Introduction

Levels of crime and disorder in Sutton are lower than the average for both London and England making it one of the safest boroughs in London. During the period analysed, November 2012 to October 2013, total crime fell by -7% compared to the same period the previous year to 10,558 offences. This is the 9th consecutive calendar year with a fall in total crime from a high point of over 16,000 offences in 2004 to now approximately 10,500 in 2013.

Sutton had the fourth lowest crime rate per 1000 residents in the 2013 Home Office Most Similar Family (MSF) with 55 crimes per 1,000 residents. This compares to an MSF average of 65 crimes per 1,000 residents for the 15 authorities in Sutton’s family.

There were notable falls in Violence Against Person offences (-12%), Robbery Against Person offences (-9%) and Domestic Crime (-13%). Motor Vehicle Crime however has been a challenge with figures up by 9% on the last rolling year.

2013 has seen some distinct challenges in community safety in Sutton. Although total crime has again fallen, specific problems needed to be addressed, particularly Sutton’s night time economy, the rise in motor vehicle crime and continuing to improve Sutton’s residents sense of safety within the communities they live.

The Local Picture

Headline performance results for 2004/05 – 2012/13 include:

- Total crime down by 32.7%
- Violence against the person down by 27.2%
- Criminal damage down by 67%
- Theft of motor vehicle down by 70%
- Fear of crime down significantly over all major crime types (over 5 biennial surveys)
- Cashable efficiencies of £746,000 from 2006/07 to 2013/14
- Total crime fell for the 9th consecutive calendar year in 2013

2.1 Adults and Young People

The peak ages for those being charged with criminal offences in Sutton is between 18 years and 24 years. This highlights the imperative nature of early intervention work in order to prevent younger people falling into the criminal system and the importance of focusing the Integrated Offender Management on the 18 to 24 age group in order to impact on recidivism.

Furthermore, the small but notable number of victims over the age of 80 and under the age of 16 require appropriate safeguarding processes across the community safety partnership and local authority as a whole.

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1 Most Similar Family tables are used by the Home Office to compare Community Safety Partnerships with similar demographic and socio economic make up.

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2.2 Hate Crime

As a context for Sutton, in financial year 2012/13 in London, reported and religious hate crime rose by 14.9% after a 6.5% drop the previous year. Homophobic crime fell by 12.6% after a slight fall of 5.3% the previous year. There were approximately 9,450 racist and religious offences reported in London in the 2012/13 financial year and a further 1,105 homophobic offences. There is a known and understood tendency towards underreporting across all hate crime strands, therefore this may only be a small proportion of actual levels.

2.3 Safeguarding Referrals

There have been a total of 1,148 alerts\(^2\) during 2012/13 and these were in relation to 772 service users. This is a 25% increase on alerts reported during 2011/12. There have been a total of 263 referrals\(^3\) during 2012/13, in relation to 228 service users. This is a 58% decrease on referrals reported during 2011/12 and indicates the increased awareness of what constitutes abuse and the strengthening of risk assessments.

In 2012/13, 209 individuals have been the subject of multiple alerts, 32 of which have proceeded with multiple referrals. 50% of alerts and referrals relate to service users in a care setting. Ongoing work is carried out to monitor the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures, risk assessments and the quality of safeguarding plans in instances of repeat allegations of abuse.

2.4 Domestic Crime

In the period December 2012 to November 2013, 2,310 police CRIS reports have been flagged as a Domestic Incidents. 1,454 (63\%) of these were classified as ‘Non Crime Domestic incidents’. The remaining 856 (37.1\%) were classified as crimes. This is marginally below MPS average but commensurate with other local boroughs during this time period.\(^4\)

2.5 Anti Social Behaviour

For the fifth year running, the INSI survey revealed that ‘Groups of Youths’ is the largest cause of concern of the 544 residents interviewed.

Calls to the police regarding ASB fell by 10.5\% in the 12 months to the end of November 2013 compared with the previous year. Sutton Central and St Helier wards are the wards of most concern, with a peak of calls on Saturday and an emphasis on early hours of weekend mornings in Sutton Central and 18:00pm to 22:00pm in St Helier ward.

\(^2\)An alert is a concern that an adult at risk is or may be a victim of abuse or neglect. An alert may be a result of a disclosure, an incident, or other signs or indicators.

