Cheshire West & Chester
Community
Safety
Partnership

Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership

Annual Report 2015/16

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Foreword

On behalf of all our partners who work together to make the borough a safe place to live, work and visit, and in turn help the Borough to thrive I am pleased and proud to present this Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership Annual Report outlining our achievements in 2015/16.

The Community Safety Partnership has invested in initiatives to support work towards achieving outcomes in a number of key areas on issues that matter to our communities and have included Offending and Anti-Social Behaviour, plus projects supporting work on mental health issues, supporting vulnerable people and victims of domestic violence and abuse. In addition in this year we have also worked jointly on a sub-regional Preventing Extremism priority to safeguard and support members of our community that are at risk of radicalisation.

All of our priorities are evidence based are clearly linked to the Police & Crime Plan 2015 and can also be linked to key outcomes in the 'Helping the Borough Thrive' Council Plan 2016-2020.

Councillor **Nicole Meardon**
Cheshire West and Chester Council

Introduction

Welcome to the Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Annual Report 2015/16.

Following the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder 2014/15 The CSP agreed 6 priorities for 2015/16 which are aligned to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Objective as shown in the table below.

The CSP meets bi-monthly to address the strategic priorities and issues highlighted in the Strategic Assessment as well as tackling emerging crime and disorder issues such as Hate Crime, and Serious and Organised Crime. The CSP has clear terms of reference and strong leadership with an ongoing commitment from partners. From funding made available to the CSP from the Police and Crime Commissioner we have been able to financially support initiatives supporting work towards our outcomes. Each of the projects that have received funding have provided a report to the CSP on what outcomes have been achieved and how they link in to the Thrive outcomes for the borough.

CSP Priority 1	Reducing Re-Offending	**PCC Objective 3** Support victims and witnesses of crime to take robust stance in tackling those who offend especially those who do so repeatedly
Priority 2	Reduce Child Sexual Exploitation	**PCC Objective 2** Protect Cheshire's Communities from Harm
Priority 3	To reduce the prevalence and impact of anti-social behaviour in our communities.	**PCC Objective 1** Enhance frontline policing to enable the constabulary to prevent and further drive down crime
Priority 4	To reduce the negative impact o alcohol and substance misuse (including legal highs) in Cheshire West and Chester.	**PCC Objective 3** Support victims and witnesses of crime to take robust stance in tackling those who offend especially those who do so repeatedly
Priority 5	To Reduce the number of Domestic Abuse incidents and provide the appropriate support to victims, perpetrators and their families	**PCC Objective 2** Protect Cheshire's Communities from Harm
Priority 6	To embed Prevent into our mainstream activities, safeguard those most vulnerable to the messages of extremists and build resilience to extremist ideologies within our communities.	**PCC Objective 2** Protect Cheshire's Communities from Harm

For details of the full Police and Crime Plan 2015 please visit: **www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/PoliceCrimePlan/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx**

Priority 1: Reducing Re-offending

CSP Funds Allocated 2015/16: £32,100

Context:

The robust management and rehabilitation of offenders across Cheshire West is critical to ensure public protection, a reduction in the number of victims and those affected by crime (our communities) and a reduction in re-offending.

It is therefore essential that strong working relationships between agencies remain and that they are continually developed to enable effective and efficient working practices; thereby enabling identification of and access to services required to "make a difference".

The Community Safety Partnership has continued to fund a key post in the Integrated Offender Management Team. This key role works with the offenders to provide a range of services which assist with supporting and managing offenders on their release from prison. The service also provides expertise in housing, benefit claims and signposting to agencies to address addictions.

Achievements 2015/16:

Specialist expertise and advice provided on supporting lifestyle issues, housing benefit, and employment amongst other interventions to support 75% of the PPO cohort providing links to the key pathways.

