1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive an update on community safety issues affecting the Harrogate District and the work of the Harrogate District Community Safety Group

2.0 RECOMMENDED REASON/S FOR DECISION/S

2.1 A number of partners are named Responsible Authorities under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. This report demonstrates how as an agency they contribute to meeting their statutory duties under the Act.

3.0 THE REPORT

3.1 Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998

The Crime and Disorder Act was enacted in 1998 and places a statutory duty on all local authorities, Fire & Rescue Service, Probation, Clinical Commissioning Group, together with their partnership agencies to develop and deliver a Community Safety Strategy. This Strategy is delivered through the County North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. Section 17 of the Act requires responsible authorities to identify community safety implications in all their activities.

3.2 North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership
This Partnership provides the strategic focus for community safety and is responsible for preparing the Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021. The themes and objectives within this strategy are identified following an assessment of the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) and include:

- Partnership Development
- Community Safety Hubs
- Domestic Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Sexual Violence & Trauma, Hate Crime & Community Cohesion – under consideration

3.3 Harrogate District Community Safety Group

The Harrogate District Community Safety Group coordinates local delivery and responds to emerging issues affecting individuals and communities. The Group meets quarterly and includes statutory partners and representatives from the voluntary sector. The HBC Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities is the Chair of the Group. The Group provides feedback to the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership illustrating how local activity contributes towards the strategic objectives.

The Harrogate District Community Safety Group meet on a quarterly basis and review performance, receive updates on crime figures, project delivery and emerging issues.

The Group will review its priorities for 2019-20 in the new financial year linking to the countywide Partnership Plan and local emerging issues.

3.4 Community Safety Hub

The Community Safety Hub continues to have fortnightly meetings where partner participation remains high. Once a month the SAFE (Service for Adults Facing Exclusion) and FOCUS Mental Health Pathway cases are discussed. Partner participation remains good.

From April 2019 the Community Safety Hub has dealt with the following:

- 45 cases
- 11 referrals to mediation services
- 6 current Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- 7 current Criminal Behaviour Orders
- 1 Civil Injunction
- Fortnightly partner meetings
- Monthly mental health meetings
- Monthly SAFE meetings
- Specific task meetings as appropriate
From April 2019 a new case management system will be introduced (ORCUMA) which will draw on police data and allow Hub cases to be captured on one system with access for police and HBC staff.

Other work also includes issues around county lines, human trafficking and exploitation.

Mental health continues to be a significant factor for many of the cases that are dealt with by the Community Safety Hub. This includes being able to access appropriate assessments in a timely manner, lack of engagement by vulnerable clients, impact of substance misuse on behaviour and mental wellbeing and the impact that mental health has on being able to access and sustain suitable accommodation.

The Community Safety Hub works extremely closely with the Housing Options Team exploring alternative methods of working and supporting those who are most vulnerable and who often cause the highest risk to themselves and communities.

Work in the months ahead will consider seasonal crime prevention and particularly cycle security and cycle safety and supporting an event linked to rogue landlords.

3.5 Begging – Harrogate Town Centre

A partnership project is being undertaken to tackle the issue of begging in Harrogate Town Centre. This will look at awareness and education and look to introduce an electronic means of giving rather than giving direct to beggars.

The issue of begging is often perceived as being linked to homelessness our research has shown that the majority of those begging are not homeless. The generosity of visitors to the town has meant that the practice is often lucrative. The project aims to divert funding towards positive interventions and support rather than being used to fund addiction as an example.

3.6 Police and Crime Panel

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability. The Act requires the local authorities in each Police force area to establish and maintain a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for its Police force area. The PCP is a scrutiny body with responsibility for scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner and promoting openness in the transaction of Police business in the police force area.

Harrogate Borough Council Cabinet Member Housing and Safer Communities / Chair of the CSG is the Panel representative and provides
updates to the Harrogate District Community Safety Group and the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

In November 2018, responsibility for governance and oversight of the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service was transferred to the elected North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Julia Mulligan. This means that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) has responsibilities in relation to not only policing and crime but also fire and rescue in York and North Yorkshire.

It is the role of the police, fire and crime panel to maintain a regular check and balance on the performance of the PFCC. Each panel is a joint committee of the local authorities in the area. Its role includes:

- Reviewing the PFCC’s proposals for the amount of council tax local people pay towards policing and fire and rescue. It has the power to veto these proposals if it considers the amount is inappropriate.
- Considering the PFCC’s police, fire and crime plan and annual report/annual fire statement.
- Considering the PFCC’s proposals for the appointment of a new Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer.
- Considering non-criminal complaints about the PFCC and Deputy PCC.

More detail can be found at [http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pcp](http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pcp)

### 3.7 PREVENT

The Council continues to deliver WRAP training to staff and is committed to deliver a number of training session relating to the Far Right as this has been identified as an emerging issue.

The Home Office have advised that there will be a review of the Prevent training strategy over the next three years. With the aim of providing a new suite of training resources to replace WRAP. This has been welcomed as the current training materials as somewhat out of date.

### 4.0 Conclusions

4.1 The Community Safety Group at a Harrogate District level will continue to report to the Commission twice a year as previously agreed.

4.2 The Community Safety Hub continues to develop and is the delivery/operational focus of community safety work within the district. The countywide Community Safety Partnership provides the lead for a number of thematic areas of work linking into local partners.
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