

Rother District Council

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 March 2023
Title:	Annual report of the Rother Community Safety Partnership
Report of:	Head of Service - Environmental Services, Licensing and Community Safety
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of Report:	To provide an annual Report on the work of the Safer Rother Partnership to address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour, crime and Community Safety across Rother

Officer

Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee make any recommendations arising from the report to the Chair of the Safer Rother Partnership for consideration;
- 2) the Council's work in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, crime reduction and Community Safety be noted; and
- 3) the possible impact of the Serious Violence Duty and Protect Duty be noted.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this annual report is to provide information on the work of the Rother Community Safety Partnership [known as the Safer Rother Partnership (SRP)] for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review, scrutinise and make reports or recommendations to the responsible authorities of the SRP in-line with the Council's statutory responsibilities, under sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
2. The report also includes information about the Council's own responsibilities and actions related to community safety and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
3. The Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) responsible authorities are; Rother District Council (RDC), Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS), East Sussex County Council (ESCC), Probation Service and NHS Sussex.
4. Councillor Brian Drayson is RDC's nominated representative, Chair of the SRP, Co-Chair of the Joint Community Safety Partnership Board with Hastings and the Council's representative on the Board of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Performance of the Safer Rother Partnership 2022/23

5. The joint Board meets quarterly to identify changes in crime and ASB of strategic significance to both areas, wider trends and review the work delivered against these priorities. The Board is co-chaired by Councillor Brian Drayson and his Hastings Borough Council counterpart.

6. During 2022/2023, the Safer Hastings and Rother Partnership Board priorities were:

Making the Streets and Businesses safer by tackling street related crime and ASB

Protecting Vulnerable People

- a) Not tolerating modern slavery and human trafficking
- b) Not condoning Violence Against Women and Girls

Identifying Those at Risk of Harm

- a) Ensuring those with substance misuse issues are supported
- b) Not condoning domestic abuse to all (White Ribbon).

7. **The Rother Joint Action Group (JAG)** (an officer operational group) meets monthly to oversee the delivery of the local priorities for Rother which in 2022/23 were:

- **ASB and Youth Crime** – by working in partnership to reduce the occurrence and impact of young people involved in crime and ASB and as victims.
- **Rural Crime**, including specific types of crime e.g. theft of farm and large plant machinery and cross border crime. Linking in with East Sussex priorities and cross border work with Wealden and Kent.
- **Drug Related Harm** including drug supply (both local and county lines) and the impact on the local community. Including partnership work with drug treatment and support agencies.

8. It was also agreed that work on Domestic Abuse and Road Safety would be included as a focus for work but not as specifically identified priorities.

9. The Rother JAG continues to support and deliver work to address issues that are business as usual through the work of partnership agencies and are priorities e.g. there are joint partnership meetings which Council officers facilitate, organise and participate in to deliver work on:

- Cuckooing
(multi-agency case management of 10 complex cases in Rother in last 12 months – 6 of which were in Bexhill)
- Domestic Abuse including the White Ribbon Campaign
- High and Medium Risk Anti-Social Behaviour and all Hate crime cases

(multi-agency case management of 22 High and Medium Risk cases in Rother of which 12 were in Bexhill)

- Modern Slavery – Operation Discovery
- Road Safety

- The Rother JAG also supports and delivers work to address issues that come about through the work of partnership agencies and are priorities e.g. Operation Radcott (Camber), Herbrand Walk, Serious and Organised Crime, Safeguarding, Multiple and Complex Needs, Civil Parking Enforcement, Fly Tipping, Criminal Damage, Fire setting.
- In 2022/23 and moving into 2023/24, the JAG and SRP partners are also working to address:
 - Business crime and shop thefts with Sussex Police.
 - The financial crisis, fuel poverty and warm spaces and the impact on crime and domestic abuse.
 - Young People’s Voice around White Ribbon and Positive relationships
 - New neighbourhood enforcement team in Bexhill
 - Violence Against Women and Girls the national agenda – local actions
 - Community tensions from migration and radicalisation.

The work plan for the JAG for 2022/23 is attached as Appendix D.

