

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Community Development

REPORT NUMBER: **J28**

TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 26 May 2009

BABERGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REVIEW

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.2 To detail the work of the Babergh Community Safety Partnership. This report concerns the activities of this key partnership for 2008/09 along with details of reported crime levels in comparison to the previous year.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the content of the report be noted.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the content of this report.

4. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The nature of this report is such that a risk assessment is not required as the committee is not being asked to make a decision or agree any recommendations.

5. **KEY INFORMATION**

The Community Safety Partnership

- 5.1 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (referred to in Suffolk as Community Safety Partnerships) were formed by Local Authorities following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Nationally structures vary, but in Suffolk all the local authorities at district/borough level have adopted similar models; a Responsible Authorities Group (RAG), which principally has a strategic remit and in Babergh is chaired by Nick Ridley (Chairman of Strategy Committee) with Martyn Booth, member for Sudbury South, as vice-chair; and an Officer Working Group (OWG), chaired by Paul Little CS&L Manager, which principally has operational responsibilities. Suffolk County Council provides a supporting strategic role. Both groups include key partners from the Police, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, Fire Service, Suffolk County Council and the Primary Care Trust.

Strategic Assessment and Action Plan 2008

- 5.2 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) undertakes annual strategic assessments and action planning to ensure that its activities are focused on those areas of most local relevance and need. The strategic assessment itself is undertaken by Suffolk County Council on behalf of all CSPs in Suffolk and is a comprehensive audit of information about crime and disorder in Suffolk. The assessment also looks to make localised recommendations (for each CSP area), which are then considered by the CSP and a full action plan is developed. A joint planning event with the CSPs strategic and operational groups (RAG and OWG) was undertaken in February 2008 with a full action being formulated and implemented from April 2008.
- 5.3 The action plan for 2008/09 took a thematic stance, the CSP deciding that to organise actions around particular themes, arising from consideration of the strategic assessment, gave a better opportunity for a comprehensive approach to problem solving rather than a narrower focus on specific crime types. The themes adopted were:
- Town Centre Management and The Night-Time Economy
 - Anti-Social Behaviour and Engagement with Young People
 - Enhancing Community Safety
 - Alcohol and Other Substance Misuse
 - Domestic Abuse
- 5.4 In addition to the adoption of this thematic approach the CSP decided to review the way it was allocating resources, moving from a rather reactive bidding system to a more pro-active commissioning model, closely aligned to the themes and underlying actions points of the action plan. The resources come from LAA funding and do not involve the allocation of any Council budgets.

Action taken by the Community Safety Partnership

- 5.5 Town Centre Management & The Night-Time Economy – the key actions under this theme have been:
- The establishment of a joint tactical plan between the Police and the Council, focusing on identified hotspot areas and maximising the use of targeted patrolling, the CCTV system and gathering intelligence on persistent offenders.
 - A variety of activity, including education sessions in schools and commissioned campaigns to promote and encourage responsible drinking.
 - The inclusion of the specific issue of town centre alcohol fuelled crime as part of LDF consultation, with a view to developing long term strategies around planning a more mixed and diverse night-time economy (i.e. beyond the pub monoculture).

5.6 Anti-Social Behaviour & Engagement with Young People – The key actions have been:

- Initiatives to build upon existing work by the Council to positively engage with young people, including arts based projects with CSV media and the New Wolsey Theatre, providing both positive activities for young people and looking to work with local communities on establishing longer term provision. These projects also aim to build a communicative bridge between generations.
- Building on and further enhancing cooperation between agencies to tackle ASB (adults and young people), with marked increases in actions such as the issuing of ABCs.
- An increase in the number of individual referrals (almost double last years' numbers) to the Council's BeActive scheme, none of whom have come to notice for ASB of criminal activity since being referred.
- Financial support for excluded pupil centre at Sudbury Upper School.

5.7 Enhancing Community Safety – The key actions have been:

- Crime reduction initiatives targeting vehicle crime, use of false identification to obtain alcohol and support for area based operations (e.g. impact day and targeted work in Sudbury around Mayflower Way).
- Support for the development of pub-watch, particularly in the Sudbury area (Hadleigh's pub watch functioning well).
- Support for Western LSP campaigns to promote responsible alcohol use e.g. 'Wasted' campaign

5.8 Alcohol and Other Substance Misuse – The key actions have been:

- Delivery of a range of events giving harm reduction advice and information on alcohol and drug use.
- Working with Western and Babergh East LSP to deliver test purchase operations to tackle the sale of alcohol to under-aged persons.
- Promoting responsible alcohol use through directly commissioned campaigns and establishing media partnership with Town 102FM.