Case Study:

The client was accepted on to the Prolific Priority Offender (PPO) Scheme in June 2014 after a series of shoplifting offences and over 200 offences in total. The client was living in Northwich and had his own tenancy but due to anti-social behaviour was in the process of being evicted. The client was then no fixed abode (NFA) in Northwich and was sofa surfing with associates linked to crime and drug abuse.

The client engaged with the PPO scheme and took advice to access the safe seats in Chester in order to try and remove himself from the drug abuse lifestyle.

At first when he arrived in Chester City Centre he was engaged in antisocial behaviour and was begging. This was due to his NFA status and his poor budgeting skills. Nacro completed a SPA referral to find suitable accommodation, updated the client's benefits claim and setup as management plan.

The client continued to access the safe seats and was then offered a stable room at Richmond Court. This helped to stabilise his support and he began to address his drug issues. The client continued to engage with Aqua House and reduce his drug use until he no longer required a drug substitute. The client remains drug free and is reducing his use of legal highs. The client has remained out of custody and has not been arrested since April 2015. The client has now been exited from the PPO scheme and continues to engage with support staff at Richmond Court to gain his own tenancy.

Next Steps:

- Develop indicative data – what do we include?
- IOM – how do we develop
- Hate Crime
- Expansion of agencies engaged in interventions
- Effective recording and analysis of outcomes
- Pan Cheshire IOM reviewing linking to CPS best practice
- Explore the expansion of the IOM cohorts over and above those in I-DAT (DV offences) and navigate (SAC offences).

Priority 2: Reduce Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSP Funds Allocated 2015/16: £7000

Context:

It is a collective multi-agency responsibility to identify those children and young people at risk of exploitation and our joint responsibility to protect them and safeguard them from further risk of harm. It is also our joint responsibility to prevent children becoming victims of this form of abuse and reassure our communities we can perform our duties effectively. It is the police responsibility to focus on the detection, disruption and prosecution of perpetrators of CSE. Cheshire West and Chester Council have a pan Cheshire protocol as to our duties in responding to CSE.

The Community Safety Partnership allocated £7k to ensure that frontline staff were trained.

Achievements 2015/16:

The LSCB commissioned 3 courses across Cheshire West and Chester during February and March 2016. The funding for these events was secured via monies from the Community Safety Partnership. There was a lot of interest in the training with a take up by **125 participants** across a range of agencies.

The course was designed to give front line practitioners from any agency across children and adults, a basic awareness of what constitutes Trafficking in human beings. The course aimed to improve participants understanding of the subject, enabling them to better identify victims and improve their response and assistance. The course covered Human Trafficking into, within and out of the UK both in relation to children and adults, and explored the links with CSE.

- Sharing of data between LSCB CSE Sub group and CSE
- Review of CSE team and mainstream into front door and separate organisations

Next Steps:

- Explore CSE in relation to Taxis
- Identify the links to Missing from Home (MFH) data to looked after children
- Link to other complex safeguarding issues such as trafficking and Asylum seeker children etc.
- Continued liaison between CSP and LSCB CSE sub group
- Ensure there is sharing of data and scrutiny on missing children and any CSE risks that are presented
- Quarterly reporting into CSP from CSE sub group

Priority 3: To Reduce the Prevalence and Impact of Anti- Social Behaviour in our Communities

CSP Funds Allocated 2015/16: £51,911

Context:

Anti-social behaviour is an important issue facing our communities that has a disproportionately high impact on individuals and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable or suffer repeat victimisation. It can blight an area, impacting on the perception and economic prosperity of an area.

There have been a total of **368 interventions**. There have been no court orders for under 18's, which is the same when compared to 2014.

The Anti-social Behaviour and Crime Act 2014 introduced 6 new powers, which replaced the 19 that were being used. The ASB Advisory Letter, Acceptable Behaviour Discussion and Acceptable Behaviour Contact remain unaffected by the new Act.

