

## Notice of Meeting

### Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Councillor Angell (Chair),  
Councillor Virgo (Vice-Chair),  
Councillors Mrs Birch, Brossard, Gbadebo, MJ Gibson, Mrs Mattick,  
Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, McLean, Mossom, Porter and Temperton

**Thursday 6 October 2022, 6.30 pm**

**Council Chamber - Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12 1JD and online via Teams**



### Agenda

*All councillors at this meeting have adopted the Mayor's Charter which fosters constructive and respectful debate.*

Item	Description	Page
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
	To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute Members.	
2.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	3 - 10
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 1 September 2022.	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest and Party Whip</b>	
	<p>Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests and the nature of that interest, including the existence and nature of the party whip, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.</p> <p>Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days.</p> <p>Any Member with an Affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<b>Urgent Items of Business</b>	
	Any other items which, pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman decides are urgent.	
5.	<b>Public Participation</b>	

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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	To receive submissions from members of the public which have been submitted in advance in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.	
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### **Sitting as Crime and Disorder Committee**

6.	<b>Community Safety</b>	11 - 44
	<p>To receive a presentation on, and to consider: the performance of the Community Safety Partnership and the priorities in the Community Safety Plan for the coming year.</p> <p>The Commission has invited the following guests to address the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Harrison, Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection</li> <li>• Superintendent Helen Kenny, Local Police Commander Bracknell &amp; Wokingham</li> <li>• Alison O'Meara, Head of Community Safety</li> </ul> <p>Members of the Commission are asked to submit technical or detailed questions in advance of the meeting.</p>	

### **Return to sitting as Overview and Scrutiny Commission**

7.	<b>Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b>	45 - 62
	To consider the draft Special Educational Needs and Disabilities review report prepared by the Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel for submission to the Executive on 18 October 2022.	
8.	<b>Work Programme Update</b>	
	Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs to provide verbal updates on the work programme and highlight any proposed changes such as scope, scheduling or duration.	

### **Date of next meeting**

The next Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting is scheduled for 3 November 2022.

### **Forward plan and decisions taken**

Commission members are able to view upcoming decisions by looking at [Browse forward plans | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#) and consider decisions taken since the last Commission meeting by using this link [What's newly published | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#) and altering the date range.

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media is permitted. Please contact Kirsty Hunt, 01344 353108, [kirsty.hunt@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.hunt@bracknell-forest.gov.uk), so that any special arrangements can be made.

Published: 28 September 2022

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
1 SEPTEMBER 2022  
6.02 - 8.32 PM**

**Present in person:**

Councillors Angell (Chair), Mrs Birch, Brossard, Mrs Mattick and Porter

**Present virtually:**

Councillors MJ Gibson, Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, Temperton

**Executive Members in attendance:**

Councillor Mrs Haye MBE

**In attendance in person:**

Heema Shukla, Deputy Director of Public Health, Bracknell Forest Council

**In attendance virtually:**

Stuart McKellar, Deputy Chief Executive, Bracknell Forest Council

Kevin Gibbs, Executive Director: Delivery, Bracknell Forest Council

Stuart Lines, Director of Public Health, East Berkshire

Rachel Smith, Social Prescriber, Bracknell Forest Council

**16. Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 7 July 2022 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Responses to all of the queries and requests for information raised in the meeting had been received or formed part of the agenda.

**17. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no indications that members would be participating while under the party whip.

**18. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**19. Public Participation**

No submissions had been made by members of the public under the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

**20. Public Health Update**

The Commission considered the report from the Public Health Team which highlighted past progress and future priorities.

It was highlighted the team had been working for 18 months in their current format across East Berkshire in a hub and spoke model, a shared team across East Berkshire, managed by Bracknell Forest Council and included a commissioning lead role. Members of the Panel were informed the Public Health Team carried out roles and services which were not mandated, as well as those that were mandated by Government.

Arising from the discussion the following points were made:

- School nurses drop in visits had increased as a survey showed this was what users and school staff wanted. The service was planned to be re-tendered next year, possibly across East Berkshire.
- The Public Health Team gave advice and support in terms of health emergency planning but were not involved in access issues, such as attendance at Brants Bridge Urgent Care Centre. It was agreed Heema Shukla, Deputy Director Public Health would ask NHS colleagues how access to Brants Bridge was being publicised and circulate the response following the meeting.
- Child measurement programmes carried out in Reception and year 6 served two purposes. Firstly, it provided surveillance on obesity and height which would be accrued at a national level. Secondly, parents/carers locally received a letter about their child's measurements. The letter included advice about where to receive support, if necessary, or they may be offered a meeting with the school nurse. This included support to parents/carers of underweight children.
- Children's oral health was checked by Health Visitors at pre-school level and parents/ carers received advice on weaning and healthy diets. However, it was noted there used to be a national survey on dental care of children, but this was not always the case now as it was not a mandated requirement for Public Health nationally. Last year Bracknell Forest Public Health Team worked to support parents/carers in areas where oral health was poorer, but this year's priorities included a whole school approach to look at every aspect of health rather than fragmented interventions.
- The revised Bracknell Forest Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been published and two of the priorities were being discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 7 September. The priorities included setting up a more robust governance for 0-5 year old children's services.
- The capacity of adult weight programmes to tackle obesity had been increased due to 600 people being on the waiting list. Bracknell Forest Public Health Team had recently commissioned Southampton University to look at a whole system wide approach to tackle obesity and the first meeting of a group convened to look at this had taken place, which included businesses and the voluntary sector. A briefing about this project had been delivered to Councillors recently.
- Winter planning included a vaccination programme as well as warm homes and food security.
- The team were working to ensure health was considered in all policies/procurement in the future and grants had been given to the welfare and housing teams to see what could be done for low income and asset rich/cash poor families, especially help to access grants for gas and electricity price increases.
- The team were also looking at how to increase food share and food larder projects across Bracknell and had been working with providers, such as Silva Homes, to see if they had a food larder which residents could access. It was noted it was not just the amount of food, but the quality, that was important

and there were apps which people could download to support food reaching those who needed it most.

- A 'warm hub' or 'warm bank' initiative was discussed as options to help create warm spaces for residents' struggling to heat their homes this Winter. The team were also looking at options for venues in the borough to teach younger people how to cook on a budget. Wokingham and Bracknell College, Children's Centres and Libraries were suggested as place which could accommodate this type of project.
- It was agreed the Deputy Director, Public Health, would liaise with Cllr Tina McKenzie-Boyle about attending a meeting of Crowthorne Parish Council to discuss potential 'warm hub' ideas.
- It was agreed the discussion about 'warm hubs' or 'warm banks' should form part of the agenda for the Climate Change Advisory Panel and the Vice Chair of the Panel agreed to raise it at the next meeting.
- Due to an increase in parents requesting support with mental health issues the team were looking at a similar programme to Homestart, a mentor type scheme, as well as starting up several groups for mothers to help tackle this issue.
- Support for children and young people who struggled with their mental health was available in schools, but it was recognised more targeted support was needed in all schools across the borough to support children and young people, as well as teachers/support staff providing support themselves.
- It was recognised more targeted support for some families was needed and the team were working with family hubs where Health Visitors were located and with Frimley Integrated Care Board to achieve this.
- The Community Map had been updated following the Covid-19 pandemic and there was a new platform which should make it easier to use.
- Young Health Champions had informed the team they would like more physical activities available to support with mental health issues. The team were looking at how to increase physical activities outside school and how to increase peer support.
- Currently, Social Prescribers only worked with adults, but they were liaising with Kooth, Sporting Mind and voluntary groups to see what could be expanded to children and young people.
- In response to a question asked about a wellbeing pamphlet distributed around the borough it was confirmed the information contained in the pamphlet relating to serious reactions was correct. Heema Shukla, Deputy Director of Public Health agreed to circulate figures regarding yellow card notifications to Councillors and to check the pamphlet had been circulated to all wards.

## 21. Council Plan Overview Report

The Deputy Chief Executive at Bracknell Forest Council, Stuart McKellar, introduced the Council Plan Overview Report (CPOR) covering the first quarter of 2022/23 and highlighted that:

- This quarter marked the beginning of Ukrainian families arriving in the UK. There were 82 guests who arrived in Quarter 1 with another 72 expected. All those families had now arrived but members of the Commission were informed Ukrainian families were likely to continue arriving in the UK for some time.
- An Inspection of Children's Local Authority Services (Ilacs) took place during Quarter 1 and the authority received an Outstanding grade for their services to children in the borough.

- The Council had received an award for Council of the Year at the Energy Efficiency Awards for supporting over 700 households become more fuel efficient. Councillors wished to pass on their thanks to Hazel Hill, Energy Efficiency Officer, for her hard work in this area.
- The Council had moved away from 'forward' acronym to three new values: 'Inclusive, Ambitious, Always Learning'.
- Following a Joint Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection the Council was required to publish a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) to address issues which were identified during the inspection. The WSOA was approved without amendments.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission thanked officers for bringing the quarterly Corporate Performance Overview Report in a timely manner.