5.9 Domestic Abuse – The key actions have been:

- Commissioning and coordinating the delivery of Freedom programmes (aimed at building confidence in victims of abuse) across Babergh.
- Commissioning of drama project aimed at young people, raising awareness of the issues involved and support for Babergh DV forum on fundraising/awareness raising events (e.g. white ribbon week).
- Using publicity and the media to raise awareness.

Ongoing Challenges

- 5.10 There are three key areas, detailed in the action plan where progress has stalled or has not been as rapid as we would like. It's important to be honest and open about what progress has been made and where progress has faltered. The areas of concern are:
- Better coordinated action against perpetrators of domestic violence – this is a key area as domestic violence offences account for a large proportion all violence. There are also implication for wider family and child development. Although a MARAC (multi-agency groups that coordinate action against the most serious DV cases) has recently been established in the Western area of Suffolk as has a specialist domestic violence court at Bury St Edmunds, these mechanisms only deal with a very small proportion of cases. There is a need to develop local perpetrator intervention schemes to ensure that as much as possible is done to tackle the issue at all levels. Having said that, building confidence in victims is key and there has been good work done in this area with the implementation of Freedom Programmes.
 - Communication with the public – Although some good efforts have been made via ‘street-meets’ and other SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) led actions, as a partnership there is a greater need to both communicate to and facilitate communication from the public. This is a key factor in building confidence in the public, that the authorities are engaging with the issues that affect them most. We have commissioned and otherwise supported some important campaigns, however with regard to the promotion of responsible alcohol use in particular, there is a need for a more comprehensive approach. PR and media releases also need to be improved in this regard.
 - Giving young people a stake in their communities – there has been some good work done in this area by Babergh with exciting and innovative initiatives in Glemsford and currently developing well in Shotley. This gives a firm foundation to build upon and develop a more partnership based approach. We also need to work more closely with Parish and Town Councils and do more as a district council to engage young people with local democracy and decision making.

Levels of Crime and other indicators

- 5.11 There are principally two measures used to assess the performance of CSPs in regard to levels of reported crime; the actual number of reports and how those numbers compare to other similar local authority areas nationally (the most similar families group).
- 5.12 Reported Crime – overall levels of reported crime is static in Babergh, following a 4.5% reduction in 2007/08 (in comparison with the previous year). The numbers of reports are almost identical to the figures for 2007/08 (3 more recorded offences for the year across all crime types); thus the good progress made has been maintained, despite concerns that economic conditions would lead to an increase in crime. Within those overall figures there are some significant changes that should be highlighted. Theft from Motor vehicles and other thefts are down by 10.5% and 8.5% respectively. There has been a particular focus on CSP driven crime

reduction initiatives aimed at reducing theft from motor vehicles. Burglary offences are also significantly down by 15% for domestic properties and 9.3% for other property. The only crime category to show a significant increase is that of violence against the person, where reports have risen by 12%; however there is evidence to suggest that this rise is at least partly due to an increased focus, through CSP driven activity, on hotspots associated with crime generated by alcohol use. There have, for example, been significant increases in the use of fixed penalty notices by the Police and other direct reports from the Police whilst patrolling hotspots. Crimes that previously might go unrecorded. A comparison of FPNs issued during the first three quarters of 07/08, with the first three quarters of 08/09 (Qrt 4 was not available at the time of writing), shows a 36% increase. Violent offences reported directly by the Police have increased by 80% (for the period up to December 2008, compared with the previous year). This suggests that a good proportion of the increase in reports is as a result of increased pro-active enforcement, rather than an increase in the actual level of violence.

5.13 Comparisons with most similar families group – The overall picture is a positive one, in all but one category we are below the averages for similar local authorities. We are significantly below the averages for the most similar families group in the following categories:

- most serious violence - (where we are currently the best performing local authority – this puts the issue of increased numbers of reports in a proper context).
- Assault with less serious Injury.
- Robbery.
- Domestic Burglary Babergh.

The only area where we are above the average is that of criminal damage, which remains a concern and focus of the CSP for the coming year.

6. **APPENDICES**

Babergh CSP Action Plan 2008/09.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO**

None.

