



PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, 13th July 2022 at 7.15pm

**Council Chamber, Braintree District Council, Causeway House,
Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9HB**

This meeting is open to the public and will be available to view via the Council's webcast
and YouTube channel

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk>
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**Members of the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee are requested to
attend this meeting to transact the business set out in the Agenda.**

Councillor J Abbott
Councillor J Baugh
Councillor G Courtauld (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham (Chairman)
Councillor A Hensman

Councillor T McArdle
Councillor Mrs J Pell
Councillor Mrs J Sandum
Councillor Mrs L Walters

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence
to the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email
governance@braintree.gov.uk by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

A WRIGHT
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS – DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Pecuniary Interests (OPI) or Non-Pecuniary Interests (NPI).

Any Member with a DPI, OPI or NPI must declare the nature of their interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Members must not participate in any discussion of the matter in which they have declared a DPI or OPI or participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Member must withdraw from the Chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the Member has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.

Public Question Time – Registration and Speaking:

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes for Public Question Time.

Members of the public wishing to participate are requested to register by contacting the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email governance@braintree.gov.uk by midday on the second working day before the day of the Committee meeting. For example, if the Committee meeting is due to be held on a Tuesday, the registration deadline is midday on Friday, (where there is a bank holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Thursday). Public Question Time speakers may participate in person or virtually. Speaker preference must be indicated upon registration.

The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register for Public Question Time if they are received after the registration deadline.

The public may ask questions on any matter listed on the Agenda for this meeting. All questions or statements should be concise and should be able to be read within the 3 minutes allotted for each question/statement.

The Chairman of the Committee has discretion to extend the time allocated for public question time and to amend the order in which questions/statements are presented to the Committee.

Public Attendance at Meetings:

Public attendance is welcomed, but is subject to restrictions due to the Council's arrangements for keeping Causeway House Covid secure and visitors safe.

Public attendance is limited and will be on a first come first served basis with priority given to Public Registered Speakers. In order to maintain safe distances, the Council may have to refuse entry to members of the public. The public may not be able to sit in the Council Chamber, but will be able to observe the meeting from a public gallery through a large screen. Alternatively, the Council meetings are webcast and are available via the Council's YouTube Channel and can be viewed by the public as a live broadcast, or as a recording following the meeting.

Public speakers and public attendees are required to attend on their own, and where possible only one representative of any community group, family household or Company should attend. Members of the public intending to come to Causeway House to observe a meeting are recommended to watch the meeting via the webcast, or to contact the Governance and Members Team to reserve a seat within the public gallery.

Health and Safety/COVID:

Causeway House is a Covid secure building and arrangements are in place to ensure that all visitors are kept safe. Visitors are requested to follow all instructions displayed at Causeway House or given by Officers during the course of their attendance.

Anyone attending meetings is asked to make themselves aware of the nearest available fire exit. In the event of an alarm you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by staff. You will be directed to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Documents: Agendas, Reports and Minutes can be accessed via www.braintree.gov.uk

Data Processing: During the meeting the Council will be collecting performance data of participants' connectivity to the meeting. This will be used for reviewing the functionality of MS Teams/Zoom and YouTube as the Council's platform for virtual meetings and for monitoring compliance with the legal framework for Council meetings. Anonymised performance data may be shared with third parties.

For further information on how the Council processes data, please see the Council's Privacy Policy.

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200136/access_to_information/376/privacy_policy

Mobile Phones:

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent during the meeting in order to prevent disturbances.

Webcast and Audio Recording:

Please note that this meeting will be webcast and audio recorded. You can view webcasts for up to 6 months after the meeting using this link: <http://braintree.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. The meeting will also be broadcast via the Council's YouTube Channel.

Comments and Suggestions:

We welcome comments to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the meeting you have attended, you can send these to governance@braintree.gov.uk

1 Apologies for Absence**2 Declaration of Interests - Scrutiny Committee**

1. To declare the existence and nature of any interests relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice (where necessary) before the meeting.
2. To declare the existence and nature of any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote on any particular matter.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee held on 11th May 2022 (copy previously circulated).

