

Blaby District Council

Joint Community Safety Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	13 December 2023
Title of Report	Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Scrutiny 2023
Report Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Services Manager• Community Services and Safeguarding Manager

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To provide the Joint Scrutiny Committee with an update as to the priorities, performance, successes and challenges in relation to the Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership

2. Recommendation(s) to Scrutiny Commission

- 2.1 That the Joint Community Safety Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the successes and challenges for the Community Safety Partnership along with the key proactive initiatives and campaigns that have been undertaken.
- 2.2 That the Partnership continues to provide the joint Scrutiny Committee with annual Community Safety Partnership update reports.
- 2.3 That Scrutiny notes the positive work of the Community Safety Partnership to ensure compliance with the Serious Violence Duty.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 This is the annual report from the Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as required by the terms of reference of the CSP.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 provides the framework for the establishment of Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's). Membership must include the "Responsible Authorities" as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The responsible authorities on the local CSP are Blaby District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service, Integrated Care Boards and Probation.

- 4.2 The CSP has a current 3-year Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 which is available at [CSP Strategy 23-26](#)

The Strategy has been developed using information and data about crime and disorder issues across the District and Borough. Issues local people consider to be of most concern have been taken into account via public consultation. The Community Safety Partnership delivers its work based around the three priorities of the CSP strategy 2023-2026.

The three priorities are.

- Preventing and reducing serious violence
- Reducing offending and re-offending
- Supporting and protecting people

Action plans are attached at Appendix 1

- 4.3 External funding to assist in the work of the CSP primarily comes via the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) Partnership Locality Fund. The Partnership Locality Fund (PLF) is confirmed by the OPCC on an annual basis. This enables the partnership to commission and recommission services and initiatives that enable it to meet objectives set in the Community Safety Strategy and contribute to the aims of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland *Police and Crime Plan*.

The current funding awarded for 2023-24 to the CSP is £103,883.31, the split per district and borough is as follows; Hinckley and Bosworth £51,217.55, Blaby £ 52, 665.76.

5. Matters to consider

5.1 The Serious Violence Duty

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April 2022, and this was followed by Home Office Statutory Guidance for specified authorities in December 2022 outlining the Government's expectations in respect of the Serious Violence Duty. The new Duty itself came into effect on 31 January 2023.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (The Act) places a new duty on "specified authorities" of one of more local government areas, to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. This includes identifying the nature and extent of serious violence in the areas, the causes of that violence and to prepare and implement a shared strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. Specified authorities need to determine how they will work together to meet Government deadlines in this first year of the Duty being active.

Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act also requires CSPs to have Serious Violence as an explicit priority in their strategies and plans.

In order to meet the Serious Violence Duty, specified authorities must meet the following requirements:

- Identify and define serious violence locally.
- Agree the geographical coverage and local partnership model for delivering the duty and a partnership agreement outlining how specified authorities and partners will work together.
- Produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (using the World Health Organisation (WHO) public health approach)
- Produce, publish and implement a strategy which is reviewed annually.

The date for compliance with the duty is 31 January 2024

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) definition of Serious Violence and the one adopted by the CSP locally is:

Public place violence resulting in significant physical injury with or without weapons. Including sexual violence and/or serious violence in domestic settings, including domestic abuse.

All LLR specified authorities have agreed to a partnership structure governed via the Strategic Partnership Board. The geographical area covered by the governance structure is Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland with each District and Borough responsible for local self-assessment, setting local priorities and strategies and needs assessment.

In order to be compliant with the duty, the CSP has produced a Serious Violence strategic needs assessment as part of preparation for the CSP Strategy 2023-26. The assessment was a deep dive into type and frequency of serious violence across the CSP area including data on victim and perpetrator profiles and made recommendations which have formed the basis for the reducing serious violence priority action plan.

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) have produced a strategic needs assessment of serious violence which has been recently circulated. This more recent SNA will help us refresh our action plans for 2024-25.

The VRN has produced a Serious Violence Response Strategy which will be updated annually. The next strategy is currently out for consultation and is due to be published in January 2024. All strategies and assessments are based on the public health approach.

