant in helping people not to live with and experience violence in their adult years. The project has been earmarked for additional community funding in 2018/19 to enhance and support already provided through the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a significant safeguarding issue for children and young adults. Many young girls are taken abroad by their families to have FGM performed. The FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty came into force on 31st October 2015 and requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' (visually identified or verbally disclosed) cases of FGM in under 18's to the Police via the Police's 101 number.

The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases or in cases where the woman is over 18. In these cases, professionals should follow existing local safeguarding procedures. Cases that were identified pre -31st October 2015 will not need to be reported under the duty, only known cases identified from 1st November 2015 regardless of when it occurred. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board

(LSCB) has produced a Sutton FGM Risk Assessment Tool and referrals flow chart. There is however no meaningful data on reports of FGM and we will investigate further means of determining the prevalence of FGM in Sutton.

### **Safe from Violence and Abuse Summary**

**DVA/VAWG Prevention Strategy and work programme** to help to ensure that services and resources are being targeted to end the cycle of violence and help people of all ages to live healthier and safer lives.

**A Commissioned DV prevention and support programme** for people of ages including IDVA services, One Stop Shop, support for women survivors of abuse and DV perpetrator management.

**A new DV Transformation Programme** reengineering the CCR to earlier help and support to victims of abuse in the coming years and with the purpose of ending long term abuse.

**Specialist Training and professional support** programme to support the transformation work.

**Women's Refuge Service** to safely house and support victims and their children fleeing domestic violence.

**Pyramid Project** teenage relationship and violence prevention services to help and support young people who are most at risk from domestic and sexual violence.

**Victims of Domestic Violence Support Website** to raise public awareness and consciousness of domestic violence, to advertise and signpost where people affected can get help and support; to promote the concept of zero tolerance of DV and VAWG.

## **12. Safe from Hate and Extremism**

We are currently living in globally uncertain and politically unstable times. Terrorism poses an ongoing threat to London. The Metropolitan Police Service is a world leader in counter-terrorism policing and works alongside partner agencies every day to tackle this threat and to keep London safe.

It is clear that there can be no room for complacency in the fight against terrorism, and to provide assurance that London is ready to meet the terrorist threat the Mayor commissioned Lord Toby Harris to prepare an independent review of emergency preparedness, which reported in October 2016.

Coordinated multi-site attacks as seen in Paris in 2015 are a particular ‘threat concern’ and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), with the Local Authority and London Fire Brigade (LFB), have vital roles to play in the response to any civil emergency. In particular the LFB oversee the planning and response to major incidents and can provide critical incident management and recovery equipment and infrastructure when necessary.

The LFB, MPS and Council are integral to the London Resilience Partnership (LRP) which oversees preparedness in the city. The MPS is also consulted on national risks and contributes to national resilience planning.

Counter-terror policing begins with community policing, with dedicated officers who know and are known by their communities – helping to prevent and detect crime, and providing the local eyes and ears for our security services.

Sutton continues to actively monitor possible extremist activity in the borough and in meeting its statutory duties has employed a full time Prevent Manager who supports and coordinates local actions and provides training to staff and agencies to which the duty applies.

In 2016, the borough produced and released its own Prevent Strategy outlining the steps and actions that are being taken at a local level to counter extremism and support those who might be vulnerable to ‘radicalisation.’ Sutton has in the past experienced far-right activism, so we are particularly vigilant for signs of this and will take immediate action should it do so.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) leads on minimising the impact on children who are at risk of radicalisation and work closely with the Police, Council and other specified authorities in respect of this.

The Council coordinate and chair the Channel and Prevent Panel, the operations of which often overlap with the implementation of the wider safeguarding duty especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from social services, or where the individual is already known to social services.

Action Against Hate, the Government’s Hate Crime Action Plan 2016 sets out the government’s plan of actions to deal with hate crime until May 2020. It outlines actions the government will take to:

- Prevent and respond to hate crime.
- Increase reporting of hate crime incidents.
- Improve support for victims.
- Build an understanding of hate crime.

