

Community Safety Agreement

Background -

A Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is a statutory document that is a requirement for two tier authorities such as Surrey under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006).

The aim of a CSA is to set out how the responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder.

In two-tier local authority areas, there is a requirement to have a County Strategy Group in order to bring together all district, borough and relevant partners responsible for community safety activity. Following the merger of the Community Safety Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) in March 2020, the HWBB now performs this function.

Most CSA are intended to be flexible and a document which can be adapted based on new and emerging priorities, and the priorities of key strategic boards and cross-cutting partnerships.

Surrey Community Safety Agreement – interim measure

In March 2020, following the merger of the HWBB and the Community Safety Board, the aim had been to develop a CSA for Surrey for 2020 to 2024 with annual refreshes. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has seen several challenges impact this timeline.

For the HWBB to meet its statutory requirement, it has been agreed that an interim plan is developed that reflects the current priorities of the HWBB, the PCC and the seven¹ Community Safety Partnerships. To fulfil this, colleagues have developed a holding page on the Healthy Surrey website which explains the current governance structure, how the partners work together and details the priorities for community safety.

Surrey Community Safety Agreement 2020 - 2024

The long-term aim will be to develop a CSA which will meet the expectations as set out during the merger of the HWBB and the Community Safety Board. These were to;

- Set out the shared priorities that bind the HWBB, PCC and the Community Safety Partnerships together;
- Ensure there is coordination at the strategic and local delivery level;
- Formalise performance reporting structures so both successes and needs are captured and shared; and
- Provide a clear governance framework and accountability for both Surrey residents and partners.

The Surrey CSA will be split into three sections, data and intelligence, priorities and partnership working (including governance/performance structures).

With regards to data and intelligence this will not be dissimilar to a strategic assessment and will pull in data from the JNSA and the strategic control strategy. Being aligned to the HWBB we are able to work with the public health team and look at the synergies between health and community safety, as well as using their expertise. They are also currently carrying out a rapid assessment of the Covid-19 impact on communities which will affect communities and will influence community safety work for the foreseeable future.

There is also a discussion to be had around public surveys and whether the CSA includes some public consultation.

Next steps is to establish a small working group to start working on the delivery of the CSA. The HWBB expect a report in September with progress and the aim will be to bring the final document to them in December for sign off.

¹ Will be updated once the East Surrey CSP is disbanded