The CSP has recently completed a serious violence self-assessment which has shown the CSP to be in an excellent position to meet the duty

5.2 Prevent

Prevent is the Home Office programme to tackle extremism and radicalisation. The CSP works closely with the Hate and Prevent countywide delivery group to identify trends and deliver campaigns.

The Prevent statutory guidance has been updated and comes into force on 31 December 2023. The updated guidance reflects current best practice and does not confer new functions on local authorities.

The updates include:

- setting out expectations for local authorities in key areas such as leadership and partnership, capabilities and reducing permissive environments.
- making it clearer for local authorities what is expected in their risk assessments and corresponding Prevent partnership plans.
- providing more detail of the training and capabilities that help local authorities understand and manage risk.

Both Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth are in the process of reviewing and updating their local Prevent action plans in line with the new guidance.

5.3 Martyn's Law (the Protect Duty)

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) bill, known as Protect or Martyn's Law) after Martyn Hett who was one of 22 people murdered in the Manchester Arena bombing of 2017), will place a requirement on those responsible for certain venues to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. The legislation will aim to ensure that people are prepared, ready to respond and know what to do in the event of an attack. Better protection will be delivered through enhanced security systems, staff training, and clearer processes.

The legislation is part of the government's response to the [Manchester Arena Inquiry Volume 1](#) which recommended the introduction of legislation to improve the safety and security of public venues.

New security requirements (such as risk assessments and safety plans) will be introduced for certain public venues and locations. It is likely that Community Safety teams will have a role to play in raising awareness internally and with external organisations.

The draft bill is currently before Parliament but is unlikely to receive Royal Assent in the next 6 months.

6.0 Performance

6.1 The effectiveness of the CSP is measured against performance indicators around crime and antisocial behaviour figures and against the partnership action plans. Data is both quantitative and qualitative in nature. Performance is also fed back to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for all the projects and initiatives in the action plans that receive funding from the OPCC.

The partnership works actively in specific locations, targets known offenders, proactively identifies and supports vulnerable people and works with local

people to build confidence and satisfaction with the way we deal with crime and anti-social behaviour.

6.2 Crime

	Hinckley and Bosworth								
Time Period	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	5 year Trend	2022 to date	2023 to date	Yr to Date Trend
Total Crime	7072	6950	6441	7153	7763	↑	4631	4252	↓
Violent Crime	2176	2199	2565	2813	3009	↑	1796	1582	↓
Domestic Abuse	1166	1191	1566	1701	1299	↑	763	730	→
Domestic Burglary	475	413	205	212	331	↓	200	168	↓
Burglary (Business)	216	240	89	104	98	↓	54	61	→
Vehicle Crime - Theft From	679	677	326	273	339	↓	230	191	↓
Vehicle Crime - Theft of	223	204	163	141	268	↑	165	158	↓
Hate Crime	104	93	122	178	193	↑	131	73	↓

	Blaby								
Time Period	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	5 Year Trend	2022 to date	2023 to date	Yr to Date Trend
Total Crime	6126	5988	5473	6385	6849	↑	4068	3914	↓
Violent Crime	1671	1795	2104	2424	2390	↑	1410	1301	↓
Domestic Abuse	1035	1053	1369	1469	1122	↑	645	634	→
Domestic Burglary	471	425	241	258	413	↓	259	179	↓
Burglary (Business)	116	150	73	64	78	↓	53	38	↓
Vehicle Crime - Theft From	970	740	406	371	353	↓	214	215	→
Vehicle Crime - Theft of	177	164	113	147	187	→	115	117	→
Hate Crime	60	86	129	150	157	↑	95	78	↓

Fig. 1 Police Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Statistics

These statistics include the period before the pandemic. This is to show the impact of the pandemic and the effect on crime reports since the ending of Covid restrictions. During the pandemic, there were fewer reported burglaries, vehicle crime and crimes related to the night-time economy which can be attributed to lockdown measures. Conversely reports of domestic abuse increased over the same period. Hate crime reports also saw an increase over the pandemic and remain at an increased level.

Domestic abuse reports whilst still above pre pandemic levels are broadly static. The Police and CSP work to encourage reporting domestic abuse and therefore falls in reporting would be more of a concern.