Crimes Reported

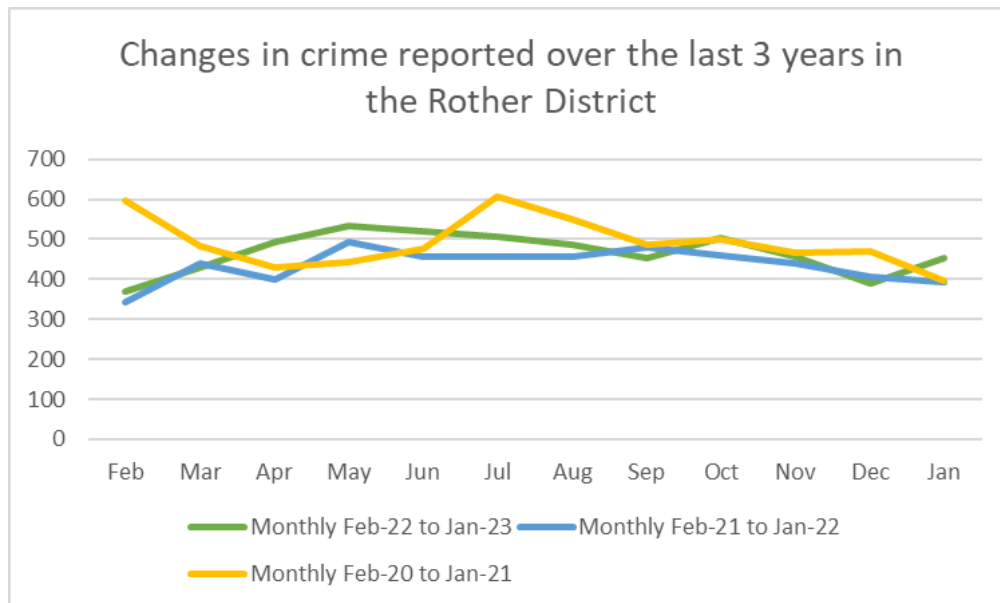
- The time frame used for most data presented in this report is 12 months rolling year ending 31 January 2023. The date may be compared to the previous rolling 12 months to the year ending 31 January 2022, or over several years which will be highlighted where relevant.
- There were 5,590 reported in Rother, reported to Sussex Police during the 12 months to the end of January 2023. Which is 363 more than the previous 12 months. This is a similar pattern across East Sussex and Sussex where all areas have seen an increase in reports.

Crime Data Rolling Year to end Jan 2023			
Total Crime Across East Sussex	% increase	Number of reports	Increase
Eastbourne	9.9	9,575	864
Hastings	4.6	9,900	432
Lewes	8.5	5,806	454
Rother	6.9	5,590	363
Wealden	11.2	6,594	663
East Sussex	8.0	37,456	2,766
Force	9.5	128,288	11,102

- Rother has the second lowest percentage increase in reports (6.9%) in East Sussex with Hastings having the lowest (4.6%) and Wealden the highest (11.2%). The highest increase 16.7% across Sussex was in Worthing an

additional 1,427 reports above that for the whole of West Sussex of 10.2% and Brighton and Hove an increase of 7.8%.

15. Over the last 5 years the level of crime reported to Sussex Police for Rother has remained fairly consistent considering COVID restrictions and guidance. The lowest rolling year was to end January 2019 (5,068) and highest rolling year to end of January 2020 (6,112); the figures for the year end January 2023 sit within this range. It is also important to recognise that this is the first year of data since all COVID restrictions and rules were lifted on 24 February 2022, hence the figures in this report for the year ending January 2023 may be considered as a new baseline.



16. Reports of criminal damage increased by 64 to 741 residential and vehicle increased by 29 each with business and community increasing by just five. Additional work has been undertaken by Police, the SRP and the Council's Neighbourhood Services officers to address spikes in damage to public conveniences including additional patrols and review of CCTV footage.

There were 261 reports of burglary, 108 to business and community and 153 to residences less than one per day.

Just over 200 reports of shoplifting to Sussex Police each year for the last two years, less than one per day.

There were 48 fewer drug offences reported of which the majority were for drug possession. There was an increase in reporting during COVID restrictions when less people were about and more people were at home.