Arising from discussion the following points were made:

- Page 44 – 2.2. – The Council had adopted a flexible working policy with staff able to work 1-2 days in the office during the week but, this was not actively being encouraged at this time, due to covid. However, Social Workers were back in the office similar to pre pandemic levels.
- Page 44 – There was provision being made in case Ukranian families presented themselves as homeless and a working arrangement was in place to match those who would like to be a host with those where the hosting arrangement had broken down.
- Page 45 – The Care Quality Commission was working with Bracknell Forest Council to address issues at Heathlands Care Home. Councillors had received a written response specifically on this issue which would be published alongside the minutes.
- It was agreed a response would be made available following the meeting about whether residents with oil heating would qualify for the £400 energy rebate from the Government. It was also noted the Council had received grant funding for over £1 million to look at how to keep homes warm and, in particular, make our least inefficient buildings in the borough, more efficient.
- Page 45 - 3.2 – Councillors wished to pass on their thanks to the SEND team for preparing the WSOA.
- Page 51 – 1.1.07 – it was confirmed 25% fulfilment savings from Business Change Team were accurate at this time.
- Page 49 – it was confirmed Bracknell Forest Council were sharing the burden with the supplier. The Council was in continuous discussion with suppliers on how to mitigate inflationary costs.
- It had been expected some bus routes were being withdrawn in September but, the Government had pledged to support current services until the end of March, so that budget pressure had been removed.
- The first quarter end in June showed a potential underspend but Councillors were informed the position was worsening every month due to inflation and other costs impacting on the Council, similarly to household budgets.
- Page 53 – It was noted there was a continuing issue with reporting from the Business Improvement District (BID) since it was established in 2020, which had not been anticipated. Lengthy work arounds had been applied and the Council had engaged a consultant to work with Northgate and the BID to ensure enhancements to that service included improvements to reporting.
- It was agreed a question regarding how residents were consulted on travel in the borough was undertaken would require a response from the relevant Assistant Director and the response circulated to Councillors following the meeting.

- Page 55 – It was confirmed the Family Safeguarding Model had been reviewed a couple of times.
- Page 56 - L139 – It was agreed this indicator should be green, not amber.
- Page 58 – 4.1.06 – It was agreed the indicator on the Children and Young People Plan should be green.
- Page 59 – L404 – It was agreed a response would be circulated following the meeting regarding the number of Children and Young People visits to Everyone Active this quarter as it seemed unusually low.
- Councillors were glad to see bio-diversity and introduction of food waste into flats was coming to fruition following the scrutiny review into food waste.
- Electric charging points in the borough were grant funded and it was confirmed 32 would go into shopping centres. Bracknell Forest Council were part of a Berkshire wide EV group exploring options for additional electric charging points.
- Page 61 – L418 – It was noted this target was pre the Covid-19 pandemic and needed to be amended.
- Page 63 – L406 – the target seemed low and it was agreed a response to this would be given following the meeting.
- Page 63 - 6.10.08 – It was queried whether there should be an indicator on Afghanistan refugees similar to Ukrainian refugees in the borough. It was agreed a response to this question would be circulated following the meeting.

Question and written answer provided in response regarding Heathlands Care Home: ***“It is noted Heathlands Care Home has fallen into Special Measures. What monitoring was in place with the Care Home prior to the inspection? Why was monitoring not sufficient enough to ensure this service did not fall into an inadequate rating? What is the Council’s plan to ensure this provider improves and what lessons are being learned to ensure other providers in the area do not fall into inadequate ratings also?”***

**What monitoring was in place with the Care Home prior to the inspection?**

“Firstly, the home provider was identified through a competitive procurement process. The process involved detailed responses to a range of questions, with an evaluation panel made up of professionals from the council, the health service and carers of people with dementia. The process included a visit to one of the organisation’s homes by members of the commissioning and safeguarding teams. All of the provider’s services had “good” CQC results at the time of applying for the contract.

From the time of opening until the time that the inspection took place the council was in close contact with the service and was monitoring regularly. It was this monitoring and concerns raised by our partners in the NHS that caused us to notify the CQC leading to the inspection. As soon as the council was aware of concerns we instigated a “red flag” stopping further placements and took steps to ensure the welfare of all residents.

**Why was monitoring not sufficient enough to ensure this service did not fall into an inadequate rating?**

The purpose of our monitoring and support to services is to ensure that people are safe and to help services to improve. Monitoring will not prevent providers from experiencing operational challenges, rather it will ensure that the council and our partners are aware of risks – as it did in this instance. By the time of the inspection the council was working very closely with the organisation to stabilise and support improvement, but unfortunately this was insufficient due to the scale of the challenges that have been explained in the CQC report.

**What is the Council's plan to ensure this provider improves?**

The onus is on the provider to ensure that they improve by the time of their re-inspection in October. However the council is working with them closely to ensure that these improvements take place. As an immediate step the provider employed a specialist CQC Compliance agency to replace the home manager and deputy with specialists and to develop and oversee an improvement plan. The AD for Commissioning and Operational ADs are holding twice weekly meetings to oversee progress and plan activity to ensure the provide makes sufficient progress. We are receiving feedback from a wide range of professionals who are engaged with the service including social work, nursing, medication specialists, safeguarding team and commissioning.

**What lessons are being learned to ensure other providers in the area do not fall into inadequate ratings also?**

As indicated above, the council is not able to ensure that providers do not fall into inadequacy. All social care services are regulated by the Care Quality Commission and have to maintain standards to maintain their registration. The role of the council is to ensure that we have the best possible intelligence about local services and that we are able to responded quickly when providers face problems such as those encountered by Windsar Care.

We are continuing to reflect and learn from the experience of Windsar Care. One thing we are doing is to review the processes and resources that we have in place to respond when we see the first signs of problems. It is a widely know national issue that social care providers are coming under un-precedented challenges currently, and we want to assure ourselves that we are prepared as well as we can be to respond to future incidents of this type.”

**22. Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report: Integrated Enforcement**

The Chair of the Environment and Communities Panel introduced the Integrated Enforcement review report and the following points were made:

- Members of the Commission welcomed the idea of a lead officer in the Council for enforcement.
- A discussion took place about the difficulties for officers being given powers to fine people if they were not Police Officers. However, it was acknowledged there would be training in place to ensure officers undertaking enforcement roles remained safe, i.e. to challenge in two's, and provision of a uniform, so this recommendation was accepted.
- The review found Thames Valley Police were often not able to participate in CSAS training and members of the Commission agreed a recommendation intended to ensure someone from Thames Valley Police was available was important to ensure training was of good quality.
- Councillors thanked Joey Gurney, Governance and Scrutiny Officer for his hard work supporting Councillors during this review.

**The Commission endorsed the recommendations in the Integrated Enforcement review report for submission to the Executive on 22 September 2022.**

## 23. **Work Programme Update**

Each Panel Chair in attendance provided a verbal update on work programme progress.

### Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The SEND review report had been finalised and would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 6 October.

The Chair requested Overview and Scrutiny Commission members approve the Child Criminal Exploitation review scope which had been circulated with the agenda. The Panel had originally intended to review County Lines but, due to Covid and issues affecting people travelling across county lines, the scope had been revised. The scope was approved.

The Chair of the Education, Skills and Growth Panel invited Councillors to a meeting of the panel on 28<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the progress made to date and future review ideas.

### **The Commission agreed the Child Criminal Exploitation review scope.**

### Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Health and Care Panel would meet on 10 October, 6.30pm, to discuss the impact of the review on blue badges and how the recommendations had been carried out. At the meeting members of the Panel would also have the opportunity to discuss the next project for the Panel to review. It was planned to bring the scope to the next Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting for consideration.

### Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

It was noted the Environment and Communities Panel had their next review scope agreed at the previous meeting in July and would begin work on this review on 6 October.

The work ethic in all the panels was commended by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

**CHAIRMAN**

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Bracknell Forest  
**Community Safety  
Partnership**

# Annual Progress Report: 6 October 2022

⇒

Alison O'Meara  
Head of Community Safety  
Bracknell Forest Council

T/Supt Helen Kenny  
Local Police Area Commander  
Thames Valley Police

Item 6



# Content

1. Role of the CSP
2. Reported Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022

3. Progress against Key Focus Area 2022/23

4. Questions



**1.**

## **Role of the CSP**

# Legislative Framework of CSPs

- Statutory partnerships laid down in terms of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007
- CSPs are required to:
  - conduct an annual assessment of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse
  - publish a 3-year plan (updated annually) of how it intends to make the community safer

# Legislative Framework of CSPs

Other legislation which contains duties/guidance for CSPs/Local Authorities:

CONTEST (Prevent Strand) – UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (New)