6.3 National context

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending June 2023 showed that nationally, total crime decreased by 10% compared with the year ending June 2022, caused by decreases in fraud and criminal damage offences. This follows the long-term downward trend and recent falls since the beginning of the pandemic, with total crime 18% lower than the year ending March 2020.

Whilst Blaby and Hinckley Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPA) have shown a rise in long term total crime trends, the data from 2022/23 and 2023/24 year to date are broadly similar indicating no rise or a slight decrease in crime for 2023/24.

Police have slightly altered how they deal with hate crime since the R v Miller judgement in July 2023. This may be affecting numbers of recorded incidents since this time.

6.4 Antisocial Behaviour

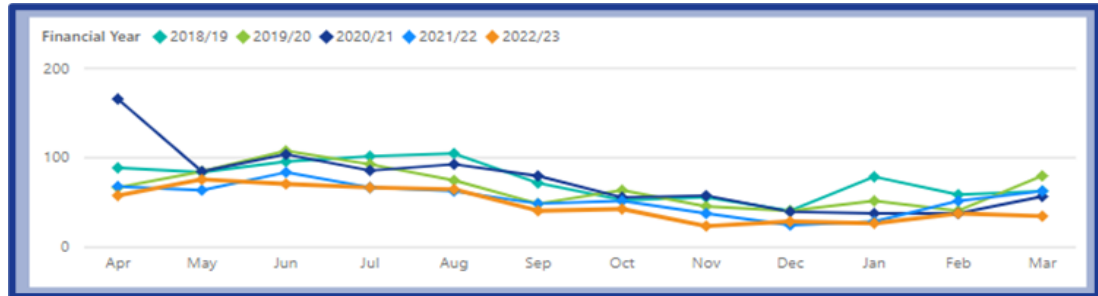


Fig 2 ASB trends for Blaby



Fig 3 ASB trends for Hinckley and Bosworth

ASB statistics show a downward trend for both areas with 2022/23 reports at consistently lower levels than previous years. This mirrors national trends. The CSEW records an 11% decrease in ASB recorded by the Police in the year ending June 2023 compared with the same period in 2022 indicating that the decreasing trend will continue.

The majority of ASB reported is categorised as nuisance. Generally comprising noise, parking, neighbour disputes, rowdy behaviour and harassment. Most reported ASB occurred in residential areas and public places. Peaks days and times for ASB were Mondays and Saturdays between 4 and 8pm.

This data was used to commission targeted ASB diversionary interventions at school leaving time as well in hotspot locations.

Local Authority ASB Teams report increases in the proportion of high-risk cases being managed and the complexity of cases, involving wider determinants such as mental health and substance misuse.