We will closely mirror and align our local 'actions against hate' response for the borough to this as the national framework.

The country's decision to leave the European Union, in the June 2016 referendum, has seemingly brought about some issues of disunity and intolerance. In some parts of the country this has resulted in an increase in reported hate incidents, though not yet in Sutton.

Sutton was one of the few London Boroughs that voted by majority to 'Leave' in the referendum and in 2017 Sutton Council with its neighbours Merton (a 'Remain' borough) will commission some insight work about the decision to 'Brexit' and its impact on community cohesion.

The study will be concentrated in wards in both boroughs that neighbour each other and which had the highest number of votes counted to leave. The study will help us to understand more about people's motivation to exit and will help us to plan a response to this.

Sutton generally has relatively low levels of reported Hate Crime. The SSPS monitors levels of hate crime in the borough for the Council and Metropolitan Police Service. SSPS commission a third party hate crime reporting service from Stop Hate UK as a means of providing an alternative channel for the reporting of hate crime if victims feel unable to report directly to the Police. This is important not just in terms of supporting victims but also in helping SSPS to more effectively monitor the incidence of hate crime locally.

In 2016 Sutton in collaboration with local voluntary and community sector organisations ran a very successful Disability Hate Crime Awareness and Support Pilot and in October 2016 used the Sutton Life Centre as a venue for two disability support training days for service users and their carers around 'common hate scenario's' that they encounter in their daily lives.

People with disabilities are some of the most vulnerable and targeted groups of people in our society and too often are forced to suffer intolerance and oppression in silence. Levels of reported disability hate crime in the borough are very low but are probably under reported. The Community Safety Partnership is keen that this programme of work continues to develop to strengthen the partnership's response to hate crime locally.

We will also examine national programmes and exemplars such as 'We stand together,' using them as a best fit and overall direction for combating and taking action against all types of hate and extremism at a local level.

### **Safe from Hate and Extremism Summary**

**Combating Terror and Extremism** as a borough, we stand together with all London areas, in our vigilance and readiness to repel major terrorist incidences.

**Planned actions against hate** and extremism take from what works and has shown to be effective at a national level.

**Operate an Effective Channel Panel** and lead a collective approach to Prevent across communities and specified authorities.

**To understand** and be able to respond more effectively to the 'disaffections' felt by some people in our local communities.

**Continue to educate and support** those who stand on the front line against hate and extremism.

**Help and support** those who are particularly vulnerable to hate and radicalisation.

**Effective planning for and management of critical incidents**, in line with London Resilience Partnership expectations.

### **13. Safe from Crime and its Consequences**

Sutton can be rightly proud of its reputation as being one of the safest boroughs in the capital. The community safety partnership has listened to the concerns of our residents and levels of domestic burglary and theft from motor vehicles, identified as major priorities for action, have been targeted and driven down year on year.

The picture and profile of offending in London and Sutton is changing, as are the needs of the offenders who live here, most particularly for the small number of prolific offenders, who are responsible for much of the crime in the capital.

Sutton, in recognising the link between criminal behaviour and unmet need (particularly in terms of housing, employment, substance misuse, mental health and

or learning difficulties) was an early adopter of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) concept and has had a local programme of supervision and management of prolific and hard to engage offenders in place since 2012.

The SSPS has developed an effective partnership model to bring together a number of local services to work with these offenders and break the link between crime, its drivers and consequences for communities.

The introduction of the Transforming Rehabilitation: Criminal Justice Bill in 2013 has brought with it changes and challenges to the way offenders are being managed in the borough. 70% of IOM offenders are males aged 18-24. There are genuine opportunities to be able to prevent persistent offending in younger offenders but there are challenges too.

The average age of the IOM offender group is falling steadily; so adult offending work must begin earlier driven by a requirement to develop more robust transitions support to ensure that young offenders when entering the adult justice sphere are able to form good relationships with offender managers and are able to stop offending more quickly.