The Anti-social Behaviour Order was replaced by a Civil Injunction power. This has been used to good effect in Chester where **9 injunctions** were granted as part of Operation Brisbane, which was aimed and stopping the co-ordinated and systematic abuse of vulnerable elderly persons.

There have been **14 Criminal Behaviour Orders** (CBOs) granted across the area, addressing a wide range of ASB. The CBOs were granted to tackle persistent, high offending criminals and to address crimes around burglary and thefts. There have been no CBOs for youths or civil injunctions.

Community Protection Notices have been used to tackle the issue of the sale of Legal Highs in Chester and the ASB Units are now co-ordinating the extended use of this power to address lower level ASB.

Achievements 2015/16:

Chester Street Pastors £8k

Street Pastors have been operating successfully in Chester city centre's night –time economy since September 2008. They patrol the streets of the city centre every Friday & Saturday night from around 10pm through to about 3am (and on Bank Holiday Sundays and with additional patrols on Chester Races days). Street Pastors listen, care and provide practical help and support to those in the night-time economy, particularly those who become isolated and vulnerable.

Street Pastors work collaboratively with Cheshire police, the door-staff on the pubs and clubs, the CCTV control room and other statutory and voluntary agencies. We also work closely with CWaC Council and its homelessness services provider, FENW.

Achievements:

- Street (public) contacts: **4,777**
- Hours on patrol: **547**
- Calming aggressive situations:**15**
- Supporting Vulnerable People:**148**
- Glass bottles removed: **3,667**

Ellesmere Port Speedwatch Device £1k

The Speedwatch device is used in areas of community and residents' concerns in relation to speeding vehicles and it intended to reduce speeding and promote road safety.

Achievements:

- 420 warning letters were sent out to the registered keepers of vehicles recorded as exceeding the speed limits in various residential locations within the CH64 postcode.
- 18 of these letters were "Final Warnings", which are sent out to vehicles which have come to our attention for a 2nd time.
- There were no vehicles coming to our attention for a 3rd time

Achievements 2015/16:

Low Level Mental Health Counselling

The funding is used by the early support service to increase access to mental health support at complex level 3 for parents when low level mental health needs have been identified in a Team around the Family (TAF) assessment. Since the initial funding was received in October 2015 there have been 172 referrals made for the service.

Achievements:

- From Oct-2015 to 7th March 2016, the service recorded 172 referrals. 75% progressed to Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP) support (53%) or Counselling support (22%). 14% were discharged due to suitability, non-engagement or already being in treatment.
- A small number of referrals (6) were referred to other teams including drug and alcohol and Vale Royal IAPT for step 3 and above

Chester Pride

Chester Pride organises an annual Chester Pride Festival to celebrate diversity and support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The festival brings people together in a fun and safe environment, building community cohesion. The aim is to provide engagement and advice about a range of issues and to raise awareness of key services and support in the area. This will include information about fostering and adoption, smoking cessation, domestic abuse, hate crime reporting, drug and alcohol misuse, healthy living, civil partnerships, sexual health, mental wellbeing, homelessness, Transgender support groups, LGBT youth groups and much more.

Achievements:

- 8000 people from across the course of the day, which was an increase from 2500 in 2013.
- CSP Funding ensured that Pride remained a free event for all to attend, encouraging families with small children, older people and teenagers to attend.
- This raises visibility and encourages people from different backgrounds to interact and enable us to really start to tackle homophobia and transphobia.

Ellesmere Port Mobile CCTV

A project for Ellesmere Port & Neston Local Policing Unit (LPU) to utilise Close Circuit Television Cameras, (CCTV) in hot spot areas of Anti-social Behaviour. The CSP funding has enabled the purchase of four deployable CCTV Cameras operated by Police working in Partnership with joint agencies to combat crime and Anti-Social Behaviour via the Ellesmere Port Problem Solving Group.

A Camera which is mounted at height on lamp posts to capture data at agreed ASB hotspots, gathering evidence whilst at the same time reassuring members of the public that the the issues are being addressed.

