


Appendix A – Safer Crawley Partnership



SAFER CRAWLEY PARTNERSHIP

Annual Review 2024/25

Purpose of the Partnership
To reduce re-offending, tackle crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse and any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local community so that people in Crawley are safer and feel safer.

Statutory Partners

- Crawley Borough Council
- WSPCC
- Sussex Police
- West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
- Probation
- Sussex Health & Care


Other partners involved in the community safety partnership include:


- OSGCC
- Crawley Youth Centre
- Crawley Community youth Service
- Crawley & Gatwick Business Watch
- GLS
- Audio Active
- Crawley Schools
- Town Centre BID
- Crawley Town Communities Foundation

2024/25 Priorities

- Violence Against Women & Girls
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Youth Related ASB
- Protecting Vulnerable Individuals
- Drug Related Harm
- Clear Hold Build

Review of 2024-25 Achievements & Challenges






Events Held in 2024/25


Junior Citizen

- 1,667 children from Crawley's schools attended the two week programme to learn key life skills for its 33rd year.
- Following feedback from the event in 2022, the focus of the event has shifted towards community and personal safety and this continued in 2024.
- Following feedback from DSC in 2024, a new session was introduced which focused on how children can keep themselves safe whilst taking part in Online Gaming.
- New sessions also included keeping your personal information safe online, raised body image sessions, the dangers of vaping, and how to behave pro socially in Public Spaces.
- We also with staff from Manor Green Primary School to modify sessions, where possible, to ensure children with additional needs could engage in a meaningful way.




Safer Schools

- The event saw 1,500 secondary school students attend The Health over two dates and was inspired by the Crawley Schools Pastoral Network Group.
- The event is attended by students in Year 8 (aged between 12-13) from all secondary schools, including Manor Green College and the APC (Alternative Provision College).
- The event included a powerful presentation by ex-gang members working with St Giles Trust, who talked about their lived experience and how children can recognise the early signs of grooming and exploitation for themselves or their peers.
- The event is further supported by schools committing to assembly time and/or personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) lessons to further support the issues raised.



Let's Talk Event

- The event sought to bring together stakeholders and members of the public to talk through key issues affecting Crawley including violence against women and girls, knife crime and exploitation, hate crime, online safety, and anti-social behaviour.
- The event was attended by 50 residents, business owners, stakeholders, community leaders and representatives from service providers.
- The Youth Mayor attended and spoke about the Youth Council's growing concern about vaping and their perceived lack of action to address the issue.
- A guest speaker attended, Leon Reid, who spoke about his experience of being exploited which ended his Olympic Career, and how we used this experience to educate young people about how exploitative friends can operate.
- Performances from Audio Active, which included young people who have been supported through funding provided by the Safer Crawley Partnership.






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Projects funded in 2024/25

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Projects funded in 2024/25

- Junior Citizen
- White Ribbon Campaign
- Have Fun, Stay Safe Campaign
- 'Drug Boxes' for Neighborhood Youth Police Officers
- Operational Partnership Groups
- Girls Wellbeing Schools Project
- Audio Active – Outreach and 'Kustom Vibes'
- Partnership Outreach Project
- Russel Martin Foundation – Boxing and Extra Time Placements

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Operational Partnership Groups

- This year, two SCP Operational Groups were formed to address complex ongoing issues in Southgate and Langley Green.
- Issues involved exploitation of children, drugs misuse, drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and peer-on-peer violence.
- Partnership activity included operations delivered by Sussex Police, Targeted patrols by the CPT, directed outreach funded by SCP, SCP funded environmental design interventions and close work with Children's Social Care.
- The Langley Green Group was disbanded in December 2024 following the successful safeguarding of 5 children who, through coordinated partnership activity, are no longer being exploited and activity no longer causing harm to the community.
- Southgate Playing Fields is ongoing, however a marked reduction in reports of peer-on-peer violence, drugs misuse and anti-social behaviour.



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Priorities 2025/26


- Violence Against Women & Girls**
 - Particularly related to stalking & street-based harassment.
- Preventing the Exploitation of Young People**
 - Contextual Safeguarding and knife-related Harm Prevention
- Protecting Vulnerable Individuals**
 - Encompasses a range of issues including hate crime, cuckooing, and addiction-related offending.
- Acquisitive Crime**
 - Focus to tackle increasing levels of shoplifting
- Community Engagement**
 - Events and Awareness Campaigns

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Operation Skylark – Civil unrest

- Operation Skylark was the Sussex Police response to the Southport attack and aftermath of violent disorder. Police responded to a violent incident in which an armed individual carried out an attack on 29th July 2024.
- Extreme right groups have used this attack to promote disinformation, promote anti-migrant, anti-muslim and anti-establishment narratives.
- Some extreme-right groups called, online, for offline actions in the form of protest as witnessed in London on 31st July 2024 and more widely throughout the country over the following days, causing significant concerns and tensions within our communities.



