

Councillor Maggie Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Youth, Public Safety, Emergency Planning and liaison with the Police and Fire & Rescue Service

Report to Full Council: 22 February 2022

As Portfolio holder for Communities Youth, Public Safety and Emergency Planning and liaison with Police and Fire Services, I am well assisted by our Community Health and Wellbeing Team of Officers and together we continue to work diligently for the Community on many projects, issues and events throughout the District.

As we will shortly no longer be subject to Covid restrictions, we have been revisiting our future plans and going forward with the work already underway alongside our Towns and Parishes. This work aims to support our young people, those who are vulnerable and/or isolated, and informing and bringing together Communities.

Our safeguarding officer has been dealing with 13 new safeguarding referrals throughout January. This work includes home visits, referral to more appropriate agencies and linking back to the Essex Safeguarding Boards. Monies have been secured through Essex County Council to continue the project currently running in partnership between Stansted Airport and Next Chapter (Uttlesford commissioned Domestic abuse service). This money will allow UDC to continue to have a dedicated domestic abuse worker linked to the housing department and to the community hub. This helps to support the duties given to the local authority through the new domestic abuse act.

The partnership, alongside the UDC safeguarding officer, is working with The Children's Society and the Violence and Vulnerability Unit looking to have better engagement with the properties being used within the district to house challenging young people from other areas. Better understanding of how information can be shared and the enhancement of working relationships between relevant agencies and further training opportunities for all staff is the focus of this work. Early work within this environment helps to prevent future anti-social behaviour concerns.

The Theatre group performance 'The Bruise You Can't See', regarding domestic abuse and healthy relationships, has been performed most recently at Saffron Walden High school (SWCH). I attended this event on one of the latest dates and was most impressed at the quality and message it gave our young people. I would encourage Councillors to go along to see it for themselves. The next dates within the schools are as follows

- 2nd March SWCH
- 6th July SWCH
- 7th July SWCH

If any Council member would like to view a performance, please contact agreneski@uttlesford.gov.uk

The team continues to work with the Community Services Working Group to reopen and remodel the day centres in the district.

It should also be noted that a grant of up to £700 per parish has been made available to encourage parishes to support projects/ community events held to celebrate the Queens platinum jubilee. Application forms available on the website.

The partnership aims to relaunch the Multi Agency Centre at Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. This will be a 'One Stop Shop' for residents requiring support services who will be at the One venue ready to assist. It is hoped that this will relaunch in April with the help of a grant from the Changing Futures Programme which is being administered through Essex County Council on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. A bid by the partners will be submitted.

Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership has been recognised as a partner of 'Friends Against Scams' and is currently recruiting Scam Champions. The Scam Champions will then recruit 'Friends' who will assist us in spreading awareness on how to protect each other against this type of crime. If anyone knows of any groups who may like to have training on how to become a "Friend" please contact agreneski@uttlesford.gov.uk

The partnership, including Safer Essex Roads Partnership, carried out a School Speedwatch day at Great Easton Primary School and Leaden Roding Primary School in January. Drivers who were found to be speeding were given the option of receiving a speeding ticket or speaking with the pupils who had written out questions to ask the drivers around the necessity for them to speed. The partners are looking to continue to roll this out across the district. A '20 is plenty' campaign application has been submitted for Stansted and if approved in March, a competition will be run by the local school to design metal signage reinforcing the message.

The CSP held a final Catalytic Converter Anti Theft Marking event with SelectaMark and TreadFirst at Shire Hill on 16th January. In total 238 vehicles from the district attended and had their vehicles marked and registered assisting in the aim to reduce this type of crime.

Op Sceptre is currently being supported across the district. Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership will be taking a vehicle out to parishes within the district to encourage residents to dispose of their knives, especially with the recent change in legislation to knife possession, in particular ornamental knives. The van has a secure 'knife bin attached' for the deposit of the article. The knife bin has been at Flitch Green, Wimbish, Clavering, Ashdon, Hadstock, Leaden Roding, High Easter, Great Canfield, Great Chesterford and will be next at Farnham, Berden and Manuden. All parishes have been advised that they will be contacted in order to secure the best location for the van to be seen and accessible. Discussions are taking place with the Prepare and Prevent Team from Essex Police around a permanent knife bin being located outside of the Gt Dunmow Police Station. I am told this initiative has been a great success.

The Reaching 'Our Rural Communities' project has been well received and has visited over half of the parishes within the district. The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst has been contacted and it is hoped that he will be able to

host one of his workshops for residents to contribute to the Rural Crime Strategy at one of the project locations. The next destination for the multi-agency project will be;

- Tuesday 1st March- Little Bardfield/Little Sampford/Great Sampford/Hempstead
- Friday 18th March- Radwinter/Ashdon/Sewards End/Hadstock
- Monday 4th April- Saffron Walden/Great Chesterford/Little Chesterford
- Tuesday 3rd May- Littlebury/Strethall/Wendens Ambo/Elmdon/Wicken Bonhunt
- Tuesday 10th May- Newport/Widdington
- Wednesday 11th May- Wendens Loft/Chrishall/Langley/Arkesden
- Thursday 19th May- Clavering/Rickling/Quendon/Ugley
- Friday 20th May- Berden/Manuden/Farnham/Birchanger
- Monday 30th May- Stansted/Elsenham
- Tuesday 7th June- Takeley/Little Canfield/Great Canfield
- Wednesday 8th June- Hatfield Broad Oak
- Wednesday 15th June- Hatfield Heath
- Thursday 16th June- Great Hallingbury/Little Hallingbury.

This project was established in response to local concerns regarding rural crime. Farms and landowners are visited within the parishes and the residents have a chance to speak to the partner agencies engaged in the project. Each resident received a pack containing information about Crimestoppers, Essex Police Farm Watch Scheme, Frontline services, What 3 Words for their locations with QR Codes for easy access in how to report issues to relevant agencies. A doorstep questionnaire is completed that assists the partnership in identifying gaps in service, need for further projects and enables the partnership to feed back into the Police Fire and Crime Commission regarding the issues we face with rural crime. Referrals to ECFRS for smoke alarms to be installed at both farmhouses and farm outbuildings housing combustible materials, were also made. The 'Drinks with Community Links' horse box serves drinks to residents of the area to allow for further conversation.

I attended the meeting of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel held in the Council Chamber at County Hall on Thursday 3rd February 2022

The Panel supported the Police Fire and Crime Commissioners proposed increase in the Precept of 1.95%. The Precept payable for a Band D Council Tax property will increase from £73.89 to £75.33 a charge of £1.44 per year.

The Panel supported the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners proposed Precept increase of £4.79% equivalent to an increase of £9.99 a year from £208.53 to £218.52 for a Band D property - Raising an additional £6.55m of Council Tax Receipts.

Please do contact me if you have any further comments or queries on the above.
Maggie Sutton