Achievements:

- The project equipment has been built and is ready for deployment.
- Questionnaires in regard to safer communities have been written and are ready to be distributed to measure perceptions and effect of the cameras following the camera deployment
- The project is at the forefront of Community Policing in Ellesmere Port and Neston
- New policies are being written and reviewed, with new agreements for distribution and erection with CWAC Highways
- Project will be launched in 2016

Next Steps:

- CWAC – detached youth service embedded for delivery of brief interventions to young people
- Coordinated approach/strategy to deal with youth ASB working with new Youth Service.
- Diversionary activities
- Identify local groups who can affect the outcomes, provide access to the community
- Encourage greater intelligence sharing between agencies in relation to regular attendees of ASB directly linked to arson activities
- Joined up workers between Police, Fire, Local Authority and support community groups through improved evaluation
- Consider the impact of Criminal Damage

Priority 4: To Reduce the Negative Impact of Alcohol and Substance Misuse

CSP Funds Allocated 2015/16: £17,200

Context:

Substance misuse (Drugs and Alcohol) adversely impacts on the safety and wellbeing of the local population. The overall impact is difficult to quantify, because while substance misuse can be highly visible (e.g. street drinking, anti-social behaviour and violence within the night time economy), it is also linked to crimes such as domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation. Substance misuse has a significant impact on families and community life. The financial impact of alcohol alone within Cheshire West and Chester is estimated to be £136 million, and cuts across all areas of the local economy, including crime and disorder, health and social care, absenteeism etc.

Achievements 2015/16:

Ellesmere Port Allotment

An allotment focused project Unity House Recovery Service in Ellesmere Port. Putting in raised beds and a greenhouse at the rear of Unity House so that service users, under the support of peer mentors, can utilise the space to grow fresh fruit and vegetables and both distribute locally to our service users aligned with support and advice on healthy eating options .The Project was Ellesmere Port Recovery Service and will involve them working closely with each other and with our Peer Mentors who have been clients in the past and have been successful in maintaining their own recovery.

It offers an opportunity for clients to grow fresh vegetables and fruit and then to take these home and eat. They will be learning a new skill which will benefit them and their families in their future.

Achievements

- Building work to erect raised beds and greenhouse completed
- Outside tap installed.
- Service users began planting of early vegetables
- Further planting of seeds in greenhouse
- Clients undertook a piece of research to identify flowering plants that can be grown alongside vegetables to keep away pests and these were planted early April alongside spinach, lettuce, onions, carrots.
- Service users built staging for the greenhouse
- Planted greenhouse plants – tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, chillies, cucumbers.
- First week of June 2016 first available spinach and lettuce was cut
- Piece of work undertaken to distribute this to clients accessing the service alongside healthy eating recipes and information on nutrition.
- The project has created a pleasant environment which encourages clients to get involved in gardening and learning as well as working cooperatively with each other and with staff and volunteers.
- This has given them the opportunity to think innovatively and given them a focus and control over the enterprise.
- Everything that has been planted has been identified by the service users and they have researched what is needed for growing that particular plant/vegetable.
- There is daily activity from service users to weed and water the plants and a feeding cycle has been set up which involves them maintaining the project.

Next Steps:

- Mental Health services to be more dynamic and responsive to CSP identified risk individuals
- Are all commissioned services to reduce addiction available via one front door?
- Understand the demand on partner of mental health
- Service provision – to signpost to evaluate – focus on repeats

Priority 5: To increase the number of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) reports across West Cheshire, allowing us to offer support to more victims, children and perpetrators and start to reduce the number of incidents within those families

Context:

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) can and does have a devastating and lasting impact on victims, their children and the communities in which they live, and remains an inherently complex area to solve.