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Operation Skylark – Civil unrest


- Identification of Tensions and vulnerabilities.
- Holding of regular Gold Groups attended by senior members representing our various affected communities.
- Ongoing scanning of media both local and national, and the collation/development of intelligence.
- High visibility patrols around high-risk locations to provide public reassurance, deter offences and built on public trust and confidence.
- Regular briefings of key partners and local faith groups.



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Protest in Crawley

- Intelligence indicated a planned protest by Right Wing Groups at a Hotel in Crawley on Friday 9th August and further development identified The Holiday Inn on Hazlett Avenue East.
- Social media platforms were used by Far-Right groups to spread anti-immigration sentiment with comments such as "Say no to illegal immigration – this hotel is next a mother and baby unit – the local mothers want an end to the constant harassment".
- This caused a significant rise in Community Tensions with comments appearing on social media indicating a counter protest was to take place and urging people to attend.
- Local Faith leaders were engaged, and plans put in place to Police the protest to ensure the safety of those attending. Staff from our Neighbourhood Policing Teams increased patrols around high profile locations and engaged with staff at local Mosques and hotels.
- Significant Police resources were deployed to deal effectively with this Critical Incident but, more noticeable, was the overwhelming public support where the communities of Crawley came together as one to attend as a counter protest and show the Far-Right that their racist and anti-immigration views were not welcome in Crawley Town.
- The event passed without issue and without violence or disorder.



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Effects on our Communities in Crawley.

- The tragic event on the 29th July led to widespread fear amongst the migrant, Muslim and Minority Community Groups within Crawley and this was fuelled further by Far-Right sentiment spread throughout Social Media Platforms.
- This was monitored on a local level through our SCC (Intelligence department), through feedback from partner agencies and through direct communication between our PCSOs, NPT Inspector and myself liaising with affected groups.
- By Working collaboratively and in partnership with our multiple, and wide ranging religious groups we have maintained community tensions at a manageable level of slightly raised, we have taken positive and swift action against any reported hate crimes, and through positive engagement we have maintained the trust and confidence that our communities have in Crawley Police.



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Structural changes in Sussex Police

- Following a reorganisation within Sussex Police, Crawley and Mid-Sussex now share a Superintendent which provides a higher degree of strategic oversight for Crawley.
- There have been reorganisations of teams to ensure that response and neighbourhood policing have sufficient resources to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
- It has become even more crucial to work in a more intelligence-led manner and more closely with partners and communities.



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Crime Data for Crawley

VAWG, Serious Violence, ASB, Hate Crime, Drug Offences

	01.10.23 – 30.09.24	01.10.22 – 30.09.23	01.10.21 – 30.09.22
VAWG crimes (Public Place)	1118 (-1.8%) ↓	1138	1190
Serious Violence (Public Place)	229 (-0.4%) ↓	230	184
ASB CADs *Excludes DA	1815 (+14.4%) ↑	1586	1840
Hate Crime (Public Place)	291 (+14.6%) ↑	254	275
Drug Offences (Public Place)	275 (-15.1%) ↓	239	252

() Figures in brackets - difference from previous year

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Current Challenges and Emerging Issues

County Drug Lines

Knife Crime (Increase in weapons offences and possession of weapons)

Youth-related Crime and Disorder

Child Criminal Exploitation

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Clear, Hold, Build (Stronger, Safer Crawley)

Update on results on each headline from SIA

Continually develop intelligence around serious and organised crime activity, within the Northgate area.

Identify and target those causing most harm through preventative and enforcement activity.

To divert offenders and those vulnerable away from being involved in crime and ensuring safeguarding is in place.

To increase the community ownership and positive activity within the locality.

To work more closely with statutory and community partners in the response to serious and organised crime.

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Clear, Hold, Build (Stronger, Safer Crawley)

Significant reduction in County Lines operating in Crawley as a result of work spanning months which have had positive results.

Substantial disruption of organised crime, drug dealing and the exploitation of young people.

Key individuals involved in serious violence have been issued with Serious Violence Reduction Orders.

Average of 30 proactive patrols per month in Memorial Gardens to maintain capable guardianship of the space.

Regular weapon sweeps by Neighborhood Services resulting in weapons being found, secured and taken off the streets.

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Crawley PCSOs



Bewbush and Gossops Green: PCSO Jo Hall
Broadfield: PCSO Anna Urbanczyk
Furnace Green and Tilgate: PCSO Steve West
Ifield: PCSO Dionne Watling
Langley Green: PCSO Natasha Denbeigh
Maidenbower and Worth: PCSO Bob License
Northgate and Three Bridges: PCSO Suzanne Lydon
Pound Hill and Forge Wood: PCSO Dom Holland
Southgate: PCSO Holly Maslen

Town Centre, Manor Royal and West Green: PCSO's Petronela Lazaroaia, Chloe Torbin, Adam Furniss, Jamie Chandler and Ili Boyanova

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 Questions

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