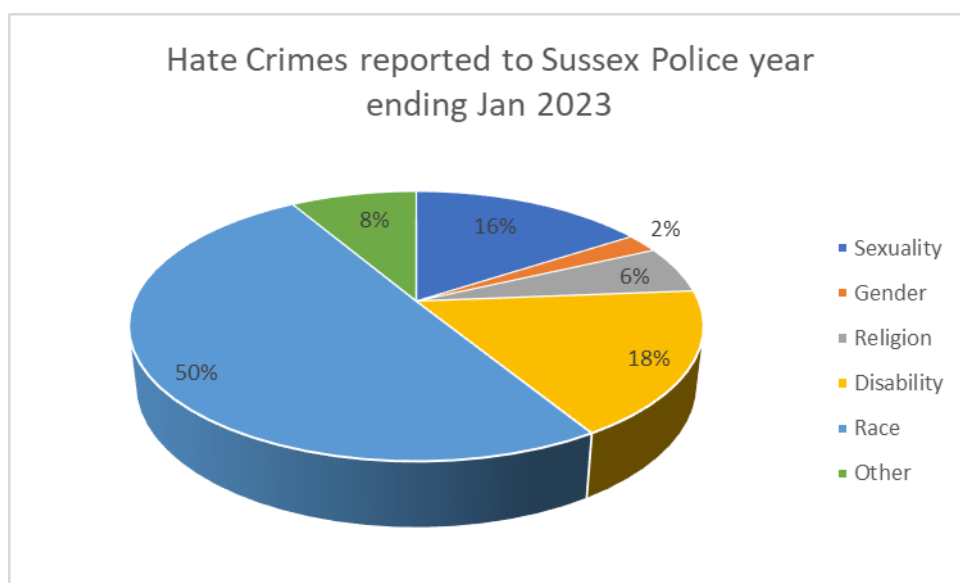
Violent Crime in a Public place has only risen by five (0.7%) reports to 710, which is the lowest in East Sussex with other areas seeing increases of between 8% and 14%.

There were five reports of Modern Slavery to Sussex Police. However, work is carried out by a by a multi-agency team to investigate Modern Slavery and

provide support to victims over and above reports made to the Police by the public.

- There are some crime types we would wish to see increases in reporting, as they demonstrate confidence in people feeling able to report and referrals can be made to support services e.g. Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime.

There were 162 Hate Crime reports and 20 Hate Crime Incidents reported to Sussex police in the year ending 31 January 2023, which equates to a 27.6% increase in crimes reported.



There were 934 reports of Domestic Violence Crime and 577 of Domestic Violence incidents to Sussex Police in the last 12 months.

- Agencies providing services and support to victims of domestic abuse report increases in cases of coercion and control and end of relationship violence and suicide. Higher risk cases are discussed at the Hastings and Rother Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). CGL support services who provide support for higher risk and more complex cases have seen a significant increase in the number of Rother cases in the latest 3 quarters of 206 referrals, which is more than a 24% increase on the same period the year before.

Rother	Quarter 1 April to June	Quarter 2 July - August	Quarter 3 Sept -Dec
Female	68	51	67
Male	10	6	4

Note: the 934 reports to Sussex Police will contain multiple reports about the same individuals and lower level cases will be offered support from a range of other agencies including victim support.

- Reports of anti-social behaviour to the Council, Police and housing providers continue to be managed by these agencies. Complex cases require significantly more work by the Council and all partners, often include safeguarding, mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse.