It presents a great number of overlapping issues, including links to mental health, physical and learning disabilities, housing, crime, drug and alcohol misuse and safeguarding - and is notoriously under-reported. On average, high risk victims live with DVA for nearly two and a half years before getting help, whether that is controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour or violence, or a combination of them all, so it is crucial that we encourage people to disclose as early as possible. In doing so, we will be able intervene earlier and protect people before their situations escalate further.

Achievements 2015/16:

- Raised the number of DVA incidents reported in the year to 1,776 across West Cheshire, compared to 1,307 in 2014/15
- This led to nearly 100 more high risk cases being discussed at our Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences than the year before, designed to draw on expertise from a wide variety of professionals in collectively safeguarding victims and families
- Tripled the number of adult social care staff trained in the year to recognise and deal appropriately with disclosures of DVA, as well as an extra 50% across our health services
- Significantly increased the number of referrals made to specialist DVA staff based in community settings, including the Countess of Chester Hospital and GP surgeries
- Following a comprehensive review of our interim document, we finalised and published a new Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2016-20, setting out how we intend to continue and develop the good work already happening across the borough. This incorporates an updated Service Directory, detailing the support available and assisting professionals in dealing effectively with disclosures, and can be found on the Safeguarding Board website: http://westcheshirelsab.co.uk/other-types-of-concerns/
- Awarded Leading Lights status - the mark of quality for DVA services in the UK - for our consistently strong response to high risk victims and their families
- Further developed our offer to medium risk victims of domestic violence and abuse by agreeing an extension to our commissioned contract with Women's Housing Action Group - our refuge accommodation provider - to include the provision of a DVA Hub. The Hub will be operated by an experienced, qualified IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) and offer medium risk victims access to ongoing support, safety planning, recovery programmes and any other care or guidance that would benefit them

Polish Domestic Abuse helpline

This year, the CSP helped to fund a Polish Domestic Abuse Helpline, designed to support victims of DVA living across the UK in overcoming language and/or knowledge barriers to disclose and ask for support. Polish statistics indicate that more than one in three people experience DVA in Poland which, if applied to the Polish population in England and Wales, would equate to 193,000 people. Over 2,100 Polish people currently live in West Cheshire.

In 2015/16, over 270 calls were received, with ongoing referrals being made to a variety of domestic abuse and other services. Of those, 40% were in relation to high risk DVA victims accessing support, compared to 20% the year before, meaning that twice as many vulnerable people at risk of imminent, significant harm were protected and supported - in their first language - to access crucial advice and specialist provision in their local area.

Priority 6: To embed Prevent into our mainstream activities, safeguard those most vulnerable to the messages of extremists and build resilience to extremist ideologies within our communities

Context:

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act was introduced in 2015, placing a duty on partner agencies - including local authorities, education, health and social care and the police - to actively participate in Prevent.

Prevent forms part of the government's overarching counter terrorism strategy, but is concerned with stopping people from being drawn into extremism, rather than pursuing those suspected of being engaged in illegal activity.

Channel, one of the main elements of Prevent, provides multi-agency support for children, young people and vulnerable adults of any faith, ethnicity or background, before they are exploited by others. It covers all forms of potential terrorism, such as the far right, Irish republican, Islamic extremism, animal rights and others; and in the overwhelming majority of cases, intervention will amount to no more than ensuring that an appropriate agency is offering support.

Achievements 2015/16:

- Finalised and published a new Preventing Vulnerable People from Being Drawn Into Extremism Strategy, outlining how we plan to fulfil our new responsibilities, build resilience within our communities and safeguard those most vulnerable to the messages of extremists: http://westcheshirelsab.co.uk/other-types-of-concerns/

  This has since been adopted by our neighbouring local authorities in Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington, allowing for a consistent approach across the sub-region

- Rolled out the Home Office-approved WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training sessions to professionals across a wide variety of services, including Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, colleges, universities and every school in West Cheshire

- Considered referrals for a number of vulnerable individuals in multi-agency meetings and put in place any necessary support - including careers advice and CV building.

