

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB OSC AGENDA

Tuesday, 27 June 2017 at 4.00 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies
2	Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)
3	Constitution (Pages 7 - 8) Report of the Chief Executive
4	Role and Remit (Pages 9 - 10) Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance
5	Safer Gateshead Partnership Plan 2017/18 (Pages 11 - 36) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
6	The Council Plan - Year End Assessment and Performance Delivery 2016/17 (including Five Year Target Setting 2017-18) (Pages 37 - 50) Report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment
7	Serious Violence and Domestic Homicide Progress Update (Pages 51 - 54) Report of Strategic Director Communities and Environment and Presentations by:- Superintendent Nicola Musgrove, Central Area Command Mark Cheetham – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service Julie Crichton – Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Denise Lloyd – Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination, Northumbria Police

Contact: Helen Conway 0191 433 3993 helenconway@gateshead.gov.uk,
Tel: 0191 433 3993, Date: Monday, 19 June 2017

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB OSC MEETING

Tuesday, 4 April 2017

PRESENT: Councillor

Councillor(s): T Graham, J Turnbull and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): P Dillon, P Craig, S Dickie, K Dodds, H Haran and J McClurey

CSS20 APOLOGIES

CSS21 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Community Safety Sub held on 17 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

CSS22 REDUCING RE-OFFENDING

The Committee received a presentation from Louise Houghton, National Probation Service and Martyn Strike, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company on the work that is delivered across Northumbria in order to reduce re-offending.

RESOLVED - that the information be noted.

CSS23 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the activities undertaken locally in the last twelve months to address its strategic priorities (as outlined within the 2016/17 Partnership Plan).

The Committee were reminded that the Community Safety Board is a standalone themed partnership that has the legal obligation to address the key crime, disorder and substance misuse (drug and alcohol) issues that are impacting upon the Borough. The Board also has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual intelligence led Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan.

The strategic priorities endorsed by the Board for 2016/17 were:

Prevent Crime, Re-offending and ASB

(Burglary Dwelling; Violence, Criminal Damage, Anti-Social Behaviour, Deliberate Secondary Fires and Focusing on High Demand Locations)

Protect and Support Vulnerable Victims and Persons

(Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Operation Encompass, Sexual Exploitation, Drug-related Deaths, Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation and Hate Crime)

Addressing Key and Emerging Threats

(Novel Psychoactive Substances, Cyber-related Crime, Community Tensions and Cohesion, Serious and Organised Crime and Suicides)

Cross-cutting Issues

(Families Gateshead, Substance Misuse, Early Intervention/Prevention, Improving Community Confidence, Tackling Complex and Multiple Needs, Dual Diagnosis)

In addition the Committee were advised of work that has been undertaken in the last 12 months in order to address the priorities outlined above.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) That the Committee continue to receive six-monthly Community Safety Updates and also identify any issues/areas that the OSC may want to scrutinise in greater detail at a future meeting.

CSS24 PROGRESS UPDATE - PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Committee received a report providing an update on the work/activity that has taken place to address the recommendations outlined within the Final Report (of the review of Preventing Violent Extremism that was carried out in 2015/16) and builds upon the progress report submitted to Committee in October 2016.

The Final report concluded that there were strongly co-ordinated multi-agency arrangements in place in Gateshead to meet the statutory responsibilities set out in the national Prevent Duty Guidance.

The Review identified no significant gaps but felt that a self-assessment should be undertaken on a regular basis to ensure that we continue to have strong and robust processes in place to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism (and to help demonstrate that, as a Council, we are proactive in addressing future challenge)

- RESOLVED
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) That further updates in relation to progress made against delivering the recommendations be presented to a future meeting

CSS25 PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017/18

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the Partnership Plan which provides details of the strategic priorities that have been identified by the Community Safety Board to deliver against throughout the next 12 months.

The tenth Strategic Assessment was completed in December 2016, in conjunction with identifying 4 broad strategic themes and a number of strategic priorities for the

Community Safety Board to potentially address in 2017/18.

These were then presented to Committee in January 2017 for comments (as part of the statutory consultation) and included details of the revised process that was used within Gateshead – including the use of ‘Management of Risk Management in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) tools, which assessed the potential harm and risk of issues, and measured this against our partners’ capacity and capability to respond as well as how we worked more collaboratively with Safe Newcastle.

The Assessment identified similar issues and problem that were found in previous years and showed that the activity undertaken by Community Safety partners remained appropriate and relevant.

As at 20 March 2017, the Board has received a high volume of responses to the consultation (with in excess of 600+ residents responding). 65% of respondents to the consultation gave a priority weight to violent crime (including domestic and sexual abuse). Conversely, fewer respondents (8%) felt that the ‘improving public confidence’ theme was a priority. Yet, poor street lighting and environmental issues (such as fly-tipping, graffiti, dog-fouling and speeding) were identified as key concerns – all of which are visible incidents which directly impact on feelings of safety and perception of Council/Police to tackle issues.

Following the consultation period, the strategic priorities will be discussed and agreed at the Community Safety Board in April 2017 – and the Partnership Plan will be finalised and made publically available.