Women offenders are supported at a Women Offenders Support Hub, a partnership between the Council and The Community Rehabilitation Company. The Hub acknowledges that the needs and experiences of women offenders are different to those of men and that they need to be worked with in a different way.

Domestic abuse is a high priority for action in Sutton and women offenders and their children are often victims of this. The Community Safety Partnership is keen to support this approach and to see it further developed as a specialism, in the coming years.

Both male and female offenders face particular challenges in the community on release from prison; notably a lack of stable housing, financial support and substance abuse. They will require additional help so as not to repeatedly reoffend and be further imprisoned because of this.

The Community Safety Partnership is very clear about the link between criminal and anti-social behaviour and is well placed to act where a high risk of ASB is likely to develop and become more serious in nature if unchecked.

Cybercrime is an emerging threat that may be targeted toward individuals and businesses. These crimes often go unreported. The Community Safety Partnership, through the resources of the Metropolitan Police Cyber Crime Unit, will seek to develop a stronger understanding and picture of the impact that this is having locally and hence the level of priority and resources dedicated to tackling it in Sutton.

Business crime may be acquisitive or driven by poverty or dependence on alcohol and other drugs. Often businesses targeted are medium or small retailers, with a direct cost and consequence of crime felt by them.

These retailers are probably some of the least able to financially buffer this and also the least likely to report that a crime has happened. At recent Metropolitan Police Business Crime Conference, the scale and consequence of this to business in the capital was laid bare and most notably:

- Although the overall approach to tackling business crime in the capital has improved since the introduction of Business Improvement Districts (BID's), partnership work between them, the Metropolitan Police and Local Authorities is still immature.
- 20% of all recorded crime in London is business crime. This at a cost of £1.8 billion to the retail sector alone.
- The average cost of a cyber security breach for a typical small business is £31,000.
- Only 12% of businesses in London are members of Business Crime Reduction Partnerships.

In 2017 the Community Safety Partnership proposes to collaborate with Successful Sutton the Business Improvement District (BID) to evaluate what is and isn't working to prevent business crime and regarding the need to establish more formalised business crime reduction partnership arrangements making it safer to work, shop and socialise in Sutton.

This builds upon the arrangements that the Metropolitan Police Service already has with local businesses, through the 'Shop Watch' initiative. The scheme provides an opportunity for businesses in the BID area and the Police to meet monthly to share information, intelligence and best practice. The Shop Safe radio system is also linked to the Police Control room and offers intersectionality with the Public Space CCTV system.

## **Safe from Crime and its Consequences Summary**

**Safer Sutton Partnership** in Sutton is one of the safest boroughs in London with a proactive multi-agency partnership in place with which to target and tackle crime and its consequences at a local level.

**Integrated Offender Management** offenders have multiple needs and may present many challenges for the agencies working with them.

**Early Intervention** with IOM offenders ( sub25) is crucial in ensuring that they do not develop persistent and long terms patterns of offending.

**Women offenders' needs** are different and require a different approach to stop offending, to be safe and to ensure the safety of their children too.

**The impact of cybercrime** in the borough is yet to be fully understood and the community safety partnership will be seeking to develop a much stronger intelligence profile for this.

**Strengthened relationships with Successful Sutton** to ensure that current levels of business crime in the borough are reduced and that it is a safe place in which to improve quality of life, making it safer to work, shop and socialise in Sutton.

## **14. Drugs and Alcohol**

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has a clear expectation that the Metropolitan Police Service will take strong enforcement action against those who deal drugs on our streets, with those who target young people facing particular attention.

MOPAC will also be supporting efforts to ensure that drug dealers who seek to exploit children and involve them in their crimes face the strongest possible sentences.