Summary and Next Steps

This Annual Report shows where the CSP funding has been allocated and what outcomes have been delivered as a result of the funding in order to address our identified priorities.

In total we allocated over £158,000 to 13 projects in order to contribute to the priorities set by the Partnership.

Whilst 'Prevent' was identified as a CSP Priority no funding was requested. That said, a lot of sub-regional work has taken place in relation to the Prevent Agenda and in the coming year this CSP priority will also include Hate Crime.

The CSP has identified priorities for 2016/17 from the Strategic current Assessment and are in the process of developing a CSP Plan for 2016-2020

The Priorities are:

1. Reducing Re-offending
2. Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation
3. Reducing ASB
4. Reduce the Negative Impact of Alcohol and Substance Misuse
5. Reduce Domestic Abuse and provide appropriate support to victims, perpetrators and their families
6. Embed Prevent into mainstream activity and safeguard those most vulnerable
7. Reduce the number of Killed and Seriously Injured on our roads

In addition to the above the CSP has recently established a Serious and Organised Crime Sub Group of the CSP. This group is responsible for discharging the functions of OCG management as set out in the November 2014 Home Office Guidance 'Serious and Organise Crime: Local Profiles'

The Community Safety Partnership held a showcase event on the 17th March at Winsford Lifestyle Centre. The morning session was designed for services to attend a marketplace, setting up stalls showcasing and informing attendees about their service and what they provide.

A number of attendees from a variety of services/organisations such as Councillors, Community Safety Officers, IES Senior Managers, Education Welfare Officers and Safeguarding team managers attended the event.

A market stall layout meant that attendees were able to move around the room, engaging with the providers/organisations, whilst promoting their own service and networking.

Cheshire West & Chester
Community Safety Partnership

Marketplace stalls included:

- Street Pastors
- Integrated Offender Management
- Integrated Early Support
- Polish Domestic Violence
- Quarriers
- Turning Point
- Fire and Rescue Services
- WHAG – Women's Housing Action Group
- Hate Crime
- ASB
- LSAB - Local Safeguarding Adult's Board
- CWP CAMHS – Cheshire and Wirral Partnership
- Cheshire Cares
- RA RASC – Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
- P3
- DAFSU – Domestic Abuse Family Support Unit
- Community Development TR
- CYC – Cheshire Young Carers
- CRC – Community Rehabilitation Companies

The stalls were set up to provide information, display leaflets and handouts with information regarding what their service provides and included contact information and web addresses

.