6.5 Leicestershire Fire and Rescue

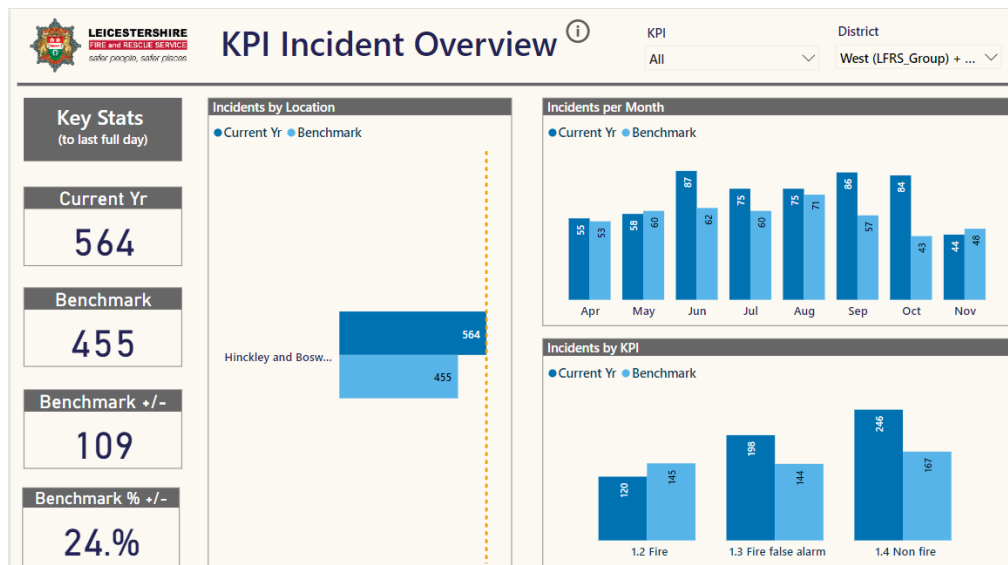


Fig 4 LLFRs key performance indicators for Hinckley and Bosworth 2022/23

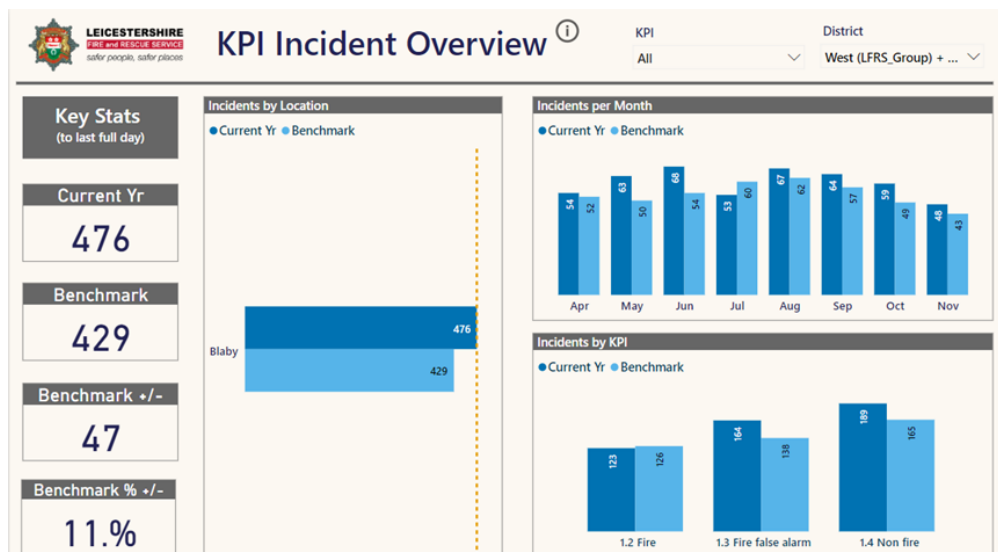


Fig 5 LLFRs key performance indicators for Blaby 2022/23

Overall total incidents have increased in 2022/23 due to non-fire incidents and false alarms; however, fire incidents have seen positive decreases. There was a rise in the number of road traffic collisions in Hinckley and Bosworth in particular. Initiatives carried out by Hinckley and Bosworth Stations have seen a positive reduction in number of incidents attended during quarter.

As a Fire and Rescue Service we have risen to 5th nationally on the number of home safety checks completed – reported on by the Home Office. Service wide this equates to an increase of 33.2%. Fire safety audits have also seen an increase of 46.5%.

6.6 Outputs



Fig 6 – Community Safety outputs in 2022/23

The graphic above gives a snapshot of the work of the CSP over 2022/23. Below are some highlights of that work.

6.7 Domestic Abuse

The Partnership works to support victims) of domestic abuse through in-house services. The services work on a one-to-one basis with service users and via group programmes which help to enable survivors to move on from their experiences. Therapeutic work is also delivered with children and young people who have been affected by domestic abuse.

	April 22 - Sept 22	April 23 - Sept 23
Victims/ Survivors supported (outreach service)	92	116
Number of group programmes completed	4	12

Number of children affected by domestic abuse receiving therapeutic support	21	35
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The joint Domestic Abuse Forum continues to meet quarterly. The forum gives local agencies, statutory and non-statutory, the vehicle to network and work together to improve local responses.

The Children's Worker service received 87 referrals for therapeutic work for children who have been affected by domestic abuse in 2022/23. Indications are that 2023/24 will see an increase in referrals to the service. Support is offered via 121 and group work.

For White Ribbon Day (International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women and Families), a 16-day programme of awareness and actions took place across both localities and included a social media campaign, community events, press releases and promotion of the pledge with partners such as Pubwatch.

6.8

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Hate Crime is an area of crime that is under reported and has a significant impact on the victim. The CSP works hard to raise awareness of hate crime and to ensure that people are aware of how to report it.