The relationship between alcohol and crime is well understood, and alcohol is defined as a key driver of crime by the Home Office. Research has found that up to 41% of young offenders had drunk alcohol at the time of their offence. Home Office Research also concludes that Policing interventions aimed at drug hotspots, implemented in partnership with community groups, are likely to be more effective than conventional law enforcement-only approaches at reducing drug-related problems such as street-level dealing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy 2016 suggests little evidence that drug education focused on information or media campaigns alone can change behaviour. This approach should only be used as part of a wider strategy. However, there is growing evidence that good quality Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and school-based interventions (building confidence, resilience and effective decision-making skills) can have a preventative impact on drug use.

MOPAC is committed to working with the MPS, Local Authorities and businesses to ensure that the laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors are being fully observed and enforced by retailers and licensed premises. Drugs and alcohol are widely acknowledged as major drivers of acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour across the country and is also seemingly a prime 'aggravator' in many high risk cases of domestic violence too.

While Sutton is a low crime borough, we are not complacent about the impact that substance abuse is having locally and we have developed a comprehensive drug and alcohol programme to help address this. Public Health Sutton commissions an all age integrated drug and alcohol service for the borough from Inspire Partnership, a consortia of statutory and third sector services. Treatment programmes are effective and accessible.

Inspire Partnership works closely with a number of frontline agencies in the borough including the Council, Police, Health Services and local Criminal Justice System to provide a range of drug and alcohol services for adults and young people in Sutton.

The Criminal Justice Substance Misuse Intervention Team is part of Inspire Services and works directly with offenders at various points in the criminal justice system:

- With detainees in Police custody and supporting the 'Test on Arrest' programme, targeting drug dependant offenders with help and support as a route to prolonged contact with the criminal justice system.
- At Probation, monitoring offenders who are subject to statutory Drug and Alcohol Treatment Requirements, ordered by the Courts.
- As part of the IOM core group, working with some of the boroughs most challenging offenders, helping them to maintain contact with services and

comply with the requirements of their criminal supervision orders and prison release conditions.

The Switch Service provides age appropriate drugs & alcohol advice, to children and young people under the age of 18 years, including those in Looked After Children and Youth Offending Services.

The Metropolitan Police Service in Sutton is intent on disrupting the sale and supply of illegal drugs in the borough. This is evident through the number of targeted operations in the borough which have resulted in substantial seizures of Cannabis and the closure of a number of illegal 'factories'. We will be maintaining surveillance and running similar operations in 2017 and beyond.

Alcohol misuse places a strain on our emergency services and a significant cost on society; latest estimates show that the cost of alcohol-related crime in the UK is £11bn.

Alcohol also has a wider impact on communities; 18% of adults perceive people being drunk or rowdy as a very or fairly big problem in their local area. Given the association between alcohol use and violence, reducing consumption is likely to be beneficial in terms of crime prevention.

The actions on alcohol outlined in the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy are based on evidence that reducing the availability of alcohol, providing targeted treatment and brief advice and prevention approaches can be effective in reducing alcohol harm.

The national model and approach to alcohol is mirrored by the Community Safety Partnership in Sutton. The Community Safety Partnership continues with its efforts to make Sutton's night time economy '*healthy, safe, social and responsible,*' so that people in our borough can socialise and consume alcohol safely, without fear of becoming a victim of alcohol-related crime or disorder. As part of this approach, the Community Safety Partnership commissions a Street Pastors service to assist the Police and other emergency services to safeguard people who might be vulnerable having drunk too much alcohol on a night out.

The Police along with the Local Authority (Public Health) and the LFB are designated as responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003. The MPS Licensing Team collaborates and shares information with the Council's Trading Standards and Public Health teams, in order that any incidence of irresponsible alcohol retailing in the borough (particularly the sale or supply to minors), is challenged and dealt with to prevent harm, nuisance and criminality.

These actions are backed up by the Sutton Town Centre Police Team, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Parks Police Team. Joint operations by agencies and

test purchasing exercises are regularly carried out to ensure no underage sales and no selling of counterfeit alcohol products that may be harmful if consumed.