4 Public Question Time

(See paragraph above)

5 To provide the 2021-22 Annual Report of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership**5 - 20**

Members to receive a report from Tracey Parry, Community Services Manager and Caroline Elias-Stephenson, Head of Housing and Community.

6 Scrutiny Review into Litter Management in the Braintree District - First Evidence Gathering Session

Members to receive a presentation from Officers in the Council's Marketing and Communications Team. The Officers in attendance are:-

- Tania Roberge, Marketing and Communications Manager
- Ros Alam, Account Manager

7 Urgent Business - Public Session

To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Report Title: To provide the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership	
Report to: Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee	
Date: 13 th July 2022	For: Recommendation
Key Decision: No	Decision Planner Ref No: N/A
Report Presented by: Tracey Parry, Community Services Manager	
Enquiries to: Tracey Parry, Community Services Manager tracey.parry@braintree.gov.uk	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the work that the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership delivered during 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 For the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committee to review the annual report (appendix 1) and make any recommendations to Cabinet.

3. Summary of Issues

- 3.1 The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of representatives from Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Mid Essex CCG, Essex County Council (Partnership Lead and Secondary education), Community360 and Eastlight Community Homes.
- 3.2 The Community Safety Partnership work together to protect their local communities from crime and help people to feel safer.
- 3.3 There is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to carry out an annual strategic assessment, as per legislation in the Crime & Disorder Act Revised 2006. The assessment collates and analyses statistical and contextual data from a range of partners and is used to inform key findings and recommendations for priorities moving forward.
- 3.4 The CSP priorities for 2021/22 were:
 - Tackle the trafficking of drugs in the community
 - Increase confidence in identifying and reporting hidden harms
 - Drive down violence and disorder within the community
- 3.5 The delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan has not been immune to the various challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has meant that certain projects within the action plan particularly those that

rely on face-to-face engagement, or those delivered within education settings had to be postponed or redesigned. Despite this, positive opportunities have arisen for closer partnership working and alternative ways to deliver projects to ensure Braintree District remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

3.6 Key Achievements:

Child Exploitation

Local Exploitation Group

The partnership has continued to build upon the success of its Local Exploitation Group aimed at providing early intervention to vulnerable young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or Criminal Exploitation (CE) before it escalates to a high risk ' level.

This year the group have been able to provide funding to individual young people to access interventions with the aim of reducing their level of risk. An example of this is an isolated and vulnerable young person who had been subject to criminal exploitation, was able to take part in dog training classes with the aim of building their confidence and self-worth.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Young People on Public Transport

Braintree took part in the countywide Operation Henderson campaign, a joint initiative being run by Essex Safeguarding Children Board, British Transport Police, Essex Police, the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, Rail Operators, local councils, Essex Youth Service and The Children's Society. The aim of the operation was to raise awareness of the vulnerability of young people to exploitation and abuse at stations and transport networks in parts of Essex.

The operation provided information and advice to members of the public, all staff working within and around a station, from ticket collectors to engineers, coffee shop workers to cleaners who all play an important role in safeguarding vulnerable young people.

Moving forward this type of operation will be an annual event to continue raising awareness and hopefully reduce the number of young people being exploited.

Schools Input

Domestic Abuse & Healthy Relationships

Young people were given the opportunity to learn how to spot the signs of domestic abuse and healthy relationships from a powerful play organised by Eastlight Community Homes, and funded by the CSP.

Educational theatre group, Tic Box Productions, performed The Bruise You Can't See at seven secondary schools across the district.

The interactive play was watched by more than 1,100 students in Years 10 and 11 at Notley High School, Tabor Academy, New Rickstones, Academy, Honywood School, Alec Hunter Academy, Maltings Academy and also Heybridge Co-operative Academy an alternative provision school in Maldon.

Weapons Awareness

The St Giles Trust delivered a weapon awareness session to 90 children in Year 6 which focused on debunking myths and stereotypes around crime, weapons, gangs, county lines and related issues, challenging the messages in social media and popular culture, de-glamorising the lifestyle and exposing the realities of negative choices such as carrying a weapon.

