

# Safer Harlow Partnership achievements 2022 to 2023

The Safer Harlow Partnership (SHP) is the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Harlow. It is a statutory partnership of agencies and groups working together to reduce and prevent antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder to help improve the lives of people that live, work and visit the town. The partnership is led by the responsible authorities (Harlow Council, Essex Police, Essex County Council, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Partnership and the Probation Service) but also includes many other local private, community and voluntary sector organisations.

Harlow is part of the west Essex local policing area, along with Epping Forest, Brentwood and Thurrock.

## Partnership structure

The Chair of the SHP is the Chief Executive of Harlow Council and the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) is led by a Chief Inspector from Essex Police.

In 2022 to 2023 the work of the SHP was supported by five multi-agency priority subgroups. Each subgroup has an operational action plan detailing what work will be undertaken throughout the year to help achieve the objectives of the partnership.

- Safer Harlow Partnership: Meets twice a year
- Responsible Authorities Group: Meets four times a year
- Priority subgroups: All multi-agency and meet quarterly
  - Antisocial behaviour and crime.
  - Domestic Abuse Forum.
  - Gangs Advisory Group.
  - Hate crime.
  - Permitted development housing.

## Funding

Each year the SHP is awarded a Community Safety Partnership Grant by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC) to fund activity to address identified priorities. Local priority issues are identified by the annual community safety strategic intelligence assessment and by working together with our partners and residents to find out what matters most to them.

The [strategic intelligence assessment 2022 to 2023](#) (pdf) can be seen on our website.

The partnership's strategic objectives are also aligned to the [Essex Police and Crime Plan](#).

Statutory, non-statutory, community and voluntary groups can apply for up to £3,000 PFCC funding per application if they can demonstrate how their application supports the partnership's current priorities. Recipients of this funding are asked to provide monitoring information to demonstrate positive outcomes as a result of receiving the funds. Applications can be made using our online [SHP Funding form](#).

## **SHP priority subgroups 2022 to 2023**

### **Antisocial behaviour and crime**

The group aimed to tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour and crime in all its different forms across the town, promote reporting pathways and responsible reporting to help protect individuals, groups and communities from the impact of antisocial behaviour and crime.

### **Domestic abuse**

This priority subgroup is known as the Harlow Domestic Abuse Forum (HDAF). The group's main aim is to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse, support professionals to access training opportunities that will help them work safely and effectively with victims and perpetrators, ensure victims and members of the public know how to report concerns about domestic abuse and how they can access support services. The group promotes behaviour change programmes for perpetrators to help reduce the number of repeat offenders and victims. The group also promotes greater use of Clare's Law which can help prevent people getting into relationships with partners that have a known history of abusive behaviour.

### **Gangs and county lines**

The Gangs Advisory Group helps raise awareness and understanding of criminal exploitation and promotes better understanding of the links between county lines, knife crime, local drug supply and serious youth violence. The group helps tackle and reduce drug driven crime, detect and disrupt county lines activity and identify and tackle the exploitation of children and young people through gangs and organised crime groups.

### **Hate crime**

The hate crime subgroup helps raise awareness of hate crime and the impact it can have on individuals, groups and communities. The group arranges for local people and professionals to access training to become hate crime ambassadors, promotes reporting pathways, encourages responsible reporting and, by raising greater public awareness and understanding, seeks to reduce the number of people affected by this type of crime.

### **Permitted development housing**

This group aims to gain better understanding of the issues faced by people living in this type

of accommodation. Members of the group work collaboratively with relevant partners to ensure effective support is provided to vulnerable residents where appropriate and possible. Member agencies aim to identify and deal effectively with crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse taking place on permitted development housing sites and develop mutually effective working relationships and information exchange with landlords and partner agencies. The Chair and lead officer work closely with Essex County Council officers to implement and monitor protocols that will ease, and eventually stop, the flow of vulnerable families into this type of accommodation in Harlow and across Essex.

## **Achievements 2022 to 2023**

This report highlights just some of the excellent partnership work that took place between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. Positive outcomes from projects, awareness-raising campaigns, staff training and new priority-focused initiatives have all contributed towards a safer Harlow where people can live, work and visit in a safe and pleasant environment.

The PFCC annual Community Safety Grant 2022 to 2023 was used to support the following projects and initiatives:

### **Essex Police**

Project: Purchase of a range of crime prevention resources for distribution at community engagement events and activities. Resources have included educational leaflets, purse bells, window and garage security locks and personal attack alarms.

The project is ongoing and has so far engaged over 300 people. The availability of appropriate resources helps raise awareness and understanding of crime and antisocial behaviour, helps people better understand how and where to report community safety concerns and can help increase feelings of safety at home and in the community.

