

# Watford Community Safety Partnership

## Protecting Our Communities and Managing Crime

### Action Plan

The One Watford, Protecting our Community and Managing Crime Plan 2017-2018 moves away from what is generally regarded a daily business and focuses on developing our understanding of an evolving Watford with a focus on safeguarding and managing Threat, Risk and Harm. It is both a reflective and progressive document looking at the years ahead in Watford whilst committing to memory the lessons learnt from past experience.

Threats can broadly be defined in two ways. Current problems that we know about and are managing and emerging threats, this might be based on problems that have been identified within Watford or elsewhere in the country. This could relate to concerns where the impact or extent of the problem is unknown in Watford and we simply want to better understand this to better manage any identified problems and protect the vulnerable people within our community.



Community Safety Partnership  
Drugs, Mental Health and Action  
Plan Overview



**WATFORD**  
**BOROUGH**  
**COUNCIL**

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The document is intended to provide an overview and summary of the work being undertaken by the Joint Agencies Group (JAG) reporting to One Watford, for Strategic Management. The document is shaped around the findings of the CSP Strategic report incorporating the Crime and ASB risk assessments, the priorities are not exclusively based on those findings and it does incorporate local thoughts and concerns. There is no hierarchical element to way in which the subjects are listed. All are objectives that need focus and attention in 2017 / 18.

There will initially be seven areas of work that will be focused on. Most can be interlinked with other areas within the plan and this is illustrated below. The engagement, commitment and support from all members of One Watford and JAG will be critical to the success of this work and our enhancing our understanding of the Watford.



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The same is also true of partners at all levels including the Community Protection Group. Separate to this the decisions made here may also be subject to overview with Scrutiny Committees. It is also recognised that this work will dovetail into other separate plans and strategies owned locally by individual organisations.

To ensure members are still sighted on local Crime and ASB figures, these will be reported on at the end of this document, they will not commented on further unless they form part of the specific objectives. This will incorporate some of the Low Risk areas from the strategic report.

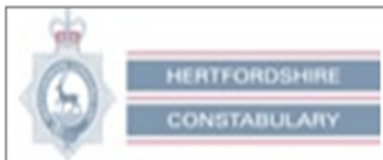
The management of the document is intended to be flexible to allow changes to be made in line with evolving Threats and Risks. As viewed by One Watford and JAG.



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## Protecting Our Communities & Managing Crime 2017 Report for One Watford



**Night Time Economy**  
Links into VAP / Alcohol related crime / ASB & Criminal Damage

**Domestic Abuse**  
Links into NTE / VAP / Alcohol related crime and assaults

**Hate Crime**  
Links into Prevent / VAP & NTE

**Prevent Agenda**  
Links into Hate Crime & VAP

### Priorities as identified in the CSP Strategic Risk Assessment 2017 and by members of One Watford & JAG.

Please note the strategic assessment and its levels of risk are based on the number of recorded events against a per head of population paradigm. Therefore Watford's risks ratings is very heavily effected by its definition as a regional centre for entertainment retail and travel. **High**

1. Domestic Abuse (Violence against the person or VAP)
2. Drugs – supply possession
3. Night Time Economy (NTE) Violent Crime - (VAP)
4. Alcohol Related Crime
5. Hate Crime (VAP)
6. Anti-Social Behaviour

**Medium**

7. Violence Against the Person
8. Theft from Person
9. Possession of Drugs
10. Shoplifting
11. Burglary Dwelling

### One Watford & JAG identified emerging issues

- 1- Child safeguarding
- 2- Prevent Agenda
- 3- Homelessness / Rough Sleeping / Begging

**Cross Boarder offenders**  
Links to organised crime / Robbery / VAP – involving weapons & Drugs Supply

**Homelessness / Rough Sleeping / Begging**  
Links into ASB / Alcohol Related Crime / Drugs / VAP

**Child safeguarding**  
Serious assaults VAP



### Notes

The areas not in the 7 sub-boxes form part of Daily Business or have sufficient specific specialist Police and partnership focus, that prioritisation by One Watford is not specifically required. These include Low and Medium risk areas in the risk assessment. As an evolving plan they will be monitored and continuously reassessed.