20. Rother continues to have excellent working relationships with the key agencies and resilient and resourceful staff and structures, e.g. the monthly multi-agency Hate and ASB and risk assessment group and case reviews, have enabled complex cases to continue to be dealt with effectively. We are seen as an example of good practice in the way we work in Rother and our use of ECINs (a secure cloud-based case management system funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and managed by Sussex Police) across Sussex. This has not been the case across all Community Safety Partnerships. Rother is an active member of pan Sussex working groups for ASB and ECINS. Reductions in reporting are mirrored across East Sussex. There were the following ASB cases reported to police during for the year to the end of January 2023:
- ASB Personal – 97 (-116)
 - ASB Nuisance – 749 (-862)
 - ASB Environmental – 61 (-4)
21. Rother District has had 12 CCTV Cameras (Public Facing/Static) monitored by Sussex Police since before 2014. The Council has paid for transmission, maintenance and the electricity supply for these cameras as part of a partnership arrangement with Sussex Police, Local Authorities including some parish councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Repair or replacement has historically been funded through the SRP budget.
22. The expenditure for this CCTV has a separate Council Cost Centre. The existing CCTV System Agreement ran from 1 April 2019 to 31 December 2022. However, due to COVID, there have been delays in review of the agreement, recommissioning and negotiations. At present, Sussex Police are working with BT on an interim extension until 31st March 2023.
23. Public facing CCTV continues to serve our communities well. On average, it supports 70% of vulnerable people in the community not only for crime matters but supportive purposes too. Sussex Police provide specific operators who monitor all our cameras helping to address faults and liaising live time with front line resources to ensure the people of Sussex get the best resource. Further details can be found in Appendix C.
24. In 2022/23, the **SRP Funded a range of projects** to address priorities in Rother. Funding for the partnership projects comes from the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner £35,077.
- a) Airtime agreement for deployable CCTV cameras used by Sussex Police in Rother
 - b) Replacement Nomad camera for deployable cameras
 - c) Contribution to Domestic Homicide Reviews
 - d) Hire of Variable Messaging Sign for bonfire, Christmas lighting and the launch of the environmental enforcement scheme with NES
 - e) White Ribbon Film and Social Media Project
 - f) Time 2 Talk 2022 mediation for 8-18 year olds to improve family relationships
 - g) Security Marking Equipment to address rural crime
 - h) Community event to build trust and confidence in police and other agencies

Applications for a [Community Safety Grant](#) can be made to the Joint Action Group

25. Environmental offences

Since 22/08/22, NES Ltd officers have been authorised to issue fixed penalty notices for environmental offences. The income received from the concessionary agreement with NES Ltd was £18,000 (January 2023).

This was used to fund:

Graffiti removal	£3,000
Signs	£1,000
Waste removal	£3,000

FPNs served September 2022 to January 2023

Offence description	Number of FPNs served
Cigarette butts-litter	743
Rolled cigarettes-litter	148
Fly-tipping business origin	31
Fly-tipping domestic origin	23
Business duty of care-no waste contract	19
Other litter/ waste	12
Dog control	11

FPNs served by gender Female 41% Male 59%

26. Environmental Services and Licensing and Community Safety staff, the police and other agencies continue to carry out successful operational and education initiatives across Rother and Wealden to address e.g.:

- ASB, neighbour disputes and High and Medium risk cases are managed through the monthly Hate and ASB Case Review meeting.
- Community safety issues arising at beaches across Rother, including illegal immigration, protest groups, sleeping in vehicles, noise nuisance, ASB and specific summer operations in Camber and at Herbrand Walk.
- Crime, safety and risk for events managed with partner agencies through SAGs.
- Licensing and ASB issues in both public houses and businesses.
- Modern Slavery through project Discovery.
- Safeguarding of both adults and children through case reviews and multi-agency work and fulfil the Council's duty and responsibilities.

27. The Community Safety Team also work with other Council departments to both fulfil the Council's duty and responsibilities and cases and enquires from residents and Members, such as Housing (e.g. Domestic Abuse cases, Multi Agency Public Protection and other offenders, victims of Hate and ASB and Rough sleeping and Homelessness), Planning and Planning Enforcement (e.g. neighbour disputes, ASB and criminality), Customer Services (e.g. Safeguarding and assessment of need for callers to the Council).

28. The Safer Rother Partnership JAG agreed the priorities for 2023/24 at its March meeting and will be using an analytical product provided by the police to focus resources on those crimes and victims that have the highest risk or behaviours that have the biggest impact on the community of Rother. In addition, the JAG will also review:

- Crime and ASB data
- Consultation from the PSPO process
- Rother Reputation Tracker Survey Report which came from an ESCC survey of residents across East Sussex
- Priorities of the Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Local and East Sussex Policing priorities.

29. **New Legislation and Duties 2022/23**

On 19 December 2022, the Government announced details for the Protect Duty, now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017. The duty will place a requirement on those responsible buildings and venues that fit the criteria to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

30. The legislation will ensure parties are prepared, ready to respond and know what to do in the event of an attack. Better protection will be delivered through enhanced security systems, staff training, and clearer processes. The Protect Duty will require review of relevant premises across Rother. (See Appendix B)
31. Work is underway to fulfil the responsibilities of the Community Safety Partnership and the Council under the Serious Violence Duty. A summary of the duty is contained in Appendix A.

