

Community Safety Partnership
Annual Scrutiny Report
27th January 2015

Brentwood Community Safety Partnership is the local statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Brentwood. The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a strategic and co-operative approach to addressing local crime and disorder within the Borough by reducing the levels of disorder including crime, anti-social behaviour, the misuse of drugs and reducing re-offending.

The partnership is made up of both Statutory and Community organisations please refer to the table below.



District Profile

Within Brentwood there are four police ‘neighbourhoods’:

- Brentwood Town Centre;
- Brentwood North;
- Brentwood South;
- Hutton and Shenfield

Each of these is split into 15 Council wards.



NEIGHBOURHOOD	WARD NAME
Brentwood Town Centre	Brentwood South Brentwood West
Brentwood North	Brizes & Doddinghurst Tipps Cross South Weald Pilgrims Hatch Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing
Hutton	Hutton North Hutton South Hutton Central Shenfield Hutton East
Brentwood South	Brentwood North Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon Warley

The CSP is currently chaired by Essex Police and the Vice Chair is Cllr John Newberry. Each year the CSP are required to prepare a Strategic Assessment in order to review existing priorities and identify any new or emerging priorities that the partnership should focus on.

Following this analysis and identification of the strategic priorities a Partnership Plan is produced detailing the partnerships activities for the forthcoming year to address the issues raised in the Strategic Assessment.

The priorities identified from the 2014/2015 Strategic Assessment were:

Priorities for 2014-15:

- **Acquisitive Crime*** (concentrating on burglary and vehicle crime)
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Community Priorities** (anti-social behaviour/community engagement)

* A criminal act where property is taken without the owners consent i.e. burglary, theft, car crime and shoplifting

Performance Summary

The table below sets out the crime figures for Brentwood, comparing reports for 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014 with 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013.

Crime/Incident Type	# offences		# diff	% diff
	2012/13	2013/14		
ALL CRIME	3961	3453	-508	-12.8
Burglary in Dwelling (inc. attempts)	539	442	-97	-18.0
Burglary in Other Than in Dwelling	216	208	-8	-3.7
Theft From Vehicles	496	393	-103	-20.8
Theft & Taking Motor Vehicles	148	153	5	3.4
Theft of Pedal Cycles	79	58	-21	-26.6
Shoplifting	309	247	-62	-20.1
Criminal Damage	471	397	-74	-15.7
Robbery	34	19	-15	-44.1
Other Theft and Handling	581	507	-74	-12.7
Other Violence Against the Person	573	663	90	15.7
Serious Violent Crime	16	35	19	118.8
Serious Sexual Crime	29	32	3	10.3
Assault With Less Serious Injury	209	246	37	17.7
Racially-Aggravated Crime	24	30	6	25.0
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	1982	1747	-235	-11.9

Note: Some crimes may appear in more than one category.

Looking back over the year's priorities Brentwood has seen some significant reductions in respect of theft and criminal damage. Whilst celebrating those successes we must also consider the increases experienced around violence as summarised below:

- All Crime has decreased by 12.8% (508 less offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 18.0% (97 less offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 20.8% (103 less offences);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 15.7% (74 less offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 11.9% (235 less incidents);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 15.7% (90 more offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 118.8% (19 more offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has increased by 17.7% (37 more offences).
- Racially Aggravated Crime has increased by 25% (6 more cases)
- Serious sexual Crime has increased by 10.3% (3 more cases)

The above provides a clear indication that Brentwood's strategic priorities are impacting on crime levels and successes have been achieved since last year. The partnership is aware that more work needs to be done to ensure that the good work continues and resources are targeted towards those areas of concern with respect to violence. However it may help to understand that of the data provided 41% of the violent offences related to altercations during the day such as, road traffic and parking disputes, schools and playground bullying and dangerous dogs. Violent offences relating to the night-time economy was 32% of the total and 27% were linked to domestic violence. The majority of violent offences occurred within the home.