# MANAGING CHANGE AND PROTECTING OUR TOWN

**THE COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP (CSP)**



The CSP is a three-tier organisation. At its head is One Watford, the strategic partnership's chief officer group, which meets bi-annually to agree and monitor the delivery of the strategic objectives for community safety.

The Joint authorities group (JAG) is tasked with delivering on the agreed strategic priorities. The strategic priorities are managed through three distinct, inter locking themes. The JAG reviews the local crime profile under the title of 'updating crime'. From this they identify and meet any specific emerging issues under the theme of 'protecting our communities from harm'. This partnership work is publicised through the third theme of 'reassure and inform'.

#### Watford Community Safety Partnership reporting structure



A major part of the delivery of these plans is the work undertaken by the Community Protection Group (CPG).

This document centres on the working practices of that group, and is also the group's terms of reference.



## UNDERSTANDING WATFORD

Watford is a thriving town, located some 15 miles north of central London, with a population currently estimated at just fewer than 100,000.

The town is not only home to a young and growing population, it is also a destination for around half a million people within 20 minutes travelling time, who use the town as the shopping, transport, and entertainment hub of the county.

Watford is the fifth most connected town in Britain and soon, with the addition of the Metropolitan Line Extension, accessing Watford using one of its four train stations will be even easier.



Major new development for the town means it is changing dramatically, with a new shopping and entertainment centre, a new road and more rail infrastructure, as well as a new housing estate and hospital complex. The town already has a bustling day and night-time economy, which will all be enhanced by these new developments.

One of the major effects of all these rapid changes will be increased population. Watford is already the most densely populated non-metropolitan borough in the country. This also entails increasing diversity across the borough.

At the last census (2011), the non-white British population made up 38% of residents. The borough has a growing Eastern European community, as well as an existing second and third generation Asian population. More recent data and information indicates that this level of diversity is likely to increase.

Hertfordshire County Council's 2015 school census shows that around 150 languages are spoken by Watford children within the school system. National Insurance registrations up to September 2015 show that Watford has a high number of EU2 (Bulgaria and Romania) registrations.

Watford also has the highest National Insurance registrations from south Asia in Hertfordshire. Over the years, Watford has benefited from good community relations. However, the CSP is aware that protecting this diverse, changing population is critical to keeping our community safe and healthy.

The Community Protection Group (CPG) is a monthly partnership meeting. It draws together expert analysis and multi-agency solutions to manage emerging risks and issues facing individuals and the wider community.

The CPG traces its routes, membership, and methodology back to the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG), whose previous sole focus was the case management of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

The methodology for dealing with ASB risks has been transferred to manage wider community risks. These are evaluated using the Police's standardised risk matrix, which assesses increasing risks and the threat of repeat victimisation and vulnerability. It is measured by a number of set factors and is a key part of the Safety Net (SN).

By reviewing the detailed assessment and its totalised rating, high risk cases are attended to by dealing with the motivating/aggravating factors. Once these are identified, they are then broken down into specific tasks for the relevant officers in the CPG.

The risk is reviewed within two weeks of the case creation, with an expectation that the risk will have dropped within a month. If the risk is escalated, it will be identified and referred to the correct specialist within the CPG, to enable more targeted partnership work to tackle it.

Using the SN system proved so successful that from April 2010 to April 2014, there was over a 40% reduction in reported ASB across the borough. This dramatic reduction fed into the wider county picture, which saw Hertfordshire become recognised as one of the top three counties in Britain for dealing with repeat victims of ASB /low level crime.





In autumn 2014, it was decided that emerging community safety issues also needed a partnership approach at a tactical level. For this, there was capacity to remodel ASBAG.

In March 2015, One Watford agreed a plan to convert ASBAG into CPG, dealing with the following emerging issues under the banner of 'Protecting Our Communities'.