CONTACT: Paul Little
Community Safety and Leisure Manager

EMAIL: paul.little@babergh.gov.uk

Babergh CSP – Strategic Assessment 2008

Action Plan

Priority Themes	Town Centre Management & The Night-Time Economy	Anti-Social Behaviour & Engagement with Young People	Enhancing Community Safety	Alcohol & Other Substance Misuse	Domestic Abuse
Action Areas (Long and Short Term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the night-time economy • Promote and Encourage responsible drinking • Enforcement action against persistent ‘offenders’ • Planning a mixed and diverse social economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving young people a stake in their communities • Effective and efficient ASB casework • Preventing and deterring • Tackling negative perceptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime reduction initiatives • Personal safety & crime prevention advice • Publicity/ Campaigns • Community Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Harm reduction • Promoting responsible alcohol use • Arrest referral/conditional cautioning (Alcohol) • Promoting responsibly management of licensed premises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building confidence in victims of abuse • Effective perpetrator intervention • Raising awareness • Education for young people
Areas of Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal damage • VIAPP • Public disorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB • Criminal Damage • Public Disorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisitive crime • Criminal Damage • ASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Damage • Public Disorder • VIAPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence • Violent offences • Child abuse/ Neglect
Lead Officer	Paul Little	Sally Watson	Ann Scott	Julia Catterwell	Shirley Osbourne
Main Partner Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC & Town Councils • Police • Licensees • Business community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Town and Parish Councils • Police • YOS • Youth & Connexions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Town and Parish Councils • Police • SCC • Fire Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC • Police • Licensees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC • Babergh DV Forum • BDC • Police
Overarching Themes	<p style="margin: 0;">C O M M U N I C A T I O N S</p> <p style="margin: 0;">C O M M U N I T Y E N G A G E M E N T</p>				

THEME: ENHANCING COMMUNITY SAFETY
LEAD OFFICER/GROUP: ANN SCOTT/OWG

Action Areas	Project Aims	Outcomes	Indicators	Time-Scales	Project Lead	Core Partners
Crime/ASB Reduction Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop graffiti database Develop graffiti leaflet Develop test purchase operations for underage sales Develop interactive workshops for schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and tackle persistent offenders Tackle problematic underage alcohol use-also spray cans, knives etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of offenders identified No of test purchase operations No of warning/prosecutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing Within next 12 months Within next 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Scott Ongoing Ann Scott Ann Scott/ Trading Standards Ann Scott/ Theatre Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC/Police BDC/Police/ Trading standards
Personal safety & crime prevention advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue advice to vulnerable households (fire safety, rouge traders, vehicle crime etc) Develop self defence lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce incidents of harm caused to vulnerable people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Scott Ann Scott/Self Defence Instructors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC/Police/Fire Service/SCC
Publicity/ Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop safer driving campaign General Safer Suffolk campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce alcohol related RTCs Decrease fear of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of RTC Public perception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Scott 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC/Police/Fire Service/SCC
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage parish councils to include young people in 'decision making' Develop consultation exercises to engage the public to identify issues of concern and encourage them to take control of community Develop unpaid work scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring young people and the wider community together Engage in two way communication between the LA and the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of Parish councils approached No of consultation events and feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing Within next 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Scott Ann Scott Ann Scott/Probation Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC/Parish & Town Cllr/ Connexions BDC/BCT Probation Service

THEME: ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE**LEAD OFFICER/GROUP: JULIA
CATTERWELL/INTER-DISTRICT ALCOHOL GRP**

Action Areas	Project Aims	Outcomes	Indicators	Time-Scales	Project Lead	Core Partners
Education and Harm reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver alcohol/drugs harm reduction to targeted groups • Develop parent packs • Develop alcohol 'employee packs' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of alcohol/drug misuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sessions/events • Number of packs distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Catterwell • Julia Catterwell • Julia Catterwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/DAAT/Police
Promoting responsible alcohol use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop responsible drinking campaign, specifically in the summer and Christmas period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime related to alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of incidents • Public perception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Catterwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Police/SCC
Arrest referral/conditional cautioning (Alcohol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote within district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime related to alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number issued/attended course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Catterwell/Martin Ransome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Police/SCC
Promoting responsibly management of licensed premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify training needs for licensees • Develop crime reduction initiatives in partnership with local pubwatch schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce incidents of VIAAP • Develop stronger links with pubwatch members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of attendees at training • Feedback from local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Catterwell/Lee Carvell • Julia Catterwell/Martin Ransome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Police/Trading standards