The serious violent crime incidents have since been reviewed by Essex Police and consist of 1 murder with the remaining crimes being GBH/Woundings. There were 4 recorded incidents of domestic violence. The remaining incidents consist of the following; disputes /fights on the road, in public, in private, on sports pitches and there are 7 in licensed premises. None of the licensed premises have more than one incident.

It is interesting to note that reports of domestic abuse/violence doubled this year. The increase in levels of reporting may be attributable to the excellent work being completed by Essex Police and our partners to improve the confidence of victims of domestic abuse to come forward and report incidents to the police.

The report will now provide more detail for each of the CSPs strategic priorities and what the partnership has done in the last year to tackle each priority.

Dwelling Burglary

The borough continues to suffer a number of dwelling burglaries, however it should be noted that between 1st October 2013 and 30th September 2014 there were 97 less dwelling burglary offences, when compared to the same period the previous year (this represents an 18.0% decrease as shown above). This is an encouraging sign that the work of the partnership and in particular Essex Police is working and means that residents are experiencing the lowest burglaries for 20 years.

In the last year the CSP have sought to tackle burglary through various activities including the following:

Operation Insight Operation Insight was launched on 1st October 2013 and consists of a new system of analysis and the deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. This policing operation enables the police to use resources more efficiently and maximises the opportunity to prevent crime. Intelligence is produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences.

This is shared with partners and the Council's Community Safety team then disseminated to other departments within the Council to make sure staff are aware and can factor this information into their regular patrols, visits and work schedule etc.

Operation Insight also includes 'Cocooning' which was successful in the pilot of Operation Albatross in Brentwood.

This involves crime prevention work carried out by the neighbourhood policing team specifically targeting premises in the immediate vicinity of a burglary. Residents are visited and given crime prevention advice to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims.

Local police officers are supported by County resources and have performed intelligence-led police work and high volume deployments which have resulted in some key arrests, crime prevention and intelligence gathering. This activity maintains pressure on known offenders and aims to reduce crime.

Improved communication with CCTV Improved communication between Essex Police and the Council's CCTV Department. Operators have taken part in joint patrols with Officers in order to develop relationships and a greater understanding and awareness of effective use of CCTV.

There is now a police Airwave radio permanently located in the CCTV control room so that operators have direct access to Essex Police. Data is also shared with partners in relation to the use of CCTV.

Lock Them Out Campaign The partnership has continued with the successful campaign and have a range of literature providing burglary reduction information including Posters, A5 b-fold leaflets with basic crime reduction advice, and A5 bound Booklets providing detailed information for residents assisting them to secure their properties against burglary.

These are distributed through events, Neighbourhood Watch and have been delivered to key outlets across the borough from libraries to garden centres. The information is also available on the CSP website, www.saferbrentwood.com and Council website.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Brentwood is extremely fortunate to have a very dedicated volunteer borough co-ordinator who is extremely proactive driving the scheme across Brentwood. In addition to the existing active NHW schemes, a further 9 co-ordinators have been recruited in 2014.

As a result of the dedication of the volunteer borough co-ordinator there have been vast improvements to NHW.

He attends the CSP Strategy Panel meetings and provides regular updates as well as promoting NHW at various events including:

- Council events such as Strawberry Fair, Family Fun Days, recycling roadshows etc
- Public engagement meetings
- Local venues such as Brentwood High Street, libraries, the community hospital, and various groups

He has also developed a new campaign called Scary Be Wary where information leaflets are in prominent locations in the High Street with safety information as well as positive updates. He is hoping to expand the scheme to Shenfield and Ingatestone this year.

As well as promoting neighbourhood watch across the borough he has also distributed information leaflets/booklet and crime prevention items such as:

- Window Alarms
- ID Magnifier
- Personal Alarms
- Purse Bells
- Purse Cables
- Property Marker Pens
- Timer Switches
- Sat Nav Cloths
- Key Ring Torches
- Leaflets including: Lock Em Out, scam booklet, community safety booklet, junior highway code booklet, and much more

Speedwatch There is now an active network of Speedwatch groups across the borough. A dedicated speedwatch email is in place for speedwatch groups to utilise and a speed gun is available for groups to use which is located at the Town Hall and co-ordinated by the Community Safety team. Whilst this scheme is primarily to target speeding drivers it is also a very visible presence in a locality which can only help to assist with discouraging burglars.