During October presentations were carried out to Hinckley and Bosworth elected members on hate crime awareness defining hate crime and non-crime incidents, impact of hate and how, what, and where to report.

During hate crime awareness week, posts and images were posted throughout the week on social media, partnership events with the police took place at Tesco's in Hinckley and ASDA Fosse Park to raise awareness with residents and a crime prevention/hate awareness talk was delivered to a warm welcome venue.

An article about hate crime was posted in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Bulletin, which is delivered to every household in the Borough, the e-newsletter which is issued to all news subscribers and the staff newsletter. A press release was also issued about how to report, and what was planned for hate crime awareness week.

Both Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth have a web page which identifies the hate crime reporting centres and other reporting mechanisms to report a hate crime/incident.

Diversity workshops have taken place in primary schools and since September 2023 to date we have delivered the workshops to 5 schools and engaged with 328 children.

For 2022 Hate Awareness week, Blaby Youth Council made a short video about Hate which was shared with all schools.

6.9 Rural Crime

During 2022 the existing Rural Crime Team was expanded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to 8 officers. A Leicestershire Rural Crime network was set up following this. The meeting is held quarterly with partners such as National Farmers Union, Environment Agency and CSPs to discuss emerging issues, local and national trends and plan for campaigns and events to improve engagement and tackle rural crime issues.

This has led to some successes such as the purchase of Air Tags to aid recovery of stolen farm equipment and targeted work to tackle hare coursing and dog fighting, resulting in a significant reduction in rural crime reports in the first quarter of 2023.

6.10 Burglary and vehicle crime

During 2022/23 there was extensive work carried out in these two areas. Police identified car owners at risk of keyless car theft and visited to offer crime prevention and security advice including issuing Faraday pouches purchased by the CSP. This has contributed to a reduction in this crime type particularly in Hinckley and Bosworth.

Burglary prevention is a feature of the annual darker nights campaign and money was bid for by the CSP to purchase packs for Police to issue to burglary victims and neighbouring properties to prevent localised and repeat targeting. In addition there were successful arrests of some high-volume offenders which has helped to reduce burglary offences in some areas.

6.11 Engagement with Young People

The CSP continues to engage successfully with young people in both school and community settings.

Some examples include:

- As part of Op Sceptre, the Knife Arch was placed at Countesthorpe Academy along with the Police Beat team, dog team and the Blaby environmental crime officer.
- 3 sessions of Last Orders theatre workshops were delivered at secondary schools in Blaby District to 1400 pupils.
- Streetvibe were commissioned to provide outreach sessions for young people. 67 sessions in Hinckley and Bosworth and 65 sessions in Blaby engaging with over 1,000 young people.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Schools sessions are well established and in 2022/23 3242 young people benefitted from sessions held in school and alternative education provision. Blaby's school sessions are now in place with 20 sessions booked by schools in 2023/24.
- Leicester City Kicks has been operating across both areas engaging positively with young people at risk of being drawn into crime or antisocial behaviour through sport and physical activity. The sessions are very well attended, (81 young people attended sessions in Hinckley and Bosworth, 45 at Blaby taster sessions) and the feedback has been very good leading to both areas requesting funding from the PCC to continue this work in 2023/24.

6.12 Campaigns and Events

The CSP has delivered and supported over 25 campaigns to reduce seasonal crime, promote victim services, raise awareness of crime prevention and help protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of and exploitation.

The CSP has also been part of a variety of community events:

- Patch walks for ASB awareness week
- Friends against Scams awareness events
- Community Houses events
- Community Safety advice events
- Elected member training.
- Cost of living events

A LFRS Water safety campaign in partnership with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council covering Hill Hole Quarry, Argents Mead and the Balancing Ponds Desford was held.

A multi-agency, multi-service water safety exercise is planned for Stoney Cove to test agency's response to water incidents.

6.13 Communication and Consultation

Social media is used by the CSP to promote events, national and local campaigns and raise awareness on subjects such as safer internet day, alcohol awareness, domestic abuse and White Ribbon Day, anti-bullying week and local campaigns such as Celebrate Safely, scam awareness, vehicle crime and Ask for Angela.

Neighbourhood link continues to be used as a communication method with the community and the number of users continues to rise.