CPG would, therefore, set out to tackle four themes:

1. ASB, focusing on those cases where there was a repeat victim, and risk around vulnerabilities of individuals.
2. Intervene, supporting those adults with complex needs, as both victims and perpetrators of crime and ASB. This is by direct referral to the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT), who would be permanent members of CPG.
3. Challenge those engaged in exploitation or extremism.
4. Monitor the most vulnerable sleeping rough within the borough, seeking to reduce that number by engaging with them and providing support to move into regular accommodation.

On 18 May, the first CPG meeting took place. Its performance review happens through the Community Protection Plan, included in the appendix and updated monthly at JAG. Its findings are reported quarterly to One Watford.

#### **MEMBERSHIP AND METHODOLOGY**

As stated, CPG is formed from the same case management and attendees list as ASBAG. Membership is based on the dual approach of those with the power to intervene and offer a support package to create change and reduce the need for enforcement.

However, where there is an increasing risk of ASB escalating, intervention will become the main focus.

To enable a proportionate response to situations, an information sharing protocol (ISP) is required, which all members must be signed up to. Requests are dealt with by the chair and the Police ASB Coordinator (inset ISP doc) on a one-to-one basis, in line with the conditions of the ISP (which relate to the eight data principles). For those occasionally attending CPG in a specialist capacity, a confidentiality clause is read out. All attendees, whether signed-up to the ISP or not, sign this document at the beginning of every meeting. This also provides the attendees list for the formal minutes, which are produced and circulated one week before each CPG.

The aim of CPG is to undertake a monthly performance review of open SN cases and meet emerging issues with the appropriate case management plans. It also disseminates information about the four themes and takes referrals on the same subject.



## THE FOUR THEMES

Repeat victims and those with complex needs.

A risk assessment is always undertaken and recorded within Safety Net (SN) when CPG is managing an emerging case of repeat victimisation, complex needs, or possible exploitation. CPG agrees how cases are managed, with a monthly timeline and actions put in place to tackle the issue. Outcomes are clearly arrived at, with either:

- a de-escalation of the ASB followed by monitoring for a further month, ideally leading to closure of a case or
- more intensive support/intervention until de-escalation has occurred due to the complexity of the case or new offences being committed.

Cases where mental health is a factor pose the biggest threat of escalation and further victimisation, so it is crucial that the CMHT are advised as soon as possible, either taking the lead or providing clinical direction for further intervention.

Where a case has not been resolved, the victim may call for a review. This formal request process is part of the ASB Act 2014 and is called the Community Trigger.



CPG is responsible for reviewing all Community Triggers and responding to the complaint formally, ensuring the process is accurate and accountable.

#### **EXPLOITATION AND EXTREMISM**

CPG is tasked with reducing the impact of exploitation and extremism by information sharing around vulnerabilities identified to both the individual and wider community. The group looks to seek support for the victims by identifying the appropriate agency to do this. The CPG collects information on behalf of the Channel panel. For further information on the Prevent agenda, please see the WBC website and click on the 'lets talk about it the 'LTAI' link.

#### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)**

Following the Rotherham report, work has been undertaken to improve cross service communication and reporting. In line with the 'hear something, say something' Police campaign, CPG has delivered training to partners and councillors. CPG works with operation HALO to prevent CSE. See the WBC web site for further information.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT OF THOSE VULNERABLE TO ROUGH SLEEPING**

CPG holds rough sleeping (RS) meetings at the end of normal business. For data protection and human rights reasons, the meeting is held in private and only members of the police and council, and support workers directly involved in the individual's case history, are present.

The aim of this smaller working group is to reduce risk factors around the most vulnerable and to engage with the hard-to-reach. A further aim is to help those in need to access New Hope's services. New Hope, the borough's specialists on rough sleeping, leads this part of the meeting, setting the sub agenda and identifying the most high risk cases for discussion.

Currently RS do not automatically go onto SN, primarily because of data protection. However, we are looking to address this, as full access to histories would provide additional and up-to-date information on what are often the chaotic lifestyles of rough sleepers.

**[newhope.org.uk](http://newhope.org.uk)**