These operations may also include involvement from Border Control, and Immigration Enforcement, particularly when people found to be working in licensed premises could be immigration 'over stayers' or have entered the country illegally.

### **Drugs and Alcohol Summary**

**Providing an integrated 'all age' alcohol and drug service** (Inspire Partnership) for residents who are worried about their or another's drinking and or misuse of illegal drugs.

**The Criminal Justice Substance Misuse Intervention Team** is part of Inspire Services and works directly with offenders at various points in the criminal justice system.

**The Switch Service** provides age appropriate drugs & alcohol advice, to children and young people under the age of 18 years, including those in Looked After Children and Youth Offending Services.

**Carrying out proactive drug raids** to disrupt the sale and supply of illegal drugs into and through the borough.

**Street Pastors** conduct night time patrols, to help the Police and other emergency services to support and safeguard people who might be vulnerable (having drunk too much alcohol) on a night out.

**Licensing teams** work in partnership to intervene and crack down on all incidences of irresponsible alcohol retaining in the borough and which contribute a significant hazard and harm to peoples safety.

## **15. Help and Support for Vulnerable Victims of Crime**

This section is particularly pertinent to victims who through their personal circumstances may be especially vulnerable and at risk.

‘The development of government policies at both national and local levels has placed increasing responsibilities and duties upon statutory agencies to work with victims of crime. The Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, placed a responsibility on local authorities and a range of statutory and voluntary agencies to adopt a multi-agency approach, when working with victims of crime.’

(Source: *what works in supporting victims of crime: a rapid evidence assessment, 2016*).

National evidence points to the fact that support for victims of crime across the country is variable and could be improved. This is a standing priority for the Metropolitan Police Service as highlighted in A Safer City for all Londoners – Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

In 2016 the Safer Sutton Partnership Service undertook its own assessment of the needs of high risk and vulnerable victims of crime living in the borough. Findings suggest that these victims are more likely to have complex needs such as mental health problems, learning difficulties and/or disabilities, substance misuse problems, housing problems and so on which can make it more difficult for them to report crime and seek help and support.

This may also make them more vulnerable to repeat victimisation. High risk and vulnerable victims are by no means a single group with the same needs and therefore require a response from services that fits their particular needs, circumstances and experiences.

For some people the impact of being a victim of crime may be especially traumatic and with a long lasting impact upon their ability to cope with daily life. People with mental health problems experience high rates of crime, and are considerably more likely to be victims of crime than the general population. They are also much more likely to be severely traumatised by the experience.

The impact of domestic or sexual violence is particularly serious on victims and statistically, some 40% of women and a quarter of men who experienced this have attempted suicide.

The Sutton self-assessment identified that there are a number of services already operating in the borough that are well equipped to offer help and support to very vulnerable victims of crime, most notably for Domestic Violence and Abuse and Anti-Social Behaviour, though potentially less so for under reported or hidden crimes such as Hate Crime, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

Human trafficking involves men, women and children being recruited, harboured or brought into a situation of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will. People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced

begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage and forced organ removal.

Evidence suggests that Human Trafficking is not a significant issue in Sutton at this time, though the Community Safety Partnership and Sutton Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards remain vigilant to any potential safeguarding concerns.

Victim support services in the borough are provided by the Metropolitan Police Service (in reported crime incidences) and Victim Support; a national charity providing a London wide service to victims of crime, predominantly those who are classified as being vulnerable and at high risk.

The Metropolitan Police and Victim Support also offer a witness and victim care support service to people who are attending Court.

The London Fire Brigade is working closely with Adult and Children's Safeguarding and Social Care Services to help to safeguard vulnerable people (some of whom may also be victims of crime and anti-social behaviour). Some may pose a fire risk to themselves and others by visiting them at home to conduct fire safety assessments, install smoke alarms or other equipment and to provide information and advice about other services (for alcohol, drugs, smoking cessation and so on).