The partnership consulted with the public to gain their views on crime and anti-social behaviour. The consultation ran from September to November 2022. To ensure the consultation was delivered in a robust way and reached as many people and communities as possible, a consultation was put in place and delivered against. A dedicated consultation with young people was delivered alongside the broader consultation. The results were analysed and used to inform our new CSP plans and strategy in 2023. This consultation is currently being repeated with results due in December 2023.

Three CSP newsletters have been produced and circulated over the year. These are distributed widely including to elected members, businesses, VCS organisations, health surgeries and parishes. In 2023 Blaby District Council took the decision to move to a digital only format and use existing, wide reaching, Council newsletters and bulletins to spread information about CSP activities.

7. Challenges and Opportunities

There are a number of areas that present a risk or challenge to effective delivery of our CSP strategy and action plans over the next 12 months.

7.1 Cost of Living

Rising costs of food, fuel and housing costs have seen a national increase in shop theft and other acquisitive crime, rural crime in the form of machinery and fuel theft and fraud and scams.

7.2 Criminalisation of Nitrous Oxide

Possession of Nitrous Oxide (NOS) has become a criminal offence in the UK. Now categorised as a class C drug Possession of NOS for its psychoactive effects will carry a sentence of up to 2 years in prison.

NOS is the most commonly used recreational drug amongst 16-24 year olds and this change to legislation may have an impact on Police resources and on young people unaware of the consequences of this change.

7.3 Changes to XL Bully dogs legislation

From 31 December 2023 it will be against the law to sell, abandon, breed from or give away an XL Bully, or have one in public without a lead or muzzle. This new legislation is likely to place additional strain on Police resources as well as Council services such as animal services, ASB teams and housing.

7.4 Community and Cultural Tensions

2022/23 and this year has seen a period of community tensions including the unrest in East Leicester, war in Ukraine and pro-Palestine protests at sites in Blaby District. As shown earlier in the report, whilst hate crimes have significantly decreased in 2023/24, the ongoing Hamas/Israel conflict has led to a rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents nationally and it is expected that this will be reflected in continued tension and rise in hate crimes locally.

7.5 LFRS

There has been an increase in non-fire incidents such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), gaining entry on behalf of other agencies, and rescues. It remains a challenge balancing capacity to respond to fire and non-fire incidents with proactive and preventative work in the community.

There is also a new emerging risk of lithium ion battery fires. These are the rechargeable batteries often found in communications and tech equipment which do have a risk of overheating if not used or installed correctly.

7.6 Funding

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The VRN has been successful in bidding to the Home Office to fund a programme of work to tackle VAWG issues across Leicestershire over 2024/25. This is likely to take the form of behaviour change and

challenging social norms campaigns and programmes with young people and within the night time economy.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner funding

Both areas receive funding from the OPCC. For 2022/23, the OPCC moved to a new formula for allocating funding resulting in Blaby receiving a higher allocation whilst Hinckley and Bosworth's allocation remained broadly similar. The funding method also moved to a bid process with CSPs required to submit funding requests for specific projects to the OPCC against their funding "pot" with any remainder at year end being available to request by other authorities.

[Million Hours Funding](#)- the CSP has worked closely with local agencies to encourage bids that work to bring more resource into the area to tackle anti-social behaviour and give young people positive activities. Streetvibe put in a successful bid for the summer which resulted in 7 weeks of diversionary work in Hinckley and Bosworth. We are also working with Leicester City in the Community to put in a bid for enhancing premier League Kicks activities in both areas.

7.7 Changes to Policing

As a part of force wide changes to deployment there has been a move to more local management. For the Hinckley and Blaby Neighbourhood Policing Area (NPA) this means that there is now one Inspector for Blaby District (Inspector Mat Allingham) and one Inspector for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough (Inspector Neil Whittle). The NPA remains as one NPA with both Inspectors covering for each other for leave and absence.

8. Other significant issues

- 8.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Inequalities and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

9. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 9.1 There are no costs associated with this report.

10. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 10.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

11. Other options considered

- 11.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

12. Other significant issues

- 12.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

13. Appendix

- 13.1 Appendix A – CSP Strategy Action Plan

13. Report author's contact details

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