Door Chain Project Safer Brentwood and Brentwood Borough Council, with the help of MenShed, a local volunteer group, launched a new project aimed at elderly and vulnerable residents. The partnership received funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner to install door chains into homes for **FREE**. The primary aim of the project is to make the most vulnerable residents of Brentwood feel safer in their homes.

The Door Chain Project has been very popular with residents. There have been 39 applications, of which there have been 28 door chains fitted to date. The feedback received has been extremely positive with most residents thanking us for making them feel safer in their homes.

The Council website has a dedicated page for Burglary advice which is updated regularly by the Council's Community Safety Manager along with the Safer Brentwood website. These are used to provide valuable security advice and tips on how to prevent becoming a victim of burglary.

Senior Safety Day This was the second event funded by Brentwood Borough Council and supported by the partnership. The aim is to provide crime and safety awareness to the elderly and vulnerable residents of the borough including fraud, fire safety and burglary. It was well attended with over 70 guests including the Mayor and High Sherriff.

The Council was incredibly lucky to have the support of 25 volunteers from St Martins 6th form who help throughout the day from making tea, performing and helping the guest enjoy the day.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour continues to reduce across the borough with 235 incidents during the period 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014, when compared with the same period from the previous year. This represents an 11.9% decrease in incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The CSP has funded various projects and initiatives to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour such as:

Street Pastors There are currently 20 volunteers from local churches who are fully trained, and they continue to go from strength to strength with more volunteers coming forward on a regular basis.

Street Pastors patrol the High Street on Friday nights from 10.30pm- 3am, plus one Saturday every month. A new patrol was undertaken this year which starts at the earlier time of 8pm – 10pm this is to allow the dedicated older Street Pastors to continue to support the residents of Brentwood.

The CSP has just awarded funding to the Street Pastors to assist with their minibus project.

Firebreak The partnership continues to support the project aimed at young people which is delivered by Essex County Fire & Rescue Services. Along with the Council the partnership have assisted in securing three courses this year which have been run from Ingatestone Fire Station for the first time this year.

Prison Me No Way Prison Me No Way is a project aimed at raising awareness amongst young people about the causes, consequences, impact and penalties of crime. It also encourages young people to stay safe, aspire and become good citizens.

With funding from the Council two schools benefited from the project. The Mayor attended the opening at Shenfield High School and the overall event was well received. The schools would like another 2 Prison Me No Way next year.

Encouraging achievements have been seen in the last year and it is recognised that locally there is a strong and established partnership with Essex Police and our community safety partners. This includes:

- Joint patrols and identification of the key anti-social behaviour offenders.
- Various police operations including:
 - **Teutonic** Targeted intervention and enforcement work in relation to anti-social behaviour in the borough.
 - **Penthouse & Rally** Targeted multi agency intervention to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour, low level crime such as criminal damage and drug dealing in a particular hotspot.
 - **Pumpkin** Targeted intervention and enforcement.
- The Council's licensing team has formalised arrangements with Brentwood Police to conduct regular weekend night time patrols of licensed premises in the town centre
- Increased CCTV surveillance signs will be provided shortly across the Borough in compliance with legal requirements which will act as a visible deterrent.

Domestic Abuse

There were 458 recorded incidents of domestic abuse this year. Essex Police have seen the reports of domestic abuse/violence double this year. This could be as a result of the increased publicity and awareness raising undertaken by Essex Police and the partnership.

As identified earlier 27% of all violent crime within the borough is related to domestic abuse.

The Partnership continues to seek to address the issues regarding this destructive and emotive issue such as:

- The Partnership have provided funding in order to purchase security devices for victims including door and window alarms, fire safety kits, and door braces.