Community Safety

32. Under s17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities, amongst others, have a duty to exercise their functions with 'due regard' to the need to prevent crime and disorder in their area.
33. Within this work there are duties and roles for the Council and partners under other legislation, including that for anti-social behaviour, safeguarding adults and children, domestic abuse, licensing, modern slavery, domestic abuse and reflect the work of many Council departments e.g. Environmental Health and Licensing, Housing, Customer Services, Planning Enforcement, Neighbourhood Services.
34. "Crime and disorder scrutiny functions", in relation to a council, means functions that are, or, but would be, exercisable by the crime and disorder committee of the Council under sections 19, 20 and schedule 8 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.
35. Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2021 makes changes to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requiring Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

36. The report highlights the work of the SRP, and Council officers to prevent crime and disorder, reduce the impact of antisocial behaviour and crimes and mitigate the negative impact on the quality of life of residents, businesses, and visitors.

Environmental Implications

37. It is well documented that crime and anti-social behaviour have a negative impact on the quality of life and residents' perceptions of the area they live in. There are also environmental implications in connection to e.g. fly tipping, graffiti, misuse of land under planning regulations, drug supply, cultivation or manufacture and paraphernalia, derelict and dangerous buildings.

Equalities and Diversity

38. Given the nature of Crime and Disorder, anti-social behaviour and community safety, the work of the Council and partners reflects the need for consideration of vulnerabilities and protective characteristics in case management, reduction of crime and working with victims and offenders. The Council and partner agencies have specific safeguarding responsibilities and a significant investment is made by all parties to take a holistic approach and consider equality and diversity in all work and initiatives. The Council also participates fully in both local and East Sussex wide safeguarding work including complex cases, modern slavery, domestic homicide, ASB and hate crime casework and offender management.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	Yes
Crime and Disorder	Yes	External Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Risk Management	No	Exempt from publication	No

Chief Executive	Malcolm Johnson
Report Contact Officer:	Carol Studley – Community Safety Coordinator
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Appendices:	A Summary of the Serious Violence Duty B Summary of the Protect Duty C CCTV locations D JAG work Plan 2022-23
Relevant previous Minutes:	OSC21/52
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None

Summary of the Serious Violence Duty

The guidance outlines changes to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requiring Community Safety Partnerships to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence. Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act).

For the purposes of this duty, violence includes violence against property and threats of violence, but does not include terrorism. However, there is flexibility in local areas to take account of their evidence-based strategic needs assessment and include in their strategy actions which focus on other related types of serious violence, this could include (but is not limited to) domestic violence, alcohol related violence, sexual abuse, modern slavery or gender-based violence.

Local Authorities duty commenced on the 31st January 2023. Local areas will have until 31 January 2024 to publish their local strategies based on serious violence issues within the local areas.

Police and Crime Commissioners are eligible to apply for funding to support with costs associated with delivering the Duty. Applications closed in early January 2023.

Protect Duty Summary

What does this mean for Publicly Accessible Locations?

Protect Duty, now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' will follow a tiered model linked to activity that takes place at a location and its capacity aimed to prevent undue burden on businesses. Such locations would include locations for purposes such as:

- entertainment and leisure;
- retail, food and drink;
- museums and galleries;
- sports grounds,;
- public areas of local and central Government buildings (e.g., town halls);
- visitor attractions;
- temporary events; and
- Places of Worship, health and education.

A **standard tier** will apply to locations with a maximum capacity of over 100. They will be required to include training, information sharing and completion of a preparedness plan to embed practices, such as locking doors to delay attackers' progress or knowledge on lifesaving treatments that can be administered by staff whilst awaiting emergency services.

An **enhanced tier** will focus on high-capacity locations in recognition of the potential consequences of a successful attack. Locations with a capacity of over 800 people at any time, will additionally be required to undertake a risk assessment to inform the development and implementation of a security plan to assess the balance of risk reduction against the time, money and effort required to achieve a successful level of security preparedness - a recognised standard in other regulatory regimes (including Fire and Health and Safety).

The Government will establish an inspection and enforcement regime, promoting compliance and positive cultural change and issuing credible and fair sanctions for serious breaches.

Dedicated statutory guidance and bespoke support will be provided by the Government to ensure those in scope can effectively discharge their responsibilities, with even small venues also able to benefit from this and take voluntary action. Expert advice, training and guidance is also already available on the online protective security hub, ProtectUK.