# CSP Meetings

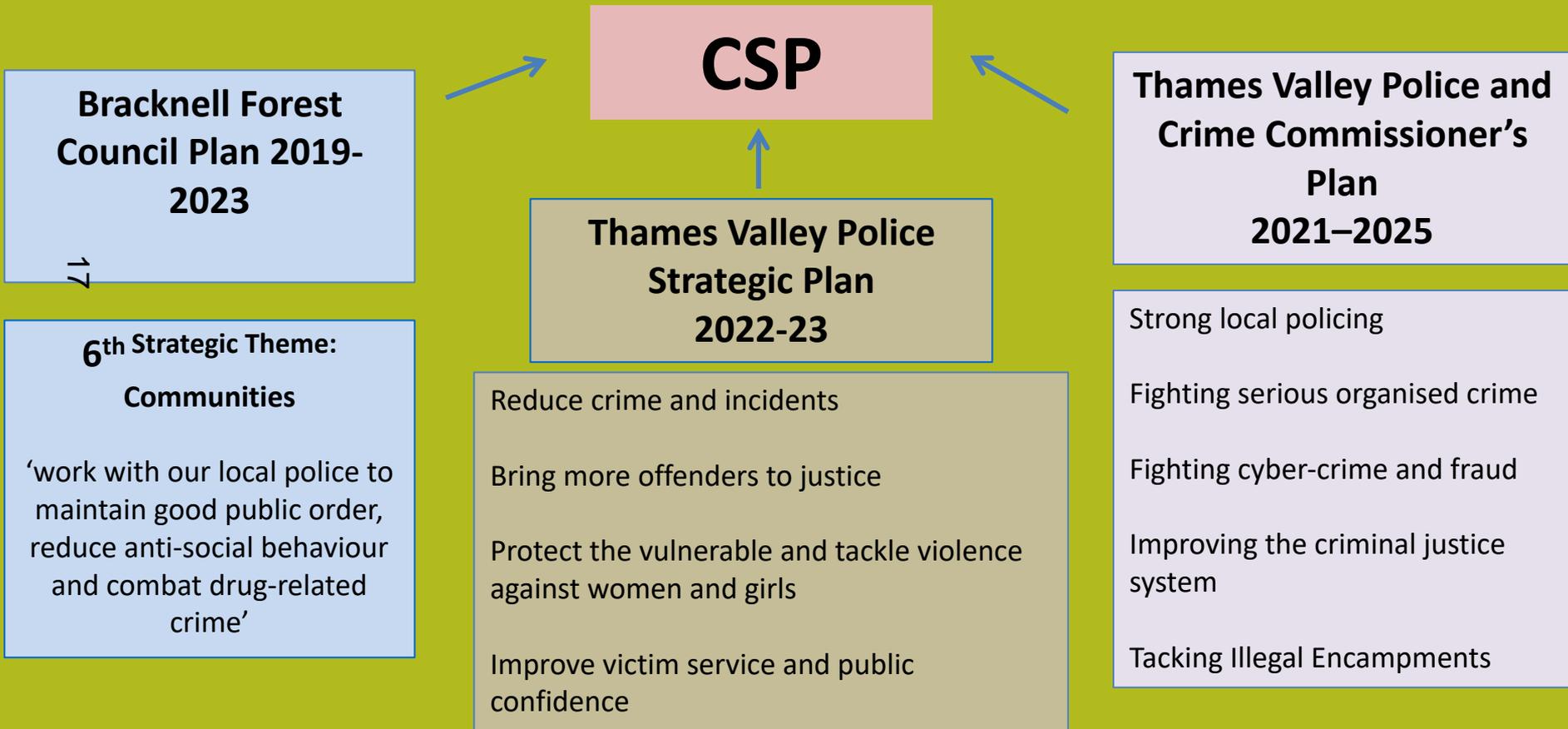
- CSP Steering Group meets 4 times a year
- CSP Forum/Workshop meets 1-2 times a year as required
- Chaired by BFC Chief Executive and the Local Police Area Commander
- Delivery groups are in place/set up to deliver against the CSP priorities

## Statutory Members:

- Local authority
- Police
- Fire
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- National Probation Service



# How do Thames Valley Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner priorities link into the Council Plan and the CSP?



# Funding 2022/23

Name	Source	Amount
Community Safety Fund	OPCC*	£129,369 (To be reduced by £16K by 2024-25)
Domestic Abuse Fund	Bracknell Forest Council	£50,610
Community Safety Core	Bracknell Forest Council	£170,150
DA New Burdens Fund	DLUHC**	£214,216

\* Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

\*\* Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



## CSP Priorities 2020-2023 (to be reviewed annually)

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Tackle the exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults</b>                                    |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Reduce incidents of serious violence, sexual offences, and knife crime</b>                                     |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Work with communities to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots (including drug-related crime)</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Reduce harm caused by domestic abuse</b>   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Reduce incidents of residential burglary and theft from vehicles</b>   |

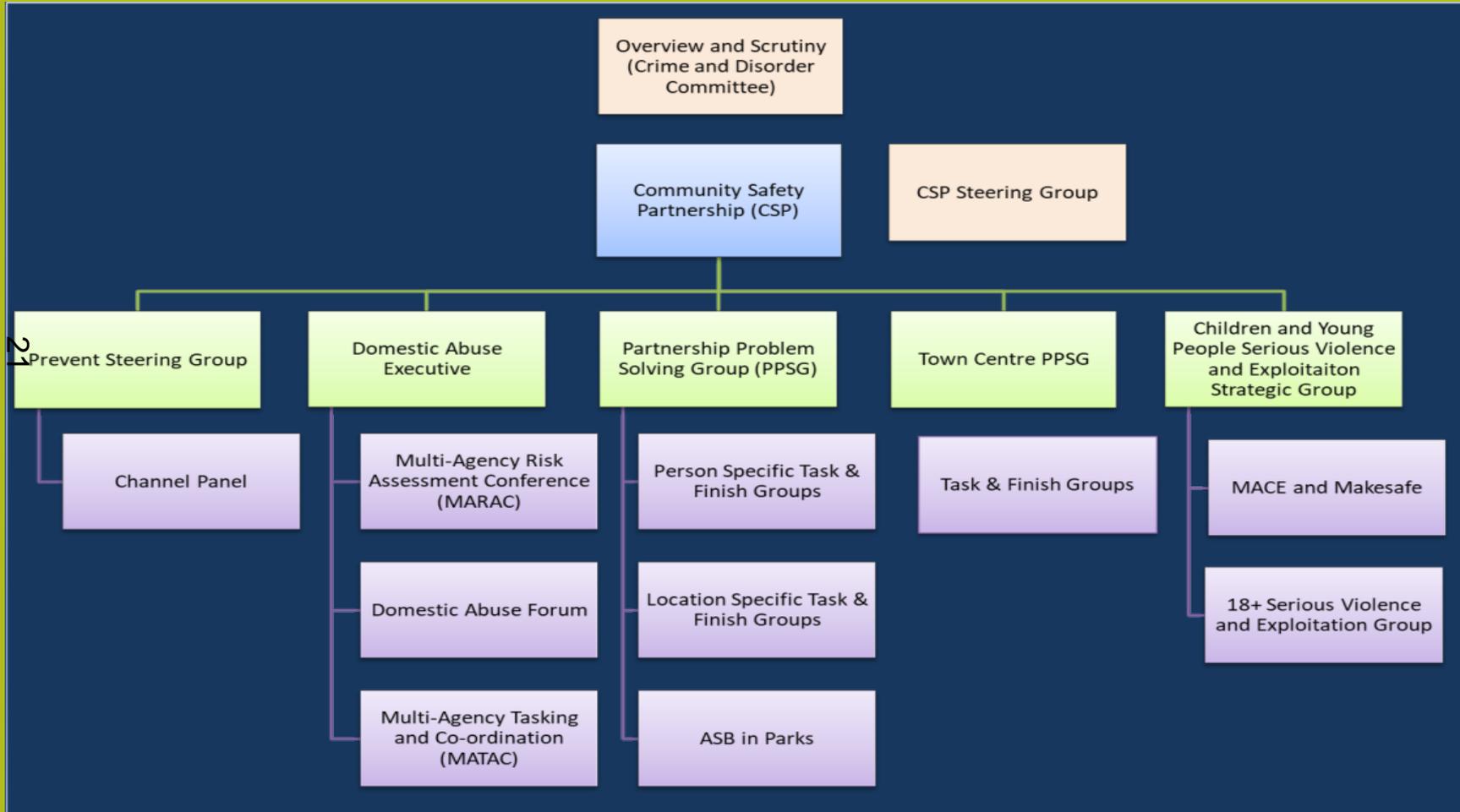
## CSP Key Focus Areas 2022/23

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Tackle exploitation and serious violence across all ages   |
| 2 | Reduce town centre anti-social behaviour and crime   |
| 3 | Reduce harm caused by domestic abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management of perpetrators and enforcement</li><li>• Delivery of the Safe Accommodation Action Plan</li></ul> |

## Ongoing Monitoring and Response

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Borough-wide crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots |
| 2 | Burglary  |
| 3 | Vehicle crime   |

# CSP Sub-Group Structure



# CSP Strategic and Delivery Groups

- **Prevent Steering Group (Statutory)** – strategic group to plan an approach to safeguard children and adults by protecting and diverting them away from being drawn into terrorist activity
- **Channel Panel (Statutory)** – operational group to ensure that vulnerable children and adults receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to be drawn into terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity
- **Domestic Abuse Executive (Statutory)** – strategic group to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, by identifying and addressing gaps in support, including those within safe accommodation
- **Domestic Abuse Forum** – a forum which identifies and promotes good practice so that professionals can work more effectively in partnership to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse in Bracknell Forest
- **Partnership Problem-Solving Group** – operational group to tackle complex and challenging crime and disorder issues of individuals and/or locations across the wider borough
- **Town Centre Problem-Solving Group** - operational group to tackle complex and challenging crime and disorder issues of individuals and/or locations in the town centre
- **Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategic Group** – strategic group to ensure effective, coordinated service provision is in place for those at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation
- **Adult Serious Violence and Exploitation Group** – operational group to manage and support habitual knife carriers, safeguard adults at risk of serious violence and exploitation and tackle problematic hot-spot locations



# Structure of the BFC Community Safety Service

Interim Assistant Director: Early Help and Communities

Head of Community Safety

CSP

23  
Business Support (P/T)

Community Safety Officer

- ASB
- Town centre problem-solving

Enhanced Case Manager

- Prevent and Channel
- Borough-wide problem-solving
- IOM
- Plain Talking
- DA Perpetrator work
- Serious Violence and Exploitation
- Hate crime

DA Co-Ordinator (P/T)

- Manage the DA Executive (statutory)
- Deliver training
- Support with the Safe Accommodation strategy
- Communications and awareness
- Overarching DA strategy
- Data

Project Officer (P/T)

- Shoplifting
- Underpasses
- Bracknell Business against Crime



# BFC Community Safety Service Objectives

- To lead on Community Safety for BFC and provide support across directorates to ensure full compliance with legislation
- To provide strategic leadership and oversee casework and problem-solving involving:
  - complex and challenging cases of crime and disorder involving high-risk victims and offenders as well as hotspot locations
  - Channel (safeguarding those at risk of radicalisation)
  - adult modern slavery (including exploitation)
  - adult serious violence
  - domestic abuse perpetrator work delivered through MATAC (multi-agency tasking and co-ordination)
  - 'Plain Talking' domestic abuse prevention
  - hate crime

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# Useful Resources



## Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### What is a CSP?