Every Contact Counts

The CSP continues to ensure that those working within the Braintree District have the necessary knowledge and awareness of hidden harms ' in order to prevent crime and protect the vulnerable. The CSP invited frontline professionals from across the partnership to attend an Every Contact Counts awareness session, delivered by Children & Young People First, and funded through the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit.

Around 50 professionals working within the Braintree District attended the session which aimed to help them spot the signs of exploitation, gangs, county lines, modern slavery, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation; know how and where to refer concerns regarding exploitation of young people and / or vulnerable adults; and be able to respond safely to these concerns where it is appropriate to do so.

Night Time Economy

Blok It drug deterrent spray used in licensed premises

As part of ongoing work to tackle anti-social behaviour a new anti-drug spray was launched and funded by the CSP, the first of its kind in Essex.

Officers from Braintree Community Policing Team visited licensed premises and public venues throughout Braintree and Witham town centres in January 2022 to coat surfaces that can often be used for recreational drug taking, such as those in bathrooms. The clear substance coats the surface with a powerful bittering agent which reacts with any powdered substance.

If the substance is then ingested, it will have a foul taste which can last several hours.

Community Safety Hub

Multi-agency working continues to be essential in the prevention of crime and disorder. The Braintree District Community Safety Hub continued to maximise the benefits of collaborative working with partners. Membership of the Hub has again increased during the past year and includes representation from partner organisations of the CSP, other statutory services and the voluntary sector. A number of professionals meetings have been held following initial discussions at Hub, particularly for more complex cases around anti-social behaviour, nuisance and domestic abuse.

The recommendations set out in this report will help the Council to deliver the following Corporate Objectives:

- A sustainable environment and a great place to live, work and play;
- Residents live well in healthy and resilient communities where residents feel supported

4. Options

- 4.1 There are no options to consider as the strategic assessment and action plan for 21/22 is agreed by the Responsible Authority Group and sent to the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex to enable the annual funding allocation to be released.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Future work of the Community Safety Partnership will be delivered within existing resources. The CSP has an allocated budget of £17,739 for 2021/22.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership and must adhere to legislation.
- 6.2 The Community Safety Hub has an information sharing agreement and standard operating procedures.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership ensure all partners have safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when the Council makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

9. List of Appendices

- 9.1 Braintree Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2021/22.

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership

Annual Report 2021-22

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2021-22

Foreword

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report outlines how local agencies have worked together to make the Braintree District a safer place and reduce the fear of crime during 2021-22.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a joint responsibility upon specific agencies and other partners within the community to develop and implement strategies to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safe.

Throughout the year partners have worked together to deliver successful projects and initiatives against the identified priorities to:

- Tackle the trafficking of drugs in the community
- Increase confidence in identifying & reporting hidden harms
- Drive down violent & acquisitive crimes within the community

Many of these are aimed at raising awareness, education and prevention as we feel these add value to the work delivered by local agencies on a daily basis.

We are proud of the achievements the Partnership has made and look forward to another successful year.



Cllr Frankie Ricci

Chair, Braintree District
Community Safety Partnership

Cabinet Member for Communities
Braintree District Council

Tracey Parry

Community Services Manager
Braintree District Council

Responsible Authority Group

The Responsible Authority Group is the strategic group of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership and consists of strategic and operational officers who are collectively responsible for addressing crime, disorder and community safety across the Braintree District.

These organisations include Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS), Eastlight Community Homes, Essex County Council (Education) and Community360 (voluntary sector).

The group has overall strategic responsibility for making sure that the priorities identified from the annual Strategic Assessment are outlined within the Action Plan, and the projects within the Action Plan are delivered.

Strategic Assessment

Each year the Community Safety Partnership is required to produce a Strategic Assessment report about crime and disorder levels in its area. The results of the Strategic Assessment are used by the Partnership to identify themed priorities for the coming year. The Partnership produces an Action Plan which describes how it will deliver on the identified priorities.