\(^3\)A referral is when an alert (following a decision made by a manager in Adult Social Services and Housing Adult & Safeguarding team), is accepted to be a safeguarding issue and is managed through the safeguarding process.

\(^4\)Percentage of DV Incidents classified as crimes; Kingston – 35\%, Merton – 39\%, Croydon – 36\%. Source CRIS.

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2.6 Alcohol Related Crime & Disorder

Current performance in acute alcohol related crime, such as violence against the person, is increasingly positive with a large reduction in reported assaults across the borough. Sutton Town Centre has seen a continued reduction in violence though it continues to be a hotspot for alcohol related violence primarily due to the business of the night time economy. This mostly occurs on Friday and Saturday evenings into the early hours. London Ambulance Service data continues to show Sutton Town Centre as a hotspot for assaults, particularly in the early hours of weekend mornings. Alcohol related presentations to St. Helier A&E are most common in the early hours for younger age groups and throughout the late afternoon and early evening for older age groups.

There is a strong observed relationship between clusters of licensed venues and anti-social behaviour. The wards of Sutton Central, St Helier, Nonsuch, Worcester Park and The Wrythe are most affected by this. Continued work with Public Health, Trading Standards and the Police Licensing Unit is required to regulate licensed venues operating in these areas to limit the availability and strength of alcohol.

Lower level alcohol related disorder, particularly linked to groups of youths, remains the key concern of residents interviewed in the borough wide 2013 INSI survey. Sutton Town Centre concern is mentioned not just by residents of Sutton Central but surrounding wards also. The bottom end of Sutton High Street is perceived as a particularly intimidating location by some residents, especially in the evening.

2.7 Serious Acquisitive Crime / Volume Crime

The three key higher volume offence types are Theft from Motor Vehicle (TFMV), Residential Burglary and Non Residential Burglary. Beddington South, Wallington South and Wallington North have the highest rates of burglary per 1,000 population. Beddington South, Wallington North, Beddington North, have the highest rates of Theft from Motor Vehicle.

Wallington North in particular has the highest ward volume of Non Residential Burglary and the second highest for Residential Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicle. Total offences are highest in Sutton Central, St Helier, and Beddington South per 1,000 population which is consistent with the last 3 years of data.

The most common offender profile for all three crime types is male, white - North European and 18 to 25 years old.

Strategic Leadership and Collaboration

The following partners are responsible authorities charged with coordinating community safety through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP):

- Local authority
- Police
- Fire
- Local health authority
- Probation

The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime is a co-operating authority.

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There is also a statutory requirement to provide a multi-agency Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). These requirements have not been altered by recent legislation (specifically re changes to Health and the establishment of Police Commissioners). In Sutton these statutory responsibilities are discharged through the Safer Sutton Partnership Board, facilitated by the SSPS.

The Borough’s approach to community safety has been characterised to date by a desire to provide excellent outcomes for residents through:

- Innovation and working differently across agencies
- An evidence based approach to commissioning
- Co-production of solutions at a neighbourhood level
- An understanding of risk and proven approaches to militate against and mitigate issues.

The Borough established its long term vision for community safety to be the safest borough in London with the lowest fear of crime.

### 3.1 Crime Prevention

In 2013-14 the Safer Sutton Partnership Service has overseen, amongst other things:

- Recruitment of a second Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) to work with high risk domestic violence victims.
- Introduction of a Young Persons Violence Advocate (YPVA) to focus on domestic, sexual, gang related violence and other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- A new licensing policy incorporating eight cumulative impact zones which place a greater emphasis on licensed premises to demonstrate positive impact to the local community.
- Better outcomes for offenders with a reduction in offending levels for Integrated Offender Management (IOM) managed within the community.
- A new Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) jointly managed by the Safer Sutton Partnership Service and Police drawing on Police, Community Safety and Housing expertise.
- Enhancement of the Borough Emergency Control Centre (BECC) and the first borough wide multi-agency exercise delivered and scrutinised by the Emergency Planning College.

### Priorities for Sutton

The key priorities for 2014/15 are:

- Complete the development of a new three year domestic violence and VAWG strategy
- Continue to build upon our partnership approach to ASB and further develop the Community Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference processes (MARAC).
- Further reduce the MOPAC 7 neighbourhood crime types by 20% by 2016.

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