It is a statutory, multi-agency partnership of the local authority, police, probation service, health service, fire service and others to put together a plan to reduce crime and disorder in their area. There are 13 CSPs within the Thames Valley.

#### What does the CSP do?

Its primary function is to consult with the community and examine all available data and evidence to provide the basis for a strategic 3-year plan to make the community safer by reducing crime and disorder. The CSP is not responsible for other types of safety such as road safety or health and safety. The CSP meets at least four times a year to monitor the delivery of the plan but much work goes on in the background to ensure delivery.

#### Is the CSP only strategic? What operational work does it do?

The CSP is pivotal in bringing together members of the following groups to ensure delivery of the CSP plan. Some attendees are permanent while others attend on a case-by-case basis:

- Partnership Problem-Solving Group (PPSG) and any task and finish groups (community safety problems that have proved to be complex and challenging to resolve)

## What is anti-social behaviour (ASB)?

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as acting in a manner that has "caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household" as the perpetrator.

ASB can be several different things. Low-level ASB can be a one-off argument with a neighbour e.g. location of a refuse bin on refuse collection day or an over-hanging tree. On the other end of the spectrum, high-level ASB could include criminal ASB such as harassment, drug use or drug dealing

It is important to note that the nature of the ASB will determine which agency will lead on resolving it (explained further below). Also, some ASB can involve more than one type of ASB and can also escalate from a low-level situation to medium or high-level, impacting more than one person or household.

## How can it affect the community?



#### Non-confidential reporting:

- Phone 999 for emergencies only  
Is a crime happening right now, is the suspect still at the scene, or is anyone seriously injured or in immediate danger?  
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use the text phone service 18000 or text on 999 if you're pre-registered with the emergency MS service.

or

- Phone 101 for non-emergencies

or

- Report on Thames Valley Police's website using an online form

[Report a crime | Thames Valley Police](#)

Reports are dealt with by our control room in exactly the same way whether you report it online or call 101

The Thames Valley Police's website can be used for reporting a crime, a road traffic incident, domestic abuse, a missing person, anti-social behaviour, fraud, lost or stolen vehicles, lost or found property, civil disputes, war crime, wildlife crime and rural crime. [Report | Thames Valley Police](#)

#### CrimeStoppers.

Speak us. Stop safe.

#### Confidential reporting:

- Phone 0800 565 111

or

- Report on CrimeStoppers' website using an online form: [Give Information | CrimeStoppers](#)

Only use if reporting something that does not require urgent police attention

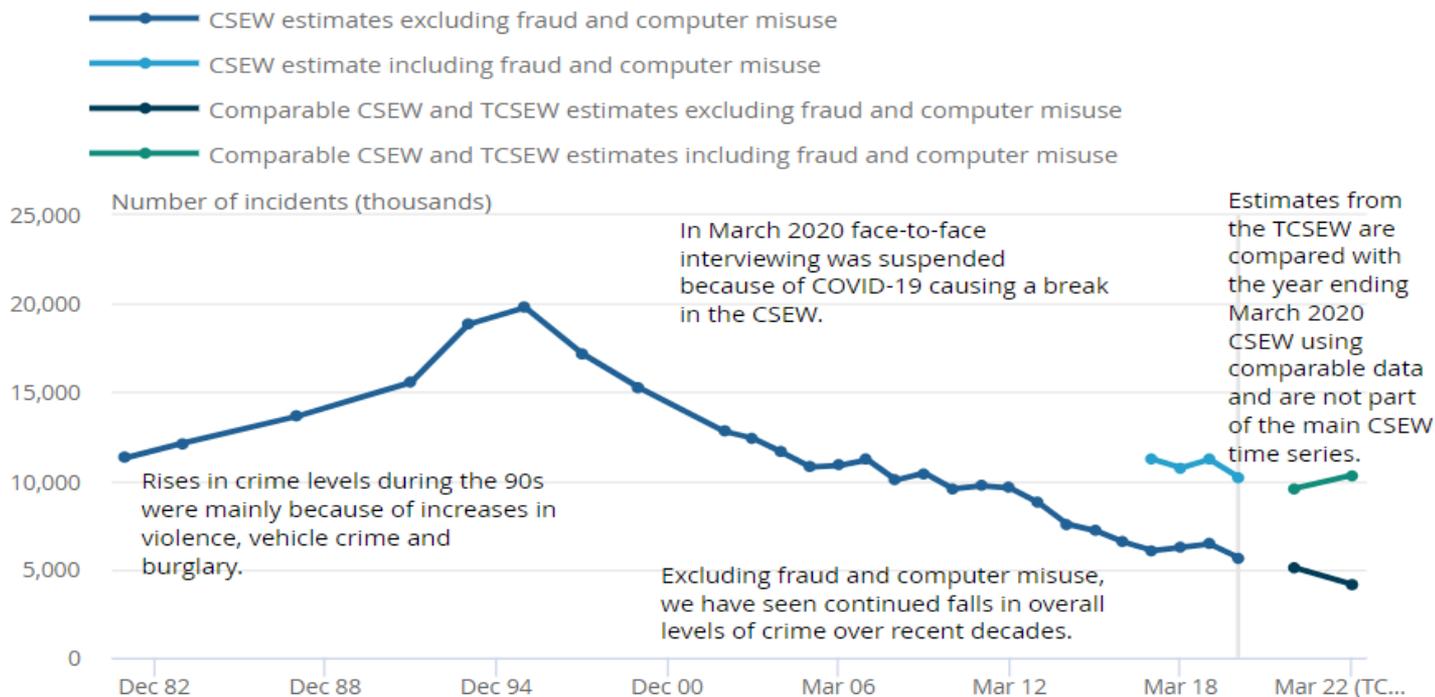


**2.**

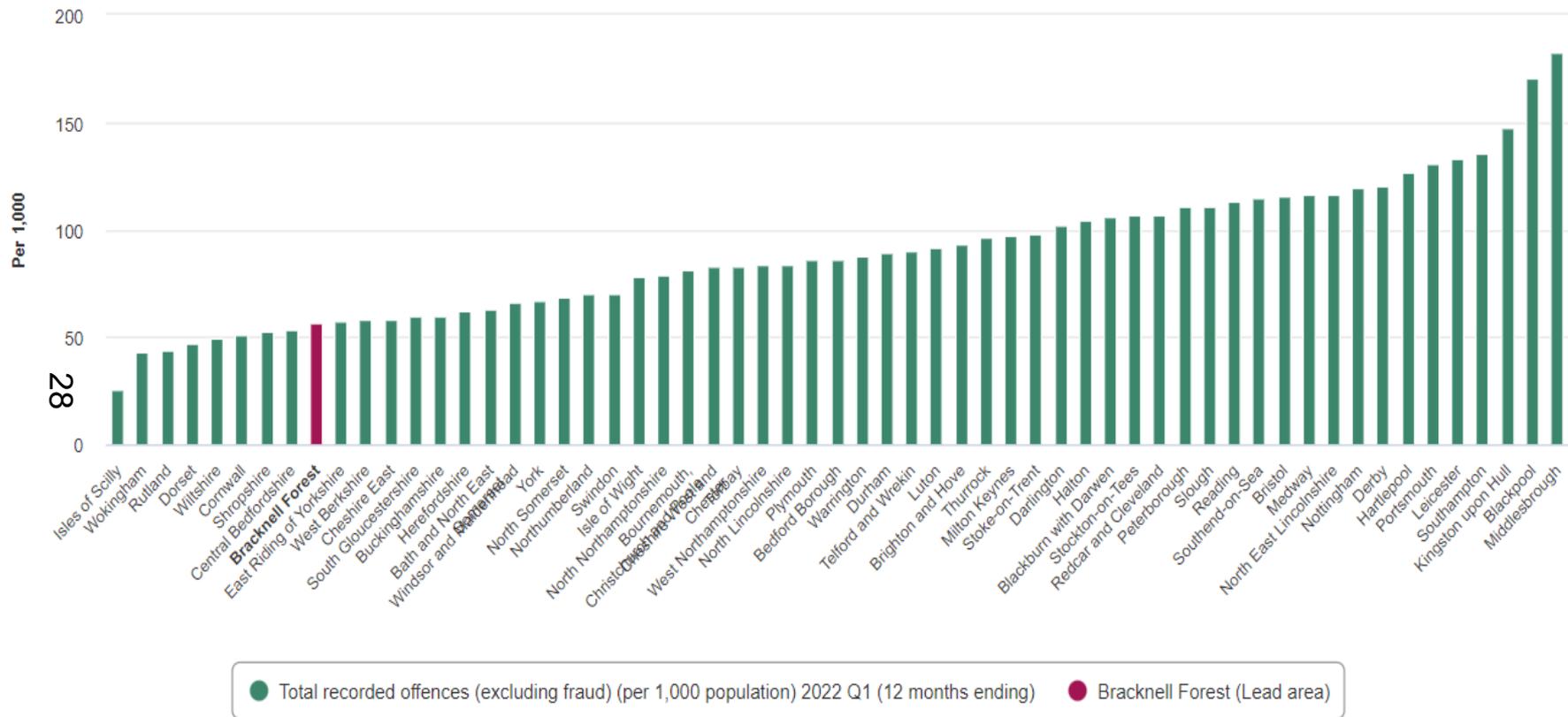
**Reported Crime and ASB  
1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022**