The purchase of personal attack alarms has helped women and girls feel safer when out and about in the community, particularly when out alone after dark.

### **Harlow Council Community Safety Team**

Project: To supply and install new CCTV control hardware and software in the underpass located in Church Langley Way.

The underpass was one of the sites identified by the Safer Harlow Partnership as an area where people felt unsafe due to past criminal activity including drug use and dealing, weapons, robbery and antisocial behaviour. These areas are frequently used by members of the public to travel between locations.

The installation of new equipment in the underpass has completed the programme of CCTV in all underpasses across the town and has allowed for greater efficiency in terms of use of CCTV. High quality CCTV can provide evidential information to a criminal standard and can result in a greater number of successful prosecutions, a decrease in antisocial behaviour and increased public confidence.

### **Harlow Council Youth and Citizenship Team**

Project: Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew, held at the Latton Bush Centre, is delivered each year in March and aims to raise children's awareness about how they can keep themselves and others safe at home and in the community. Over 1200 year 6 pupils from Harlow primary schools participated in a range of informative and interactive scenarios where they learned about a range of issues that affect children and young people. This event supports children's transition from primary to senior school when they are much more likely to be out and about in the community without adult supervision.

Scenarios were delivered by Harlow Council, Essex Police, Essex County Council, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Safer Places, focussing on topics such as:

- Antisocial behaviour.
- Gangs, drugs and county lines.
- Knife crime.
- Healthy relationships.
- Road safety.
- Fire safety.

This event is led and coordinated by Harlow Council.

### **Harlow Council Community Safety Team**

Project: Purchase of a range of crime prevention resources

Resources were distributed to members of the public during community safety engagement events at various locations across the town. These events are an ideal opportunity for Community Safety Officers to speak with members of the public and better understand any concerns they have about safety in the community or at home and how their lives can be affected by crime and antisocial behaviour. The team also promotes the most appropriate ways to report crime and antisocial behaviour to Harlow Council or Essex Police to help ensure that resources are targeted effectively and appropriately to ensure maximum benefit to the community.

### **Rainbow Services**

Project: Young Person Project

The Young Person Project works with young people who have been identified as at risk of becoming involved in gangs, violence, crime, antisocial behaviour and possible or actual exclusion from school. It provides participants with access to a range of positive activities and opportunities to build new skills and confidence. Young people are assigned a Mentor who can help focus them on finding a positive way forward, signpost them to positive activities in the community and act as a role model while providing a non-judgemental ear to listen to any concerns or worries they may have about issue that affect them.

### **Rainbow Services**

Project: FireBreak

PFCC funding enabled 24 young people to access Essex County Fire and Rescue Service's (ECFRS) FireBreak programmes. This was an opportunity to reinforce the learning and skills gained whilst attending the Young Person Project (above) – this includes teamwork, listening to each other, problem solving, engaging positively within the community and developing

increased confidence and self-esteem. The programme enhances young people's ability to see a positive future by identifying their own skills and abilities and linking with positive sustainable activities which they can continue beyond the life of the project.

Of the 24 young people that participated in FireBreak:

- 16 participants were young men aged 14 to 17 years old.
- 8 participants were young females aged 14 to 17 years old.

Twelve participants have been offered a place on the ECFRS Fire Cadets initiative and one of the young people that joined the Fire Cadets in September 2022 has since won a Jack Petchey award.

All participants report having gained new skills and a positive outlook as a result of attending the FireBreak programme.

### **Harlow Council Community Safety Team**

Project: Installation of new wireless beams to allow CCTV and telecoms to be transmitted between the Harvey Centre CCTV control room and Harlow Police station.

The link has been successfully installed allowing Essex Police to review incidents in real time, thus ensuring the most appropriate level of response. The provision of quality CCTV can increase feelings of safety for members of the public and provide high quality evidence to support successful prosecutions to ensure perpetrators of crime and antisocial behaviour are dealt with appropriately through the criminal justice system.

### **Hate Crime Priority Subgroup**

Project: Purchase of materials to promote understanding and awareness of what constitutes hate crime and the reporting mechanisms available to victims.

The promotional items purchased were distributed during a number of community engagement events throughout the year (Stephen Lawrence Day, Gay Pride, National Hate Crime Awareness Week). These events were supported by members of the Hate Crime Subgroup.

In addition, resources were shared with Essex Police and the council's Community Safety Team for distribution at their engagement events throughout the year.



## Contacting the SHP

Christine Howard, Safer Harlow Partnership Manager  
Safer Harlow Partnership  
Harlow Council  
Civic Centre  
The Water Gardens  
Harlow  
CM20 1WG

Tel: 01279 446655

Email: [contact@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:contact@harlow.gov.uk)

You can also [visit the SHP page on Harlow Council's website](#).