

**One Watford 24 February 2015**  
**Seeking Endorsement of Safer Watford Priorities April 2015 – 16**

**Background**

At the Watford Community Safety Priority Review Workshop on 18 December 2014, Chaired by Manny Lewis, officers from partner agencies gave an overview of community safety in Watford over the previous year. Last year a similar partnership meeting had helped provide collective wisdom and raise issues to be addressed, part of the meeting reviewed what was identified last year in terms of progress achieved but the significant focus was on assessing priorities for April 2015 onwards:

Members of One Watford and Safer Watford heard updates on the current overview of the community safety picture in Watford and recommendations on what the priorities should be looking ahead for the community safety plan to be further developed for April 2015 to March 16.

Further work has been carried out to develop actions under the priorities below, a brief overview will be presented

**One Watford Endorsement of Watford Community Safety Plan**

As the Watford Responsible Authorities Group currently is part of One Watford, there is a requirement to seek One Watford endorsement of the proposed Three Strategic priorities that make up the Watford Community Safety Plan 2015 - 16, which are in no particular order are;

1. **Updating crime**; during 2014, crime increased across the country. This reflected the picture in Watford, which had enjoyed 7 consecutive years of falling crime (as had Hertfordshire as a whole). The rise in crime is a result of the change in which incidents are reported. Hertfordshire is following the new reporting guidance and, therefore, being 'honest' about the figures. It is important that this is understood and reassurance given that there has not been an absolute increase in crime. An example of the change in reporting guidance is that crime is now recorded not where it happened but where it is reported.

It is key that there is an understanding of community safety issues by stakeholders, whilst the mainstream work of the partners continue to address the issues

2. **Protect our communities**; The key issues are ensuring there is a focus on the victim and vulnerability and ensuring we understand what Watford is going to look like as a community in the next 5 years and how that will affect the community safety agenda

3. **Reassure and Inform**; WBC and Police communications team develop a communications strategy for community safety to look at ensuring that best use is made of all channels available utilising partners resources. The communications strategy would look at targeted campaigns, use case studies to illustrate successes and be more interactive, ensuring that messages are targeted and relevant throughout the 12 month period.

## Agenda Item 4

### Next Steps for Watford Community Safety Plan April 2015 – March 2016

One Watford / Community Safety partners to consider draft action plan proposals	Partners	24 Feb 2015
Comments from Stakeholders to be incorporated into action plan development	JTB	1 Mar 2015
Developing action plan to be tabled at JAG and incorporated as an agenda item every month for updates	JTB	10 Mar 2015
Sign off by Manny Lewis as Chair of Safer Watford	ML	24 Mar 2015
Circulation to One Watford & stakeholders	JTB	25 Mar 2015
Published in the public domain	JTB	1 Apr 2015

## **Safer Watford Priority 2015 -16**

### **2. Protect Our Communities**

---

Following the annual review of Safer Watford Community Safety priorities a new approach was agreed with stakeholders to address emerging challenges we are facing as outlined in the plan below.

Safer Watford (the borough's community safety partnership) has effectively mainstreamed responses to issues such as anti social behaviour (ASB) which remain important to the partnership, our town and our residents. Our multi-agency response has been embedded into daily business through the Anti Social Behaviour Action Group (ASBAG), incorporating a successful case management system SafetyNet (SN), which enables stakeholders to effectively monitor and respond to ASB. Monitoring of Watford ASB figures will be incorporated into the 'Updating Crime' report reviewed at the monthly Joint Action Group (JAG) and regularly through the year at the One Watford Board meeting (now incorporating the community safety and relevant partners).

A single plan will be developed, which will collate partners actions delivering against a 'Protect our Communities' approach. This will focus on victims and vulnerability, specifically for the needs of Watford whilst addressing national statutory requirements on the Community Safety Partnerships and the Watford Community Safety Partnership Protection Plan.

For April 2015 to March 2016 our shared focus will be on;

- Developing an understanding of the needs of existing and emerging communities in Watford now and over the next 5 years
- Developing multi-agency actions focusing on the protection of the most vulnerable in our community includes children, women, the elderly, sex workers, disability, ethnicity and sexuality
- Extending the remit of ASBAG to focus on re-offenders particularly in relation to hate crimes, improving the co-ordination with key agencies such as Multi Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) and Multi Agency Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Developing a multi-agency plan to deliver the Prevent Strategy, including preventing vulnerable people being drawn in to or supporting terrorism
- Work with partners at ASBAG to identify and address issues of vulnerability due to homelessness or mental health