**Figure 1: Crime estimates from the CSEW December 1981 to March 2020, and TCSEW estimates for April 2021 to March 2022 interviews**

**England and Wales, annual estimates**



# Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (offences per 1,000 population) (2022 Q1 (12 months ending)) for All English unitary authorities



Source:

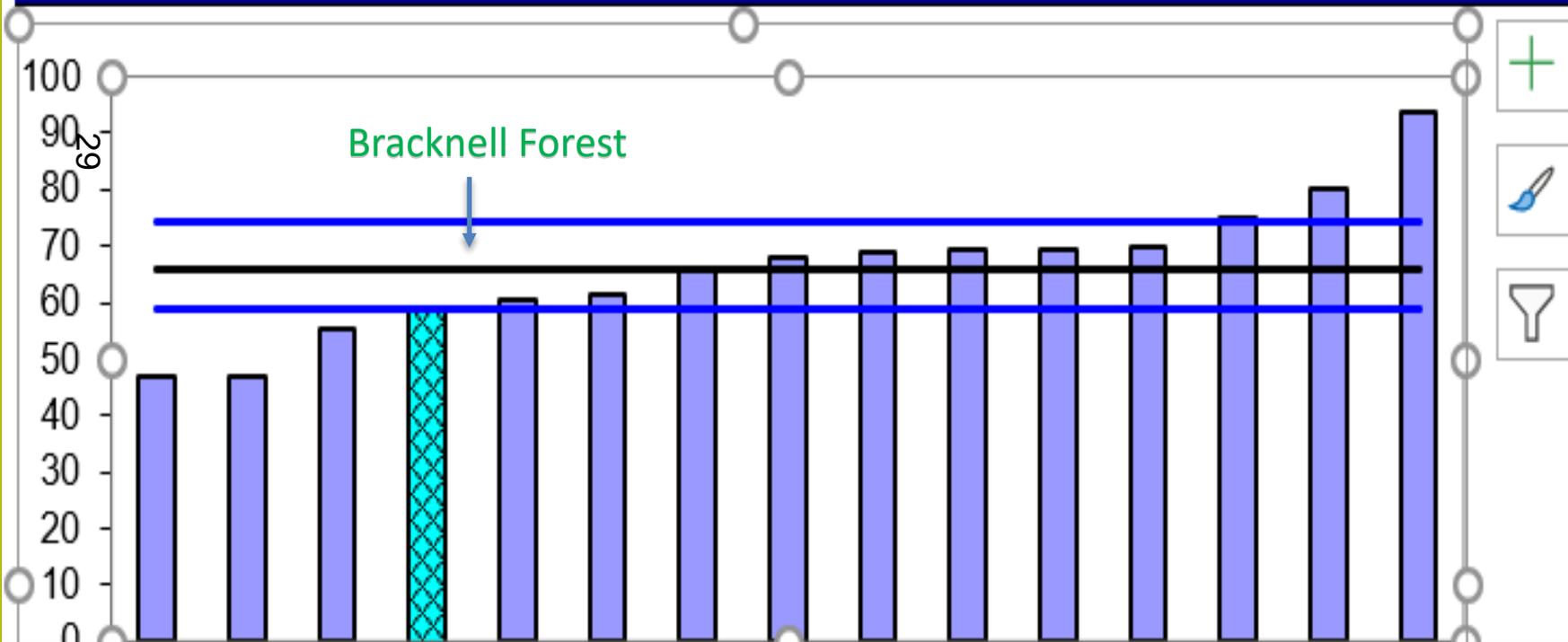
Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (offences per 1,000 population) , Data updated: 21 Jul 2022

# iQuanta Bar Chart MSG (12 months) - Crimes per 1000 Residents

## Thames Valley - Bracknell Forest

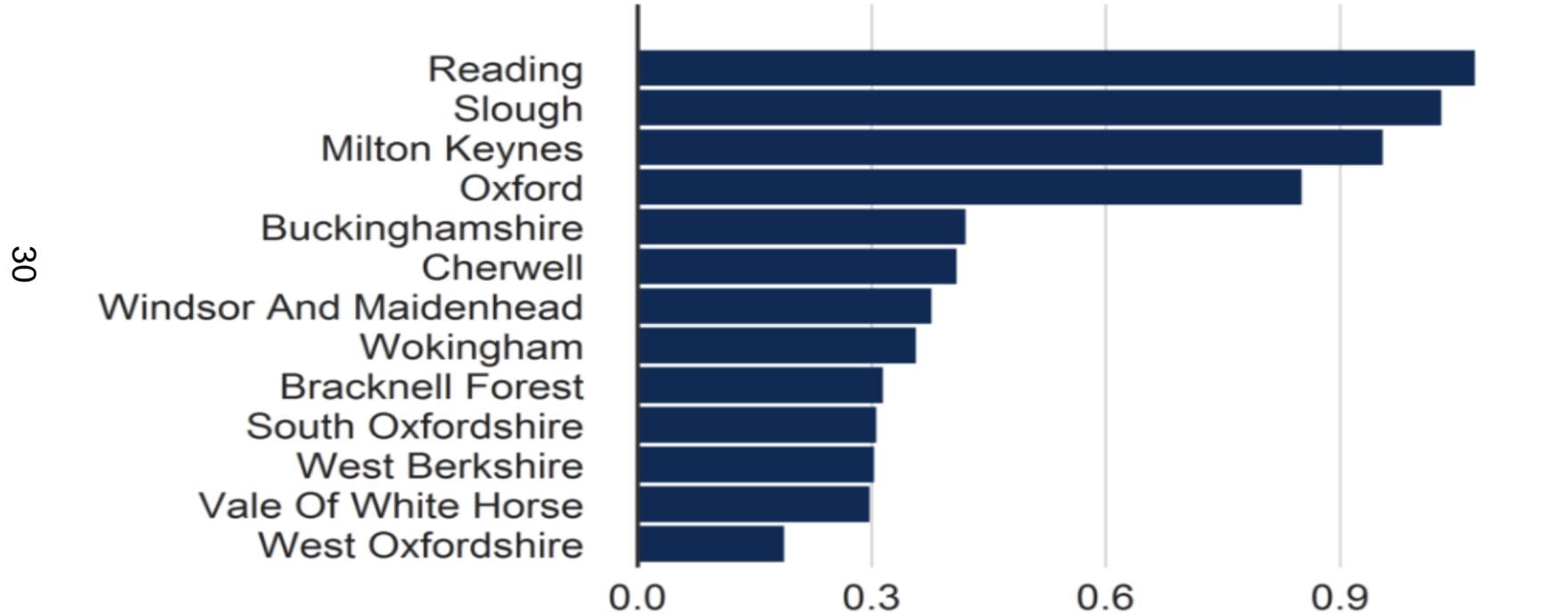
### Crimes

01 Aug 2021 - 31 Jul 2022



# Large urban CSPs have the highest rates of serious violence

Rate of offences per 1,000 population, 2021



Source: Thames Valley VRU



<b>Violence against the Person</b>	<b>Violence with Injury</b>	<b>Violence without Injury</b>	<b>Harassment &amp; Stalking</b>	<b>All Crime</b>
<b>% change on last year</b>				
<b>Bracknell Forest</b>	<b>+21%</b>	<b>+11%</b>	<b>+25%</b>	<b>+9%</b>
31				
Thames Valley	+18%	+12%	+24%	+12%

**Crimes involving a knife  
(excluding possession)**

**% change on last year**

**2021/2022**

Although there is an 8% increase in knife-enabled crime within the Local Police Area, this represents an additional 3 offences compared to the previous year. Crimes of this type are few in number.

