



# **Community Safety Strategy 2016 to 2019**

Broadland is a great place to live and work – it is picturesque and peaceful with a growing economy. Our vision for the future is to grow a strong and vibrant Broadland, with more jobs, more homes and more opportunities for all. For the next three years our key ambitions are:

- To deliver economic success in our area;
- To achieve environmental excellence in everything we do;
- To plan and provide well housed communities;
- To increase levels of health & wellbeing;
- To keep people safe and secure;
- To continue to provide high quality, value for money services on our own or as a trusted partner.

This Strategy has been developed to guide and shape our work to meet the ambition of keeping people safe and secure.

Broadland is a growing district both in terms of new housing developments and infrastructure. This has the potential to attract new residents into the area to live in the newly formed communities. We need to ensure they are designed safely and that residents living there are aware of how to report any community safety issues. We will also need to promote the work of our partnership, key safety messages and the services that are available in order to minimise potential crime and anti-social behaviour risks.

Together with partners and agencies such as police, public health, health specialist, fire & rescue services and schools, we will prioritise the issues that are likely to cause the most harm to our residents. In Broadland we will have a particular focus on domestic abuse and high risk victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

### ***What is community safety?***

Community safety encompasses a wide range of issues and is constantly evolving to take into account new developments, legislation, reports and reform. To Broadland District Council this means protecting people's rights to live in confidence and without fear for their own or other people's safety. It is about being able to feel safe at home, at work, in the park, walking down the street, at the shops, or in a country lane – in fact, anywhere in the District.

This strategy outlines the main community safety priorities in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour in Broadland. These priorities have been informed by the latest partnership *strategic assessment* which identifies the current landscape for crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. The views of local residents and businesses are also taken into account and these have been gathered during various community engagement events, police surgeries and Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels meetings.

### ***We will ensure that Broadland remains a safe place to live by continuing to deliver a localised early intervention and prevention approach***

Broadland has long held the philosophy that it is only possible to bring about long term and lasting reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour by tackling the

underlying causes rather than the symptoms. Early intervention works and is less costly than formal enforcement as the issues have not had time to become entrenched behaviour which means they can be tackled more quickly and effectively.

We will engage with the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panels to ensure the voices of local residents and the business community are heard and work with partners to respond to those concerns wherever and whenever possible.

Our Environmental Health and Economic Development Teams will work with businesses to ensure they are supported to achieve the highest levels of safe practice whether that is in relation to food hygiene or training to keep our business community vibrant, remaining attractive to customers and thriving. Additionally, work with the Police Crime Prevention Officers will ensure businesses have access to crime prevention materials and advice to help protect them from becoming targets of crime.

Whilst we aim to protect and keep safe every individual who lives in, works in or visits Broadland, the focus of this priority will be identifying and working at an early stage with those at most risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour and ensuring that adequate support is provided to prevent any escalation of behaviour.

#### **Our aims:**

- To reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system by providing the earliest intervention to all young people at risk of offending;
- To reduce re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18;
- To work with our partners to ensure early intervention services are holistic and provide wrap around support to those at risk;
- To monitor the factors that contribute to offending behaviour in Broadland.

#### **Our objectives:**

- To engage young people at risk in positive activities including mentoring, tots to teens activities; apprenticeships and diversionary projects delivered in conjunction with our partners;
- To deliver consistent education and awareness messages to prevent involvement in anti-social behaviour, bullying and crime;
- To promote and signpost young people and families to early help and support services including Children Centres and Family Focus.

***We will support the most vulnerable in our community by tackling the factors which increase the risk of an individual offending or being drawn in to supporting forms of terrorism and related crime, including drugs, alcohol and mental health, all of which can be a contributory factor .***

The definition of vulnerability is wide and can encapsulate most people at some point in their lives. However, there are well researched factors which are known to increase an individual's risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. National statistics show that offenders are more likely to have drug and/or alcohol abuse issues and a high proportion of people entering the criminal justice system

have mental health needs. We recognise that our resources are limited and therefore, must be targeted towards those who are most vulnerable and /or at the greatest risk of harm or offending in order to prevent offending or re-offending behaviour.