It is important to note that some of the strategic themes/priorities have strong links to work overseen by other statutory Boards (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults, Local Safeguarding Children and Health and Wellbeing Boards) and will require a co-ordinated approach to ensure actions are delivered collaboratively.

The actions associated with the Partnership Plan will be formally scrutinised through the Community Safety Sub OSC and regular update reports will be presented to Committee over the next twelve months.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) That the Committee agreed to receive regular updates on actions undertaken in relation to the strategic priorities.

CSS26 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the provisional work programme for the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

The work programme has been developed following the usual consultation process with councillors and partners and picks up on key priorities in vision 2030 and the council plan and aligns with the priorities of the Community Safety Board.

The proposed case study – Impact of Alcohol on Community Safety is an important area to consider which has been raised as a key issue in both the Health and Wellbeing and the Community Safety Board – the OSC will consider this in March

2018.

The OSC were also advised that the Care Health and Wellbeing OSC also has a complementary case study scheduled (in March 2018) relating to Hospital Admissions as a result of Alcohol Related Harm and following both OSC meetings a joint meeting between the two OSCs will be arranged to consider the findings of both OSCs.

The Committee were also advised that they will also be considering Deliberate Fires as a priority area, as suggested by one of our partners.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) That the provisional work programme for 2017/18 be endorsed, and referred to Council for agreement on 8 June 2017.
 - iii) That further reports will be brought to Committee to identify any additional issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.

Chair.....



TITLE OF REPORT: **Constitution**

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive**

The constitution of the Sub-Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair as approved by the Council for the 2017/18 municipal year is as follows:

Chair	N Weatherley (C)
Vice Chair	T Graham (VC)

Councillors	S Dickie
	K Dodds
	H Haran
	J Turnbull
	A Wheeler
	P Craig
	J McClurey

Recommendation

The Sub-Committee is asked to note the information.

Contact: Helen Conway

Extension: 3993

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TITLE OF REPORT: **Role and Remit**

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive
Mike Barker, Strategic Director,
Corporate Services and Governance**

Summary

The report sets out the remit and terms of reference of the Sub-Committee as previously agreed by the Cabinet and the Council.

Background

1. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the aims and objectives of the scrutiny function in Gateshead Council. In particular it should be an integral part of the Council's framework and a constructive process which works alongside other parts of the Council's structure, contributing towards policy development. Importantly it will enhance rather than duplicate activity and it will look to broader issues affecting local people rather than just internal Council issues.

Remit/ Terms of Reference

2. The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee is a Committee of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its remit/terms of reference is set out below:-
 - To perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to the safety of communities and people in the Borough, including the functions of the crime and disorder committee as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations.
3. The legislation (Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) requires local authorities to establish a committee with power to review and scrutinise the decisions and actions of the responsible authorities on a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
4. The role of the Committee is to act as the "critical friend" of the Partnership providing it with constructive challenge at a strategic level rather than an operational level. This role will involve:-

- considering the actions undertaken by the responsible bodies on the Partnership and
- making reports and recommendations to the local authority with regard to those functions
- responsibility for considering any Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) in line with the Council's protocol.

5. The Sub-Committee may therefore:-

- Review decisions, holding decision makers to account
- Call-in executive decisions in accordance with the procedure set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee rules
- Contribute to the policy making process
- Carry out Policy reviews agreed as part of the service planning cycle
- Advise Cabinet as part of the Council's performance management system
- Have a role in scrutinising and developing the Council's Improvement Programme
- Examine the schedule of Decisions

Recommendation

6. The Sub-Committee is asked to note its remit and terms of reference.



TITLE OF REPORT: Community Safety Board – Partnership Plan 2017/18

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling
Strategic Director – Communities and Environment

Summary

This report provides Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with the finalised Partnership Plan for Gateshead Community Safety Board, which provides details of the strategic priorities that have been identified for the next 12 months.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with the statutory Partnership Plan that has been produced, and endorsed, by the Community Safety Board within Gateshead for delivery in 2017/18.

2 Background

- 2.1 As a reminder, members of Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee received a copy of the draft Partnership Plan, as part of the statutory consultation process, back in April 2017 and were asked to provide comments in order to improve and enhance the Plan and to ensure that it appropriately reflected local needs.
- 2.2 The Community Safety Board has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual intelligence-led Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan. The Strategic Assessment is a detailed analysis of key crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues within Gateshead in order to assist in identifying possible community safety priorities. Following a public consultation exercise a Partnership Plan is produced which sets out specific priorities the Board will focus upon in the forthcoming year.