- All high risk victims are visited by an Essex Police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor who provides information, advice and security items to victim.
- The Partnership also held a Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign during Domestic Abuse Awareness Week in November. This included handing out information and advice in the High Street and other locations across the borough as well as during Brentwood lighting up events.

Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (ECRC) have a team of Women Safety Workers who contact all women who are known as current or ex partners of men sentenced by courts to attend the Building Better Relationships Programme, (a domestic abuse intervention undertaken by ECRC).

The role of the Women Safety Worker includes such tasks as empowering women to make decisions and assist them to address factors which effect their safety, well being and social inclusion. This is achieved by completing an initial risk assessment, representing the victim in multi agency meetings, assisting her in considering her own and her child's safety and accessing other resources available in the community.

Brentwood CSP currently has 7 open cases.

IOM

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a county wide multi agency co-ordinated approach, led by ECRC and Essex Police, involving statutory, voluntary and business sectors and the community. Its aim is to identify those individuals whose offending has the most effect on a local community.

By engaging and working with those individuals, address problems and issues with them to prevent further offending or identify those, where necessary, in need of enforcement and prosecution

Brentwood CSP currently has 7 offenders on the cohort. A study of offenders previously subject to IOM in the Brentwood area reveals an 18.6% reduction between the pre and post IOM cost of crime to the community.

Additional Partnership Activities 2014-15

The CSP has funded and continues to fund various projects and initiatives to tackle the issues identified within the Strategic Assessment and produce an annual Partnership Plan detailing the partnerships activities.

These have included:

- Development of a dedicated website for the partnership www.saferbrentwood.com.
- Development of the new CSP Newsletter which is produced following each CSP Strategy Panel meeting.
- Fire safety talks to numerous groups throughout the borough including Adults with learning difficulties living independently in the community, sheltered accommodation residents, OAP groups and Breath easy groups.
- Supporting Lighting up Brentwood in terms of police and partnership presence at event and assisting with smooth running of event and temporarily closing the road to allow safe access for the marching band and Candlelight parade.
- Funding provided to the Friends of Weald Park in order to purchase much needed tools to support the work of the volunteers and ex offenders rehabilitation.
- Keep Safe which is a joint venture between Brentwood Borough Council, Essex Police, Essex Mental Health Community and Frontline Partnership.

Keep Safe is a free scheme to help vulnerable people feel safer when they are out in towns across Essex - and in Brentwood we are the first borough to extend the scheme to elderly, learning difficulties and mental ill health. Funding was provided by the CSP and Members in addition to Essex Safeguarding Board.

- The CSP has also launched a Community Safety Questionnaire encouraging residents to have their say. Following initial analysis of the 150 received so far:

72% said that acquisitive crime was either not a very big problem or not a problem at all.

74% felt that anti-social behaviour was not a problem in the borough.

90% of the responses believe that domestic abuse is not an issue.

- In 2014 Brentwood police acted on intelligence from the public by producing and executing 12 search warrants, consisting of:

6 drugs warrants

3 theft and handling

3 for evidence gathering for investigations

(9 of the warrants resulted in convictions and recovery of property). These searches are in addition to the normal day to day searches that take place after an arrest for an offence.

- In partnership with the Council Essex Police also carried out an Essex Act warrant on a suspected brothel in the borough following public complaint and intelligence submissions; however in this case the business was found to be operating legitimately as a massage parlour.
- Successful closure of a brothel near to the town centre discovered in the Borough following public complaint.
- **Community Payback** A requirement imposed by the courts to undertake work in the community as reparation for their offending. In the period April 2014-December 2014 offenders resident in the Brentwood area undertook 3,161 hours of unpaid work under this scheme.

The level of public engagement over the last 12 months in the **borough has risen dramatically and is stronger than ever**, in part due to:

- Public meetings – 2 in 201
- PCC Public Engagement Meeting – October 2014
- The launch of www.Saferbrentwood.com
- Regular newsletters keeping residents informed
- Enhanced use of social media channels to inform about crime
- NHW at events
- Public Consultation

In addition, the Partnership's work will provide the opportunity to work together with our partners such as Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company and many others in order to achieve our corporate objectives.