The Strategic Priorities for 2021-22 were:

- Tackle the trafficking of drugs in the community
- Increase confidence in identifying & reporting hidden harms
- Drive down violent & acquisitive crimes within the community

Funding

The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (OPFCC) allocated grants from its 2021–22 Community Safety Fund to all Community Safety Partnerships across the county. As in previous years the OPFCC set aside a proportion (4%) of this funding for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). This fund provides: co-ordination of the DHR process; administration of DHR panels; funding for independent chairs; lesson learning seminars; and monitoring and reporting on DHR recommendations implementation.

The funding formula is based on population size, deprivation and crime levels.

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership received a funding allocation of £17,739 for 2021-22.

Action Plan 2021-22

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership produces an annual Action Plan which underpins the priorities and sets out how local agencies will work together to meet the actions within the plan.

Actions include specific projects and initiatives put forward by partner agencies, which are then collectively agreed by the Responsible Authority Group.

Key Achievements 2021-22

A note regarding the COVID-19 pandemic

The delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan has not been immune to the various challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This unfortunately has meant that certain projects - particularly those that rely on face-to-face engagement, or those delivered within education settings – have had to be postponed or redesigned. However despite this, positive opportunities have also arisen for closer partnership working and alternative ways to deliver projects to ensure Braintree District remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

Provided below are some examples of key areas of work that the CSP has worked on and delivered during 2021-22.

Spot It Stop It scheme to raise awareness of Child Exploitation

Work has continued to develop and expand the CSP's Spot it Stop it scheme to raise awareness of child exploitation.

The scheme encourages businesses to sign up to receive awareness training to increase their knowledge of child exploitation including the signs to look out for and how to report concerns.

The training it delivers helps to reassure the public, parents and carers that premises are a safe place for young people to visit; that child exploitation is taken seriously and will not be tolerated.

So far more than 70 members of staff have been trained including national businesses such as McDonalds, Cineworld, Premier Inn and Pizza Hut.



Local Exploitation Group

The partnership has continued to build upon the success of its Local Exploitation Group aimed at providing early intervention to vulnerable young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or Criminal Exploitation (CE) before it escalates to a 'high risk' level.

During the COVID-19 pandemic it became apparent that there had been a noticeable increase in cases being heard at the Mid Essex Missing & Child Exploited (MACE) meetings – these are young people identified as being high risk of CSE or CE, or going missing on a number of occasions.

A core group of key local partners - including Family Solutions, The Children's Society, Education, Essex Youth Service, Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service, Essex Police and Braintree District Council - meet regularly, prior to MACE meetings, to discuss current issues and to determine whether any intervention can be implemented to avoid young people becoming involved in CSE or CE, and to escape potential perpetrators.

Aims of the group are to coordinate partnership work and identify disruption activities; identify local hotspots and vulnerable locations where young people are associating with each other; develop tailored and effective plans to deal with local hotspots; engage with young people as to what areas feel 'safe' or 'unsafe' for them and initiate action plans for these areas; and develop and deliver awareness campaigns aimed at children and young people, parents and carers, businesses and the wider community.

This year the group provided funding to an isolated and vulnerable young person who had been criminally exploited, to enable them to take part in dog training classes with the aim of building their confidence and self-worth.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Young People on Public Transport

Braintree took part in the countywide Operation Henderson campaign, a joint initiative being run by Essex Safeguarding Children Board, Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnerships, British Transport Police, Essex Police, the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, Rail Operators, local councils and The Railway Children. It aims to raise awareness of the vulnerability of young people to exploitation and abuse at stations and transport networks in parts of Essex.

Research and local data have shown transport networks are used by vulnerable young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and trafficking. Young people often gravitate towards stations because they are traditionally busy, anonymous places that also provide some



form of shelter and access to food and drink. Bus and rail networks can also be used by offenders to traffic young people for the purpose of sexual and criminal exploitation.

As well as members of the public, all staff working within and around a station, from ticket collectors to engineers, coffee shop workers to cleaners, play an important role in safeguarding vulnerable young people.

Domestic Abuse & Healthy Relationships inputs at secondary schools

Hundreds of teenagers have learnt to spot the signs of domestic abuse after watching a powerful play organised by Eastlight Community Homes, and funded by the CSP.