**Bracknell Forest**

**+8%**

32

Thames Valley

+6%

Formal action taken against Domestic Abuse	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Outcomes as a % of investigations</b> 33	12% (TVP 10%)	15% (TVP 13%)
<b>DVPNs*</b>	6	7

**\*Domestic Violence Protection Notices**

**Formal action taken against Sexual Offences as a % of investigations**

**Rape**

**Other Sexual Offences**

**Rape offences: The 167% increase in formal outcomes relates to 26 crime records.**

**Bracknell Forest**  
34

**+167%**

**+69%**

Thames Valley

+10%

+57%

# Unauthorised Encampments

New criminal powers (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022)

- Power of arrest
- Power to seize property and vehicles
- Types of harm broadened
- Period of non-return increased

35

**3.**

**Progress against Key Focus  
Areas 2022/23**

# Key Focus 1: Tackle exploitation and serious violence across all ages

Makesafe

Over 18 Habitual Knife Carriers and Individuals at Risk

37

Serious Violence Duty

Homes for Ukraine

Child Financial Exploitation



# Key Focus 2: Reduce town centre anti-social behaviour and crime

ACT NOW

Safer Streets 4

Premise Licencing Activity

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

Rough sleeping, organised begging/busking and graffiti

Vehicle Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

Town Centre Partnership Problem-solving Group (PPSG) referrals and resolutions

The Deck



# Key Focus 3: Reduce harm caused by domestic abuse (Management of perpetrators and enforcement)

MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination)

Operation Vocal

39 DAPS (Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service)

Plain Talking

DVPNs and DVPOs (Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders)

Who's in Charge



# Key Focus 3: Reduce harm caused by domestic abuse (Delivery of the Safe Accommodation Action Plan)

## Achieved:

- Sanctuary Scheme
- DA Specialist in BFC Housing Service
- Refuge Provision Re-tender
- £ Emergency Survivor Fund

## To Do:

- Reciprocal arrangements for use of refuge, dispersed and short-stay accommodation
- Increase options in the private rental sector for survivors



# Anti-Social Behaviour

- 234 ASB queries to Community Safety (September 2021 to August 2022)
- Drug-related concerns, harassment, noise
- Different types of ASB are managed by appropriate lead
- Complex cases are referred to partnership problem-solving groups (PPSGs)
- ASB in Parks and Open Spaces

# Partnership Problem-Solving Example 1

## Background:

- Late night/early morning vehicle ASB at Sainsbury's, Ringmead, Birch Hill
- Numerous reports to police and Community Safety

## Actions:

- Approaches to the vehicle owners took place but were unsuccessful
- Joint Community Safety and Police discussions with Sainsbury's management and Mitie (facilities management) to explore solutions
- An ANPR car parking system was installed at the car park
- Police patrolling was increased, particularly on the days of the week and at times when the problem was known to be most acute.

## Outcomes:

- No further reports of vehicle ASB at this location



# Partnership Problem-Solving Example 2

## Background:

- Person with medical and mental health needs
- Escalating problematic behaviours causing high demand and alarm across services and the community
- Lived independently with no social care needs
- Difficult to engage and declined mental health support

## Actions:

- Single point of contact established to connect professionals
- Profile was raised amongst all relevant partners including housing provider
- Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) reviewed all possible care pathways
- Referral made to Social Prescribing and Age Concern
- Agreed process for collecting evidence from partners to support enforcement if required

## Outcomes:

- Housing provider organised a lock change to secure house (keys had been lost)
- Essential maintenance at the property carried out, food bank delivery arranged and deep clean organised
- Independent living assessment organised to support move to supported living accommodation
- Pay-as-you-go phone provided for contact with support agencies
- Re-referral to Adult Social Care to explore support package while move was facilitated
- Working group being formed to look at developing better working practices and protocols due to the increase of similar referrals



4.

## Questions

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**6 October 2022**

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## **Overview and Scrutiny Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** **Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel's report to the Commission following the Panel's review into Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 1.2 To provide the advice of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer (SSO) to inform the Commission's decision whether to endorse the Panel's recommendations to the Executive.

### **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 **That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission endorse the Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendations to the Executive, as set out in the Panel report (attached as Appendix A) and paragraph 5.5 of this report, taking into account the comments of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.**

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is the role of the SSO to advise the Council on any issues or concerns that may arise about the operation of the scrutiny function and the SSO may on occasion be required to make a determination about what the law says and how this should be applied to any particular situation. In carrying out this statutory role, there is a need to have a nuanced and meaningful understanding of the scrutiny function in order to accurately make judgments about its operation when disagreements or other issues arise.
- 3.2 The SSO is responsible for ensuring that the scrutiny function is adequately resourced and that service departments and partners are contributing sufficiently to reviews to ensure that they are effective.
- 3.3 The SSO is also responsible for providing advice to the Commission on whether the recommendations within review reports are robust, taking account of resource, legal, climate change, equalities, health and wellbeing and strategic risk implications.

### **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 The Commission could decide:
  - to endorse the recommendations to the Executive (and others) as set out in the Panel's report
  - to endorse the recommendations in part
  - to ask for further work to be undertaken before the report is submitted to the Executive recognising that this would delay the Panel's next piece of work

- to note the Panel report and not make any recommendations to the Executive (or others)

## **5 Supporting Information from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission commissioned the Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel to carry out a review into Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as part of the overview and scrutiny four-year work programme, which has been developed to track themes within the new Council Plan.
- 5.2 In support of this review a broad range of witnesses gave evidence putting the Panel in a good position to use this intelligence to frame the review and produce insightful recommendations.
- 5.3 The Panel was supported by Louise Connelly, Governance and Scrutiny Officer who supported the Panel to draw up the scope of the review; prepare an evidence pack of relevant information; facilitate several Panel sessions to interview a range of contributors and visit early years' settings, schools and post-16 settings; draw out findings from the Panel's investigation, and to prepare a review report. This involved in the region of 800 hours of scrutiny officer time and 22 hours of Panel meetings.
- 5.4 In summary it is the Statutory Scrutiny Officer's view that this review activity had adequate resources and that service departments contributed effectively to the review. The bulk of review activity took place between January 2022 and May 2022. The start of the review was delayed due to the SEND Ofsted Inspection taking place as the review was due to begin so it was split into two parts. The comments from the relevant officers and partners set out below do not indicate any concerns with the proposed recommendations. Issues regarding finances are addressed below.
- 5.5 The recommendations are:
- i. Ensure Bracknell Forest Council SEND team deliver on their statutory responsibilities within agreed WSOA timescales. Embed culture change with health teams and the SEND team so better communication ensures we move away from crisis management and put the children and young people first.
  - ii. The departmental structure of the SEND team should be reviewed to ensure accountability at all levels and monitoring of outputs and outcomes to meet statutory requirements is in place and consistent.
  - iii. Strengthen and recognise voice of CYP and parents / carers in improving SEND service provision. Use co-production to form strategies, and forward planning.
  - iv. Clarify what financial support is available to young people, parents/carers, schools, and provider and ensure it is well publicised.
  - v. Review the functionality of the Local Offer and information on the website to ensure it is presented clearly and includes more 'visual' aids so there is a clear pathway for parents and carers to access SEND help and advice.
  - vi. Ensure all partners complete EHCP assessments within statutory timescales. Consider commissioning independent therapists if not possible due to shortage in current service provider.
  - vii. Review current training offered to parents/carers of children and young people with SEND and training for professionals, including staff in early years' settings.
  - viii. Review consistency of offer of a Carers Assessment to parents/carers/siblings. Ensure Carers Assessments are offered at the earliest opportunity and that support is offered according to eligibility criteria.

- ix. Review availability of Personal Budgets to support EHCPs with a view to all statutory partners supporting requests in the future.
- x. Explore the financial impact on the service of appointing a key worker to the family to help with crisis management i.e. admission to hospital and discharge.
- xi. Explore options to train therapists locally including liaising with Universities and schools to train staff locally in Bracknell schools. To promote 'Grow Your Own' opportunities in health and SEND team.
- xii. Review SEND provision in the borough to ensure it is sufficient and effective at addressing the needs of children and young people with special needs and disabilities in Bracknell. This includes annual reviews of Specialist Resource Provision located in schools, the offer in post 16 education and bespoke provision for children and young people with SEND.
- xiii. Explore option of an IT software platform which allows the Council and Frimley CCG to share information with children, young people, and parents/carers safely and be time sensitive. Also, carry out a feasibility study for a secure portal to share EHCP information with neighbouring Councils.

## **6 Commentary from Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chair, Councillor Mrs Gill Birch**

- 6.1 There were several reasons we decided to carry out this review which forms part of our revised<sup>1</sup> four-year programme of scrutiny activity. Firstly, the national picture was that the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) increased to 1.37 million in 2020. Secondly, during the Covid-19 pandemic the attainment gap between SEND and average attaining pupils increased by over 20% across all age groups, nationally. Locally, data indicated timescales for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) was not being met.
- 6.2 We undertook a lot of activity as part of this review, including visiting and fed back our findings to decision makers along the way to ensure swift action to address any issues we found. However, some issues require longer timescales and significant investment.
- 6.3 Our recommendations stated above are aimed at addressing the issues we uncovered during this review in order to strengthen services and support provided for children, young people and their families in the borough in the future.
- 6.4 I particularly found this review emotional hearing first-hand how parents and carers were dealing with the challenges of their children with special needs and how they struggled to cope.