The Better Contacts Project led with the LFB seeks to maximise contact time between the LFB and vulnerable residents. This will extend the scope of the home fire safety visit. Training has been provided to fire fighters to enable closer links and referrals through social services, with a focus on the early identification of concerns. The Better contacts project specifically aims to introduce and/or improve:

- Procedures to increase the number of targeted referrals made from the council, partners and GP's to the LFB.
- Information giving to residents in the form of leaflets and handouts (on topics such as smoking cessation, drug taking and volunteering).
- Provision of smoke alarms to vulnerable residents.
- Information sharing to enable more targeted home fire safety visits.
- Local committee involvement.
- Use of the LFB Community Safety Investment Fund.
- LFB officers joining the mentoring programme.
- Sharing operational and non operational space.

'Support for Victims' was made the subject of Council scrutiny in 2015/16 and was subsequently discussed by Committee in an open meeting in April 2016. Victim Support provided information and data for the year 2014/15 showing that:

- A total of 6567 referrals were made to Victim Support or roughly 60% of 10974 notifiable crimes reported and then actioned in Sutton in that period.
- The Metropolitan Police (6323 cases - 96%) were the highest single referrer to victim support services.
- For those referrals with a specific crime flag, Domestic Violence (783 cases) Repeat Victim (716 cases) and Vulnerable Victim (649 cases) were the highest reported.

The Restorative Justice Council UK describe Restorative Justice as a concept that brings those who have been harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for that harm into communication, enabling those affected to play a part in repairing harm and finding a positive way forward'.

Restorative Justice has been shown to be very beneficial in helping victims of crime to 'get answers' and to come to terms with what has happened to them. It is not suitable in all cases particularly where bringing the victim and their perpetrator together may actually further the experience of being victimised.

The Sutton self-assessment has shown that restorative justice services in Sutton are not particularly developed at this point in time, with only fairly small pockets of practice by local justice services. The Limes College (the local Pupil Referral Unit) are using Restorative Practice (as opposed to 'Justice') as a means of conflict resolution and a technique for resolving conflict among students.

'Restorative Sutton' is a special interest group with community and political drive and support. It was launched in late 2015, with the intention of championing the agenda in Sutton and being the local 'engine' for Restorative Justice to be developed. The Community Safety Partnership will be investigating measures to start restorative justice services and practices in Sutton.

To help to further our support to victims of crime locally, The Safer Sutton Partnership are developing a new integrated victim support website to raise awareness and publicise where victims of crime can get the help and support that they need from services in the borough.

## **Help and Support for Vulnerable Victims of Crime Summary**

**Vulnerable and high risk victims** of crime are more likely to need integrated specialist support and services from a number of agencies, to help them to cope and recover from their experiences.

**Improving support** for vulnerable victims of crime is a high priority for the Metropolitan Police Service.

**Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery** is seemingly a low priority issue for the borough at this time though is being 'watched' by the community safety partnership.

**Services for victims of crime** are provided by the Police and Victim Support (Agency) including for those attending Court.

**The London Fire Brigade** provides safety support to vulnerable people, in their own homes.

**Understanding if restorative justice** can be further developed in Sutton.

**New integrated victim support website** to help victims of crime to access the help and support that they need from local services.

## **16. Conclusion**

"Safe in Sutton" is Sutton's first integrated community Safety Strategy since 2006. It describes the Safer Sutton Partnership's collective view of the risks, issues and opportunities facing the borough of Sutton in relation to crime, policing and community safety.

It is a three year strategy and is based upon the detailed statutory Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment. It also reflects the emerging community safety priorities of the Government and the new London Mayor.

It has been developed mindful of emerging new crimes and risks to community safety, as well as longer standing local concerns and successes.

'Safe in Sutton' has been widely consulted upon to ensure that as many local people and stakeholders as possible have had an opportunity to read and comment.

'Safe in Sutton' will enable the development of a more detailed Delivery Plan that sets out the tactical and operational responses of our partner agencies that will be refreshed on an annual basis alongside the Strategic Needs Assessment.