Educational theatre group, Tic Box Productions, performed 'The Bruise You Can't See' at seven secondary schools across the district.

The play was watched by more than 1,100 students in Years 10 and 11 at Notley High School, Tabor Academy, New Rickstones Academy, Honywood School, Alec Hunter Academy, Maltings Academy and also Heybridge Co-operative Academy – an alternative provision school in Maldon.

Shani Roberts, 14, was one of the first students to watch the play at Notley High School. She said: "It was interesting to see the different indicators of domestic abuse – I learned that it is not always obvious. The fact that it was a play made it really interesting – it wasn't just a lesson."

Katee Swallow, ASB Co-ordinator at Eastlight Community Homes, added: "This is such an important lesson for students and will help them to recognise any signs of domestic abuse before it is too late. I hope it will help them to sustain healthy relationships in their future and know what to do if they are faced with domestic abuse. The show was very good – it reached out to the students using language and a style they can relate to."

Cllr Frankie Ricci, Chair of the CSP said: "Domestic abuse is a very important issue and it is vital for young people to understand what a healthy relationship looks like and that they're not alone if they do experience any kind of domestic abuse.

"Support is out there and we want that to be as accessible and visible as possible."



‘Every Contact Counts’ exploitation awareness for professionals

The CSP continues to ensure that those working within Braintree District have the necessary knowledge and awareness of ‘hidden harms’ in order to prevent crime and protect the vulnerable.

To this end the CSP invited frontline professionals from across the partnership to attend an ‘Every Contact Counts’ awareness session, delivered by Children & Young People First, and funded through the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit.



Around 50 professionals working within the Braintree District attended a 90-minute session which aimed to help them spot the signs of exploitation, gangs, county lines, modern slavery, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation; know how and where to refer concerns regarding exploitation of young people and / or vulnerable adults; and be able to respond safely to these concerns where it is appropriate to do so.

The event was very well received. One professional from Essex County Fire & Rescue Service said: “I have dealt with those at the end of the line and seen first-hand the devastating effects that can occur from the content delivered in my previous occupations as a police constable in the Met, and 15 years as a senior officer working within HM Prison Service.

“I have obviously had similar training like this in the past but having a refresher is so worthwhile. The delivery was spot on and did not shirk away from the importance of the messages and points that had to be made.”

Mobile cameras to tackle crime and nuisance

The CSP has continued to fund the purchase of mobile cameras to be deployed to areas where there is believed to be criminal or anti-social behaviour occurring. The cameras are installed by the Council’s street-scene enforcement team following requests and discussion by multi-agency partners.

To date, useful evidence has been used by police intelligence officers to disrupt the suspected supply of Class A drugs by known gang nominals from London; target prolific shoplifters; identify and deter identified individuals from causing anti-social behaviour; and to assist in gathering evidence to put in place enforcement action such as Closure Orders.



BlokIt drug deterrent spray used in licensed premises

As part of ongoing work to tackle anti-social behaviour a new anti-drug spray was launched and funded by the CSP - the first of its kind in Essex.

Officers from Braintree Community Policing Team visited licensed premises and public venues throughout Braintree and Witham's town centres in January 2022 to coat surfaces that can often be used for recreational drug taking, such as those in bathrooms.

The clear substance coats the surface with a powerful bittering agent which reacts with any powdered substance. If the substance is then ingested, it will have a foul taste which can last several hours.

PC Caroline Marsay, who led the initiative, said: "The vast majority of visitors to pubs, bars and venues do so sensibly and safely to enjoy their free time with friends and family. Unfortunately, there are still a small number of people who choose to take recreational drugs while visiting these premises, which not only poses a real danger to themselves, but has a significant impact on the wider community. It makes people feel unsafe, can lead to violence and ultimately funds organised crime.



"We're always considering new tools and initiatives we can employ to keep you safe and I'm extremely proud to have been part of this step forward to deter drug taking in our communities."

Councillor Frankie Ricci, Chair of the CSP said: "Our aim is to make the Braintree district an even safer place to live, work and visit so we are delighted to support Essex Police with the funding for this latest product to help reduce crime and drug use in Braintree and Witham town centres. We know that this product has significantly reduced drug-taking within premises in other areas across the country, so we hope that it has the same positive impact in our communities."