Public Facing CCTV Locations and provision

Location	
Cantelupe Road/Sea Road	Bexhill
Channel View Road West	Bexhill
Devonshire Square	Bexhill
Sackville Road	Bexhill
Town Hall Square	Bexhill
Ravenside Retail Park	A259
Brett Drive	Bexhill
Ninfield Road	Sidley
Ninfield Road/Smith and Humphreys	Sidley
Chequers Public House Roundabout A2100, and Marley Lane	Battle
COSTA Coffee (previously 1066 Public House) near the square	Battle
Fire Station roundabout A2100 and A271	Battle

In previous years the SRP has also purchased cameras for Council owned properties, community groups and re-deployable cameras for police operations. All of which assist in the reduction and detection of crime and ASB.

JAG Work Programme 2022-23		
Date of Meeting	Subject – (Part A) Main Item in Bold	Chair
8 March 2022 (10:30-12:30)	Update on priorities - Drug Related Harm Bids for funding VMS system Update on budget for 2022-23 Letter about profile of the Partnership	Carol Studley
5 April 2022 (14:30-16:30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget setting 2022-23 • Update on White Ribbon Campaign 2022 • VMS System 	Dan Channon
10 May 2022 (10:30-12:30)	Update on priorities – Rural Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the use of JAG funding and outcomes achieved. • Update of Summer interventions and priorities e.g. Op Radcott, Herbrand Walk 	Cathy Gregory
14 June 2022 (10:30-12:30)	Update on priorities - ASB and Youth Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Parking areas of concern – Grant Virgo/All • Commissioning of projects & use of JAG fund. 	Carol Studley
12 July 2022 (14:30-16:30)	Update on priorities - Drug Related Harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from OPCC meetings (Road Safety 30 June 2022). • Report from SHARP Road Safety Group to the JAG. 	Richard Parker-Harding
6 Sept 2022 (14:30-16:30)	Modern Slavery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial feedback on Op Radcott, Herbrand Walk and Summer season 	Insp Olivia Carroll
11 October 2022 (10:30-12:30)	Cuckooing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Civil Parking Enforcement and the benefits compared to previous year. 	Carol Studley
8 November 2022 (10:30-12:30)	Violence Against Women and Girls in Rother <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Ribbon Campaign 2022 • Emerging issues and interventions for Christmas and New Year 	Carol Studley
13 December 2022 (10:30-12:30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of JAG funding and commissioning of bids as required. • Spotlight Review of 2022 • Emerging issues for 2023 • How JAG can help address shop theft and taxi safety issues. 	Susan Taylor
10 January 2023 (10:30-12:30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider how to overlap data to prioritise areas/issues (including hot spot mapping) • Data sets and analytical products required for 2023 • Emerging issues for 2023 	Vanessa Biddiss

Work Programme 2022-23

Date of Meeting	Subject – (Part A) Main Item in Bold	Chair
7 February 2023 (14:30-16:30)	Priority Setting for 2023-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paul Saunders to present 'Speak Out' Hastings and Rother films and share links.Review of 2022 work and achievementsPriority setting – initial discussions prior to SHARP Board	Olivia Carroll
14 March 2023 (10:30-12:30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of funded projects and outcomes achieved.Report from SHARP Road Safety GroupFinalise priorities for 2023/24	TBC

Items for Consideration

- Commissioning of projects 2022-23
- Communications strategy
- Domestic Abuse reporting in Rother compared to Wealden – good practice and information
- Report from SHARP Road Safety Group to the JAG
- Violence Against Women and Girls in Rother
- Update on Civil Parking Enforcement and the benefits compared to previous years

Priorities for the year 2022-23

Agreed at the JAG meeting 8 February 2022

ASB and Youth Crime – by working in partnership to reduce the occurrence and impact of young people involved in crime and ASB and as victims.

Rural Crime, including specific types of crime e.g. theft of farm and large plant machinery and cross border crime. Linking in with East Sussex priorities and cross border work with Wealden and Kent.

Drug Related Harm including drug supply (both local and county lines) and the impact on the local community. Including partnership work with drug treatment and support agencies

It was also agreed that work on **Domestic Abuse** and **Road Safety** would be included as a focus for work but not as specifically identified priorities.