Under the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015, a new duty was placed on local authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people supporting or being drawn in to terrorism, whether that is animal rights, environmentalist or far right ideologies. To this end, the Authority will deliver awareness training to its staff, members, associates and partners so they are able to identify when someone may be being exposed to extremist viewpoints. Furthermore, working with our partners across the county, we will provide support to prevent that person taking action to which supports those viewpoints.

#### **Our aims:**

- To ensure support services in Broadland are both accessible and effective to meet the needs of our residents;
- To reduce offending associated with drugs and alcohol;
- To identify at the earliest stage those people who have mental health needs;
- To prevent vulnerable people being drawn into supporting or becoming involved in terrorism or related crime.

#### **Our objectives:**

- To ensure referral mechanisms for support services are appropriately promoted;
- To work with our partners to ensure that support services and processes are joined up and accessible at the time of need;
- To ensure the referral mechanisms are in place and robust;
- To signpost or help access to appropriate support services to minimise/reduce risk.

#### ***Tackle the issues which cause the most harm to residents of Broadland, with a focus on domestic abuse in all its forms***

Domestic Abuse is defined as “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

Psychological      physical      sexual      financial      emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

**Our aims:**

- To increase the levels of reported domestic abuse, with an emphasis on earlier disclosure;
- To provide effective support to victims and reduce repeat victimisation.

**Our objectives:**

- To raise awareness of domestic abuse in all its guises;
- To raise awareness of support services available in Broadland;
- To ensure that support mechanisms for domestic abuse victims are effective;
- To develop community led support mechanisms for victims to access;
- To ensure accessibility to support services across the District.

***Tackle the issues which cause the most harm to residents of Broadland, with a focus on anti-social behaviour in all its forms***

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of behaviours from low level noise nuisance to targeted harassment. It is subjective in nature and behaviours that are deemed anti-social by one individual or community may not be seen to be so by another. Legislation defines anti-social behaviour as "acting in a manner that caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household". We use this definition to ensure our work is focussed and targeted to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

**Our aims:**

- To maintain our strong position as a low anti-social behaviour area and, where possible, reduce the overall levels of reported anti-social behaviour in Broadland;
- To identify high risk victims of anti-social behaviour and provide effective support.

**Our objectives:**

- Deal with anti-social behaviour complaints quickly and effectively utilising effective case management;
- To provide support to victims to minimise risk of harm to them;
- To encourage residents to report anti-social behaviour;
- To deliver effective communications messages to raise awareness and prevent incidents occurring;
- To ensure perpetrators are tackled effectively using an incremental approach to avoid unnecessary criminalisation, particularly where young people are involved.

***We will develop and build community resilience in our communities***

Each individual has a part to play in making communities safe. It relates to quality of life and encourages individuals to seek the most favourable opportunities available to them, to enable them to live their lives safely and without fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Using our Emergency Planning Team and community volunteers, we will ensure communities are equipped and supported at times of risk whether that is from adverse weather (flooding) or other emergency situations that may arise to ensure people and their properties or businesses are kept safe and secure.

**Our aims:**

- To break the cycle of factors associated with crime and ASB;
- To create a platform from which communities and individuals can thrive.

**Our objectives:**

- To offer wide ranging support to communities and individuals to keep them safe and secure;
- To act as an 'enabler' to community groups, parish and town councils and our partners by working with or supporting them to deliver sustainable problem-solved projects in the community;
- To provide timely, relevant and accurate information to communities and organisations to help them be less susceptible to crime.

**Equalities**

Broadland aims to ensure that all members of the community are served effectively and all our activities and plans consider implications for a variety of different groups and communities. We will work to ensure that people are not excluded or disadvantaged because of their race, gender, disability, age, religion or sexual orientation.