Horizon Project

The Horizon Project, managed and delivered by Phoenix Futures Full Circle, is a multi-agency model that provides intensive support for individuals with multiple and complex disadvantages. The service involves up to 10 clients selected for participation by the multi-agency staff in Braintree District. These clients are selected based on their complex needs, involvement with the criminal justice system, and being at risk of homelessness.

The aims of the project include finding ways to improve outcomes for clients; agree multi-agency support plans for each client; use a person centred approach to improve life

chances and support the individual to secure appropriate accommodation; break cycles of established behaviour patterns to help individuals re-enter and maintain a place in their community.

Positive outcomes have been achieved for most clients on the project (*Phoenix Futures' report of the Braintree District Horizon Project, September 2019-2020*). The intensive nature of the Horizons Project meant that it was outreach based, responsive and reactive. Full Circle staff had the capacity to see clients more regularly and for longer periods of time than other specialised services, and could respond to situations when needed. On some occasions, this meant that several hours a day were spent with one individual if that was what was required. With the majority being housed and offending behaviour reduced there is a positive impact on the client and the local area.

Weapon awareness for school children

The CSP arranged for a 'weapon awareness' input for 90 Year 6 children at John Ray Junior School, in Braintree.

The session, funded by St Giles Trust's SOS+ Project, and delivered in February 2021, focused on debunking myths and stereotypes around crime, weapons, gangs, county lines and related issues, challenging the messages in social media and popular culture, de-glamourising the lifestyle and exposing the realities of negative choices such as carrying a weapon.



A teacher whose class received the input, said: "The children were fully engaged and gave excellent examples of the key vocabulary; they were responsive to the teacher giving the presentation. After the session, the children said they took away a lot of facts about rules and laws. Many of the children also took away lots of top tips to keep safe what to do if they were approached by others, who they did not feel comfortable around."

The SOS+ Service delivers early intervention work in educational settings, through preventative sessions on violence, vulnerability and exploitation.

Their award-winning approach uses trained professionals with lived experience of the criminal justice system to de-glamorise gang involvement and expose the harsh realities of crime and violence. As they know these issues first-hand, they can speak from their own experiences and have high levels of engagement from the young people.

Safe, Well & Secure visits

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS), supported by Braintree District Council, parish councils, Essex Police, Dementia Care, United in Kind and Community 360, visited 325 properties, with a total of 1,286 face-to-face engagements to offer personal safety advice and signpost residents to appropriate support services. 23 properties were referred for a Safe and Well visit.

During the year a total of 233 Safe and Well visits, and 50 Home Safety visits took place in the district whereby residents received home safety assessments. Officers also visited 85 vulnerable residents following concerns raised regarding potential hoarding, being bedbound or housebound, experiencing addiction issues or poor living conditions. In each of these instances officers attempted to engage with the individuals and liaised with other partner agencies where necessary to help make them safer in their own home.

ECFRS Education Officers unfortunately were unable to enter schools for some of the year, however between September and December 2021 - 2,716 students were engaged with in primary schools - 118 students received a 'People who Help Us' input, 45 received a 'Respect' Assembly, Firework and Halloween Safety talks reached 2,290 students, 158 benefited from 'Cyber Safety' inputs and 105 received 'Home Safety' inputs.

Moving Forward

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership has received a funding allocation of £17,739 for 2022-23 from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC).

In 2022-23 the Strategic Priorities of Braintree District Community Safety Partnership will be:



These priorities, along with the core responsibilities of the CSP – to reduce crime and disorder, to reduce re-offending and combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances – will inform Braintree CSP's Action Plan for 2022-23.

The Partnership will address these priorities through the identification of agencies and resources that are best placed to respond and deliver improvements.

Find out more

If you would like further information about us and our services, please get in touch:

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership

c/o Braintree District Council
Causeway House
Bocking End
Braintree
Essex CM7 9HB

Tel: **01376 552525**

Email: communityservices@braintree.gov.uk