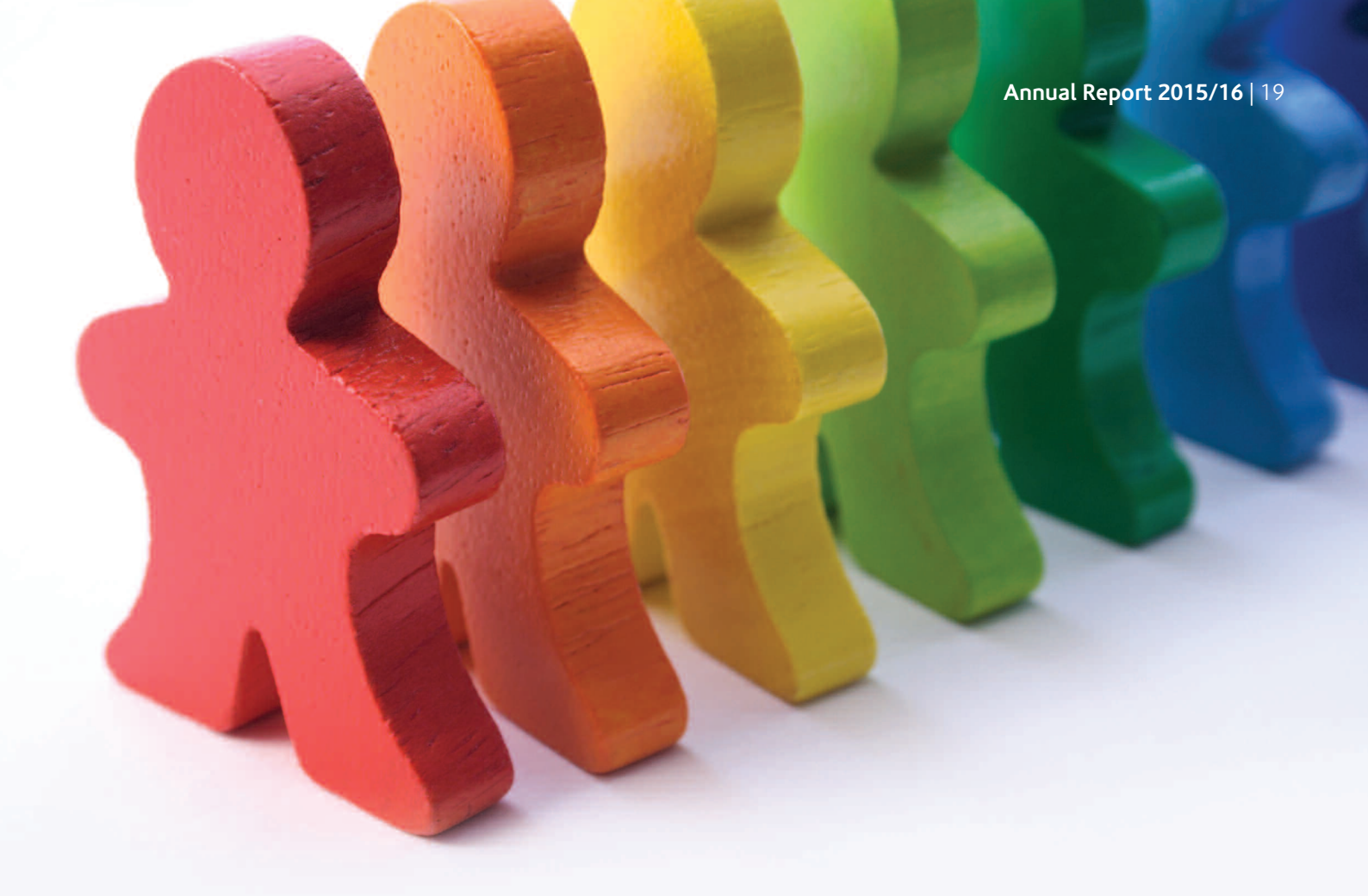
The Street Pastors explained how they helped on the streets of Chester in the evening for anyone who needed some guidance or wanted someone to listen to their story, and had flip flops to give out, which they often give to young ladies at night when they see them walking with bare feet.

The Polish Domestic Violence team explained how their bespoke service offered help and guidance to polish people living in the UK, who suffered from domestic violence and how they work to breakdown language barriers and build confidence, who may have not reported the violence.

Turning Point explained how they provide support to a variety of people who suffer from alcohol and substance abuse, offering temporary housing, counselling, advice around debt and employment to help turn their lives around. As part of their display were coloured needles that they distributed to drug users to have to identify which needle is there's and which was helping to reduce the spread of infection and Hepatitis B.

70 people from different partners attended the event and received feedback from attendees was a really positive, effective and useful, giving them the opportunity to learn more about who is part of the Community Safety Partnership, how services can join up and work together to provide an efficient, proactive and effective service to the community/individuals who need support most.

A dedicated CSP website is in development and will be launched in 2016/17.



Useful websites:

Cheshire West and Chester Council
www.cheshirewestandchestercouncil.gov.uk

Cheshire Police
www.cheshirepolice.uk

Police and Crime Commissioner
www.police.uk/cheshire/pcc/

Probation
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-probation-service

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Cheshire West & Chester
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Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in audio, braille, large print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at **equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**

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