## **7 Response from Executive Director: People, Bracknell Forest Council, Grainne Siggins and**

- 7.1 *The development of the written statement of action was a comprehensive, coproduced piece of work exploring the key actions needed to improve Special Educational Needs and Disability Service in Bracknell Forest. It is vitally important that we aspire to achieve the high standards of support and provision for all of our families and that the actions within the written statement of action aim to deliver that for children and young people with SEN and their families. I welcome the scrutiny review and note the findings.*

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<sup>1</sup> Bracknell Forest Council Overview & Scrutiny Commission revised its four year plan of scrutiny activity in November 2020.

- 7.2 **Response from Tracey Faraday-Drake, Executive Director and Senior Responsible Officer for Children and Young People, Learning Disabilities and Autism, NHS Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group**
- 7.3 *In response to Recommendation 6) In order to ensure that we have sustainability and consistency across health services it remains our preference to recruit into permanent job vacancies within the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Integrated Therapies Team and we have provided additional financial investment to strengthen and support this. We fully recognise this is not without its challenges as therapeutic services are nationally recognised as being difficult to recruit into, with particular emphasis on Occupational Therapists. We are actively working to reduce the current occupational therapy wait times, ensure advice and input to EHCNA's is within statutory timescales and explore the support offered to those who are waiting for Occupational Therapy. In order to achieve all of these key areas we are giving careful consideration to any wider elements of this plan which could potentially be suitably supported by the independent sector. We have made enquiries with health colleagues in Croydon to better understand the initiative referenced in this recommendation.*
- 7.4 *In response to Recommendation 11) This piece of work is underway as part of the NHS Long Term Plan: Children and young people with autism and/or a learning disability with the most complex level of need will have a key worker by 2024, implementing the recommendation made by Dame Christine Lenehan in 'These are our children'. Initially Keyworker support will be provided to children and young people who are in an inpatient setting (due to their mental health, autism and/or a learning disability) and also those considered at risk of going into an inpatient setting (due to their mental health, autism and/or a learning disability). Keyworker support will then also be extended to the most vulnerable children and young people with autism and/or a learning disability, this will include children and young people in care (LAC/CIC), children and young people who have been adopted and children and young people in transition between services.*

## 8 Consultation and Other Considerations

### Legal Advice

- 8.1 The relevant legal issues are comprehensively addressed within the report. The report is focussed on the statutory responsibilities and duties of the local authority Education Department for SEND in their area.

### Financial Advice

- 8.2 A number of the recommendations require further work to establish the extent of any financial implications. Where relevant, these will need to be considered as part of the normal budget setting process.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 8.3 The review scope, activities and recommendations were all considered in the initial equalities screening attached at Appendix B.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 8.4 Adopting the recommendations contained in this report will enhance the support and service provision to children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers and show residents the importance Bracknell Forest Council and Frimley CCG have placed on ensuring SEND provision in the borough meets statutory obligations but, in

addition, goes beyond that and provides an excellent service. It should be noted 10 out of the 13 recommendations align with the Written Statement of Action which Bracknell Forest Council and Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were required to complete following the Ofsted SEND Inspection earlier this year. However, some of the timelines differ as these recommendations are ambitious. In addition, recommendation 13 regarding a new IT system will have a significant cost implication to the Council and CCG, so this will need to be explored to ensure finances are not being diverted away from other priority areas.

#### Climate Change Implications

- 8.5 The recommendations in Section 2 and 5 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2 because there is no suggested increase in activity or travel that would generate a change.

#### Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 8.6 Giving all children the best start in life and support emotional and physical health from birth to adulthood is one of the Council's priorities in its recently updated Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The recommendations support Bracknell Forest being one of the healthiest places to live. Residents will therefore experience better health, both physical and mental.

#### Background Papers

None

#### Contact for further information

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Louise Connelly, Governance & Scrutiny Officer - 01344 354047

[louise.connelly@bracknell-forest.gv.uk](mailto:louise.connelly@bracknell-forest.gv.uk)

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# Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report

REVIEW TITLE	O&S PANEL	DATE
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Education, Skills and Growth	6 October 2022

“There were several reasons we decided to carry out this review which forms part of our revised<sup>1</sup> four-year programme of scrutiny activity. Firstly, the national picture was that the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) increased to 1.37 million in 2020. Secondly, during the Covid-19 pandemic the attainment gap between SEND and average attaining pupils increased by over 20% across all age groups, nationally. Locally, data indicated timescales for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) were not being met. This data prompted a necessity to carry out this review as soon as possible but we were delayed due to Bracknell Forest being inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. When we did commence our activities, we spoke to parents/carers and visited several schools, early years and post-16 settings. We fed back our findings to decision makers along the way to ensure swift action to address any issues we found. However, some issues require longer timescales and significant investment. Our recommendations below are aimed at addressing those issues in order to strengthen services and support provided for children, young people and their families in the borough in the future.”



**Councillor Mrs Gill Birch,**  
**Chair: Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

## Recommendations

1	Ensure Bracknell Forest Council SEND team deliver on their statutory responsibilities within agreed WSOA timescales. Embed culture change with health teams and the SEND team so better communication ensures we move away from crisis management and put the children and young people first.	Short term = six months
2	The departmental structure of the SEND team should be reviewed to ensure accountability at all levels and monitoring of outputs and outcomes to meet statutory requirements is in place and consistent.	
3	Strengthen and recognise voice of CYP and parents/carers in improving SEND service provision. Use co-production to form strategies and forward planning.	
4	Clarify what financial support is available to young people, parents/carers, schools, and providers and ensure it is well publicised.	
5	Review the functionality of the Local Offer and information on the website to ensure it is presented clearly and includes more 'visual' aids so there is a clear pathway for parents and carers to access SEND advice and services.	

<sup>1</sup> Bracknell Forest Council Overview & Scrutiny Commission revised its four year plan of scrutiny activity in November 2020.

6	Ensure all partners complete EHCP assessments within statutory timescales. Consider commissioning independent therapists if not possible due to shortage in current service provider.	Medium term = 18 months
7	Review current training offered to parents/carers of children and young people with SEND and training for all professionals, including staff in early years settings.	
8	Review consistency of offering a Carers Assessment to parents/carers/siblings. Ensure Carers Assessments are offered at the earliest opportunity and that support is offered according to eligibility criteria.	
9	Review availability of Personal Budgets to support EHCPs with a view to all statutory partners supporting requests in the future.	Long term = three years
10	Explore the financial impact on the service of appointing a key worker to the family to help with crisis management i.e. admission to hospital and discharge.	
11	Explore options to train therapists locally including liaising with Universities and schools to train staff locally in Bracknell schools. To promote 'Grow Your Own' opportunities in health and SEND team.	
12	Review SEND provision in the borough to ensure it is sufficient and effective at addressing the needs of children and young people with special needs and disabilities in Bracknell. This includes annual reviews of Specialist Resource Provision located in schools, the offer in post 16 education and bespoke provision for children and young people with SEND.	
13	Explore option of an IT software platform which allows the Council and Frimley CCG to share information with children, young people and parents/carers safely and be time sensitive. Also, carry out a feasibility study for a secure portal to share EHCP information with neighbouring Councils.	

## Approach

The Panel met to agree the scope of the review in October 2021 but, due to Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) announcing an imminent joint SEND inspection in Bracknell Forest it was agreed the scope would be revised and split into two parts in order not to over burden schools and organisations involved.



Scrutinise background documents including strategies and data available; review good practice nationally; carry out 'secret shopper' exercise on the Local Offer.



Carry out interviews with children, young people, parents/carers; lead officers in partner organisations; schools; early years settings; post-16 settings and other local authorities. Review Bracknell Forest's Written Statement of Action (WSOA).



## Good practice

During the review Panel members identified the following areas of good practice:

- ✔ Following the lockdowns, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bracknell Forest Council Child Development Centre allocated a key worker to each pre-school. Staff in those settings we visited said this had helped identify and provide support more quickly to children they identified as potentially having SEND.
- ✔ Dedicated teaching and learning posts have been created in the SEND team to support schools and this was helping teachers to implement Quality First Teaching in all schools.
- ✔ The locality 'cluster' structure for schools has recently been implemented across the borough which should help schools in each cluster to support each other.
- ✔ Co-production with parent/carer forum representatives was apparent in helping to write the strategic future vision for the borough, including the Written Statement of Action.
- ✔ SEND Information, Advice and Support Services (SEND IASS) were highly regarded by everyone interviewed, including young people, parents/carers, schools, Post 16, and early years' staff. Parents/carers said they appreciated SEND IASS staff's empathy skills and that they listened to children and communicated their needs clearly to others.
- ✔ Three members of Croydon Borough Council's SEND team had built a new team to liaise between the Local Authority and schools. Evidence showed schools felt listened to by the local authority and education staff they felt they were supporting children/young people better, had better access to necessary resources, that the number of EHCPs had been reduced and the strategy had resulted in significant savings for the local authority.
- ✔ The Written Statement of Action was accepted by Ofsted without any changes.
- ✔ Health Visitors were beginning to visit nurseries again, which had ceased during the pandemic, and nursery staff said it helped because they knew who to contact.
- ✔ It was recognised NHS Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group were looking at a key worker project to prevent crisis and hospital admissions. Parents said they felt this would help them navigate crisis admissions but wanted it extended so all parents had a health key worker.
- ✔ A local school had 'grown their own' therapists to deal with the national shortage of availability of Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists, which young people in the school said provided them with vital support.