**THEME: NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY/TOWN CENTRE
MANAGEMENT**

**LEAD OFFICER/GROUP: PAUL
LITTLE/NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY GRP**

Action Areas	Project Aims	Outcomes	Indicators	Time-Scales	Project Lead	Core Partners
Management of the night-time economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement agreed tactical/night-time economy management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in number and seriousness of alcohol related disorder and criminal damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Little/Martin Ransom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC, Police, licensees
Promote and Encourage responsible drinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop campaigns and work with licensees on engendering a cultural change in the use of alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in disorder associated with alcohol use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of incidents and public perception of improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Little/Julia Catterwell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC, Licensees
Enforcement action against persistent 'offenders'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically compile intelligence on individuals stopped or arrested as a result of alcohol related disorder/criminal damage and target persistent offenders for civil and criminal enforcement action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the numbers of incidents and publicity on action taken (as needed). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of persistent offenders identified, systematic gathering of intelligence and associated actions taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish intelligence collection plan and populate with intelligence with 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Little/Martin Ransom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC, Police
Planning a mixed and diverse social economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a town centre development plan to encourage progress towards a mixed social economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce the concentration of licensed premises as the main or only social outlet for the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of agreed plan and start of implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to be agreed within 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Little 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDC

THEME: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

LEAD OFFICER/GROUP: SALLY WATSON/ASB GROUP

Action Areas	Project Aims	Outcomes	Indicators	Time-Scales	Project Lead	Core Partners
Giving young people a stake in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glemsford Film Project • Shotley Environment/ASB Project. • Cornard Rede/Raydon Way 'Youth Rangers' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify persistent offenders and encourage them to participate in community events and change people's perception of them • Encourage young people to look after their community. • Reduce the amount of litter and incidents of criminal damage in Shotley • Involve local young people to take positive diversionary action impacting on the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reported incidents of ASB. • Number of Encounter Forms • Incidents of damage and litter reported to Police and Parish Council (litter warden) • Reduce litter/ASB in area. • Numbers of participants for 'Youth Rangers' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Months • 6 Months • 6 Months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Watson/Jill Barton • Sally Watson/PCSO Gibson • Peter Swinney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and Connexions Police/Parish Council • Police/Shotley Parish Council • ASBNO Police Parish Council BDC
Effective and efficient ASB casework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing monthly multi-agency case conference • Be-Active referrals • Time-2-Change referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify main offenders and engage them in services or seek enforcement powers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of referrals for case-conferences and YOS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Watson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police/BDC YOS/Youth& Connexions
Preventing and deterring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage schools in projects educating young people in ASB. Including Firebreak & YOS Group work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate as many young people as possible as to the impact of ASB on the community and the consequences of it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of schools/participants involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 yr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Watson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Police YOS
Tackling negative perceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize positive results and positive actions by young people in media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the 'Fear of ASB' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys in hot-spot areas. IRF Positive media reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1yr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sally Watson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDC/Parish Councils

THEME: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

LEAD OFFICER/GROUP: SHIRLEY OSBOURNE/DV FORUM

Action Areas	Project Aims	Outcomes	Indicators	Time-Scales	Project Lead	Core Partners
<p>Building confidence in victims of abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local programmes, support groups & services to improve the life chances of local victims/ survivors including children • Provide information that supports and empowers victims to make safe choices • Improve safety for victim's wishing to remain in their own homes • Implement MARAC across Babergh • Implement DV Courts & advocacy service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed victim understanding & self esteem to improve quality of life & outcomes for children • Effective & integrated Local services • Safe routes out for victims of abuse • Alternative to refuge accommodation, minimise disruption to victims & children, prevent homelessness • Local practitioner contribution to multi-agency panel • Improved support for victims through process of prosecution of abusers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals, attendees Group & individual evaluations. Services in place to meet local needs • Measures, safety /crisis & agency participation • Schemes/ measures in place • Training sessions for local staff • Improved conviction rate, reduced attrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing • Next 6 months • Ongoing • Next 1 year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babergh DVF • Shirley Osborne • BDC Housing • Marianne Fellowes • Marianne Fellowes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babergh CSP • Babergh CSP/DVF • Police, Fire, Refuge services • Babergh CSP • Babergh CSP
<p>Effective perpetrator intervention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced level of risk & violence to victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals & attendees • Assessment, victim feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 		
<p>Raising awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop staff awareness & level of knowledge & skills • Raise awareness with local agencies and public campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved response to victims. Improved communication, progressive ways of working & professional judgement • Improved community safety & consequences of DV as hidden crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses delivered, participant's numbers & evaluation. Materials provided • Events, materials interest/attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley Osbourne • Babergh DVF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babergh DC/DVF • SCC

Education for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage with schools to educate young people about domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction of harm & effect of DV on young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved understanding of to avoid developing relationships based on violence & abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Babergh DVF	
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