## Review findings

During this review Panel members found evidence which largely corroborated Ofsted's judgment that Bracknell Forest Council and Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group, who provide statutory support and services to children, young people with SEND and their families, required a Written Statement of Action to help improve. During this review Panel members noted:

The SEND department at Bracknell Forest Council was being reorganised but there were still several vacancies which was impacting on the service children, young people and their families received. **(Recommendation 2) (WSOA ref: 2.1.4)**



There was evidence of productive partnerships in the past between external agencies, but this needed rebuilding after the pandemic. A key issue was communication and poor response times for getting back to people. **(Recommendation 1) (WSOA ref: 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3)**

Co-production was apparent in the Written Statement of Action but there needed to be more opportunities for 'hard to reach' parents/carers' views to be incorporated into shaping the strategic vision. **(Recommendation 1) (WSOA ref: 2.1.3, 2.3.1, 3.1.3)**



The culture of the SEND team was highlighted as an issue by parents/carers, school, Post-16 and early years' staff. In particular a lack of empathy for the needs of the child/young person with SEND but also for the staff supporting the child. **(Recommendation 1) (WSOA ref: 2.1.4)**

Training was raised as an issue by parents/carers as well as school, Post-16 and early years' staff. Parents/carers wanted training that helped them support their child better rather than generic parenting courses. Specifically, school/college/early years' staff said they wanted courses that would help identify needs and give them techniques to better support children/young people. **(Recommendation 7) (WSOA ref: 3.1.4, 6.1.5)**



Parents/carers and school staff said they wanted consistency of key worker assigned to them and to be informed immediately when their key worker changed. **(Recommendation 1 & 2) (WSOA ref: 2.1.4)**

Few children, young people, parents/carers were aware of the Local Offer and, those that were, said they rarely used it. One parent who did use it said the functionality should be improved as filtering when looking for a suitable school did not work properly. **(Recommendation 5) (WSOA ref: 9.1.5, 9.1.6)**



EHCPs were not reviewed in a timely manner although it was recognised there had been recent improvements in timescales. **(Recommendations 1, 2, 6) (WSOA ref: 2.1.2)**

Parents/carers said they wanted to access different types of therapy for children, such as art classes, but were not able to as they didn't have control of the finances. Only one child had a Personal Budget to date. **(Recommendations 3, 4, 6, 9 & 11) (WSOA ref: 5.1.7)**



Parents/carers said they felt they had to say negative, not positive, things about their child when completing forms/assessments. Also, where strengths were identified, they were not feeding into their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to help their child continue or use that strength to progress. **(Recommendation 1, 3, & 7) (WSOA ref: 2.1.2, 2.1.3)**

It was unclear what the processes were for monitoring budgets by senior staff. **(Recommendation 2) (WSOA ref: 6.1.1)**



All of the parents/carers interviewed said they were not offered a Carers Assessment. One parent had pushed for a Carers Assessment but was informed they would not qualify for any support. **(Recommendation 8)**

Parents/carers said they would like someone to hold their hand at the beginning of their journey, similar to the Kickstart programme, a 'peer mentoring programme'. **(Recommendation 1, 3, 8 & 10) (WSOA ref: 2.1.3)**



Feedback from parents/carers and schools was that EHCPs needed to be more deliverable as they felt the current Panel set up did not allow for those directly involved with the child to advocate for them at those meetings. **(Recommendation 2 & 3) (WSOA ref: 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4)**

Masking signs of autism, especially girls, was thought to be on the increase and there was not enough training in this area. **(Recommendation 7) (WSOA ref: 3.1.4, 6.1.5)**

There was a significant lack of access to trained therapists, especially Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists. **(Recommendations 6 & 11) (WSOA ref: 5.1.7)**



Specialist, local provision needed to be reviewed as currently provision could not cater for all children/young people with SEND in the borough. **(Recommendation 12) (WSOA ref: 4.1)**

There were some issues with data sharing between the Local Authority, Frimley CCG and Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust. **(Recommendation 1 & 13) (WSOA ref: 6.1.1)**



## Financial considerations

There are likely to be financial considerations attached to staff changes and alternative provision options although most are included in the Written Statement of Action. However, the recommendation regarding reviewing Carers Assessments and investing in new IT software to create a 'one stop shop' are not included in the Written Statement of Action currently. A feasibility study will be required to explore financial implications prior to commissioning new IT software.

“I am always proud of how the Borough works with partners for it is one of our strengths, and I feel this is a good example of partnership working to enable us all to support our most vulnerable children and young people.

My thanks go to all those who contributed, particularly my Vice Chair Councillor Michael Brossard, all the Councillors who took part, officers, and our health colleagues, to improve the services on offer to children and young people with special needs. The participants are listed below, and my grateful thanks goes to all of them. This report depends on good support, and I particularly thank Louise Connelly for all her help.

I look forward to reviewing the recommendations in early 2023.”

**Councillor Mrs Gill Birch,**  
**Chair: Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

### Review Panel

<b>Councillor Allen</b>	<b>Councillor Ms Gaw</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs Birch (Chair)</b>	<b>Councillor Gbadebo</b>
<b>Councillor Bhandari</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs Gibson</b>
<b>Councillor Brossard (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>Councillor Hamilton</b>
<b>Councillor Brown</b>	<b>Councillor Ms Hayes</b>
<b>Councillor Temperton</b>	<b>Councillor Skinner</b>

### Contributors to the review

<b>Grainne Siggins</b>	Executive Director: People, Bracknell Forest Council
<b>Cheryl Eyre</b>	Assistant Director: Learning, Bracknell Forest Council
<b>Fiona Slevin-Brown</b>	Managing Director: NHS Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group
<b>Samina Hussain</b>	Senior Transformation Lead, Children and Young People, Bracknell Forest, NHS Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group
<b>Tracey Faraday-Drake</b>	Executive Place Managing Director (Slough) East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group
<b>Julian Emms</b>	Chief Executive of Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
<b>Karen Cridland</b>	Director of Children's, Young People and Families Service, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

<b>Councillor Dr Barnard</b>	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, Bracknell Forest Council
<b>Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b>	Many children and young people with SEND were interviewed during visits to educational establishments.
<b>Parents/carers</b>	Parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
<b>Schools/Early Years settings/Post-16 settings/Specialist provision</b>	10 educational establishments around the borough allowed Panel members to visit during the course of this review and interviews were held with Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers and Sencos.
<b>Croydon Borough Council representatives</b>	Mark Southworth, Locality SEND support, Consultant Lead, Croydon Borough Council Sonal Desai, Area SEND Lead, Croydon Borough Council Keran Currie, Area SEND lead, Croydon Borough Council
<b>Louise Connelly</b>	Governance and Scrutiny Officer, Bracknell Forest Council

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## Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

<b>Date of Screening: December 2021</b>	<b>Directorate: Delivery</b>	<b>Section: Democracy and Governance</b>	
<b>1. Activity to be assessed</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Education, Skills and Growth review into Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This review will consult include desk top based research into data provided by the local authority and health partners, secret shopper exercise, interviewing parents/carers, children and young people with SEND, representatives from educational establishments in the borough, the local authority, health representatives and other local authorities.		
<b>2. What is the activity?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Review</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change		
<b>3. Is it a new or existing activity?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New		
<b>4. Officer responsible for the screening</b>	Louise Connelly, Governance & Scrutiny Officer		
<b>5. Who are the members of the screening team?</b>	Louise Connelly, Paris O'Keefe, Cllr Mrs Gill Birch, Cllr Michael Brossard		
<b>6. What is the purpose of the activity?</b>	The purpose of the activity is to determine whether organisations supporting and providing services to children and young people with SEND in Bracknell Forest are meeting their statutory obligations.		
<b>7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?</b>	Children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers.		
<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Please tick yes or no</b>	<b>Is there an impact?</b>	<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>
<b>8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities and includes conditions such as dementia as well as hearing or sight impairment.</b>	Y		This review is aimed at having a positive impact on children, young people and their parents/carers by improving support and services provided to them. The recommendations will be further the intent of the Equality Act 2010.
<b>9. Racial equality</b>	N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact racial equality but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.
<b>10. Gender equality</b>	N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact gender equality but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.

<b>11. Sexual orientation equality</b>		N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact sexual orientation equality but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.
<b>12. Gender re-assignment</b>		N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact gender re-assignment but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.
<b>13. Age equality</b>		N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact age equality but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.
<b>14. Religion and belief equality</b>		N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact religion and belief equality but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.
<b>15. Pregnancy and maternity equality</b>		N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact on pregnancy and maternity equality but should have an overall positive impact on all groups by improving support and services for children and young people with SEND.
<b>16. Marriage and civil partnership equality</b>		N	No impact identified.	The recommendations will not impact marriage and civil partnership equality but should have an overall positive impact on support and services for all children, young people with SEND and their parents/carers.
<b>17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.</b>	No other impact has been identified.			
<b>18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?</b>	N/A			
<b>19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?</b>	The review intends to ensure children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers receive support and services according to statutory obligations and to help shape future service improvements.			

20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?		N	
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	We considered a wide range of data from local and national sources. This was collated in an evidence pack which is available on BFC website.		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?		N	
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Milestone/Success Criteria</b>
See recommendations contained in report.		Cllr Mrs Gill Birch	Recommendations are endorsed by the O&S Commission and agreed by the Executive.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	Overview & Scrutiny Commission work plan		
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?	Please see recommendations contained in the report.		
26. Assistant director's signature.	Signature:		Date:

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