3. Strategic Themes and Priorities

- 3.1 The strategic themes confirmed for 2017/18 are:
- (1) Tackling Violence
 - (2) Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour
 - (3) Addressing Substance Misuse
 - (4) Improving Public Confidence

Theme 1: Tackling Violence

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Violent Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

Theme 2: Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Youth and adult-related ASB
- Prevent Violent Extremism and Radicalisation
- Hate Crime
- High Demand Locations – identified through Problem Solving
- Community Tensions

Theme 3: Addressing Substance Misuse

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Drugs (including Novel Psychoactive Substances)
- Alcohol
- Drug-related Deaths

Theme 4: Improving Public Confidence

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Improving Community Confidence in Services
- Community Cohesion and Engagement

4 Partnership Plan 2017/18

- 4.1 The draft Partnership Plan has been included as Appendix 1 and provides the headline details of some activity that has been undertaken over the last twelve-months to keep residents safe.
- 4.2 It highlights a range of landscape/context issues that will impact on the Board as well as a list of potential outcomes and/or performance measures that will be achieved. Differently to previous years, a section has been included which sets out specific activity/actions linked with each of the strategic themes and priorities as well as details of the demand on Community Safety service. Some additional actions have been included as a result of the consultation exercise.
- 4.3 It is important to note that some of the strategic themes/priorities have strong links to work overseen by other statutory Boards (e.g. the Safeguarding Adults, Local Safeguarding Children and Health and Wellbeing Boards) and will require a co-ordinated approach to ensure actions are delivered collaboratively.

5 Northumbria Police and Crime Plan 2017-20

- 5.1 As a reminder, it is the statutory role of the PCC to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year in which each ordinary election is held. Although the PCC is not a Responsible Authority on the Community Safety Partnership, both parties must have due regard to each other's priorities when setting their respective strategic plans.
- 5.2 The Northumbria Police and Crime Plan priorities for 2017-21 are:
- Domestic and sexual abuse
 - Putting victims first
 - Effective criminal justice system
 - Reducing anti-social behaviour
 - Tackling crime
 - Community confidence

- 5.3 To reassure Overview and Scrutiny Committee members, when developing the local Partnership Plan for Gateshead, we have tried, where possible, to ensure that we replicate similar themes and actions to those identified in the Police and Crime Plan for Northumbria.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 The Partnership Plan was endorsed by Gateshead Community Safety Board on 4 April 2017 and was agreed by Gateshead Council Cabinet on 23 May 2017. Once agreed, the Board is statutorily required to *"publish the Partnership Plan in the local area, bringing it to the attention of as many different groups or persons within the area, as is reasonable"*.
- 6.2 Similar to the previous year, copies will be available electronically via Council and partner agencies website and hardcopies will be circulated to key statutory stakeholders (including Police and Crime Commissioner).

7 Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- 7.1 The actions associated with the Partnership Plan will be formally scrutinised through the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations) and regular update reports will be presented to Committee for scrutiny over the next twelve-months (in line with the OSC Workplan for 2017/18).

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to:
- (i) Agree to receive regular updates on actions undertaken in relation to the strategic priorities (as per the OSC Workplan 2017/18).

Contact: Adam Lindridge

Ext: (0191) 433 3243

* Appendix 1 – Partnership Plan 2017/18

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**Gateshead Community
Safety Board**

PARTNERSHIP PLAN

2017/18

Working in partnership to make Gateshead a safer place to work, live and visit.

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Strategic Priorities 2017/18 – at a glance...

Gateshead Community Safety Board has identified the following strategic priorities for 2017/18:

(1) TACKLING VIOLENCE	(2) COMBATTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	(3) ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE MISUSE	(4) IMPROVING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
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Theme 1: TACKLING VIOLENCE

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Violent Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence

Theme 2: COMBATTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Youth and adult-related ASB
- High Demand Locations – identified through Problem Solving
- Community Tensions
- Hate Crime

Theme 3: ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE MISUSE

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Drugs
- Drug-related Deaths
- Alcohol

Theme 4: IMPROVING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Improving Community Confidence in Services
- Community Cohesion and Engagement
- Prevent Violent Extremism and Radicalisation

Further details on why these themes/priorities are important, what we intend to address them, who is responsible for delivering activity to support delivery of the priorities as well as how we intend to measure our success have been set out in pages 14 through to 21.

Foreword

I am proud to report that Gateshead continues to be a safe place to work, live and visit. The latest Strategic Assessment shows that crime and disorder issues experienced within Gateshead remains significantly lower than the Northumbria and Most Similar Family Group average.

Overall, there has been a reduction in the number of crimes recorded in Gateshead by Northumbria Police in the last decade; while perceptions of crime and disorder within the Borough continue to be quite positive – with a high proportion of respondents to the Safer Communities Survey feeling very and/or fairly satisfied that the local Police and Council are tackling the key issues that matter within their neighbourhood. This is very encouraging.

Despite this excellent progress, Gateshead Community Safety Board – the multi-agency partnership responsible for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending within your Borough – acknowledges that we can always improve.

The Partnership Plan 2017/18 explains how, by working in partnership, we will: tackle crime and disorder, address anti-social behaviour, deal with substance misuse, work to protect young people and families and reduce re-offending in order to build a more reassured and cohesive community.

The Plan identifies a number of priorities for action (based upon the findings of the latest Strategic Assessment) and sets out our shared priorities that we deliver against in the next 12 months.

We recognise that we can only achieve our vision with your help. With your involvement, we will be more able to protect you and your property and hopefully make your neighbourhood an even safer place. As a result, over the next 12 months, you can be assured that we will be in regular contact with many residents, businesses and other involved agencies – and are fully committed to informing and consulting with you about the key community safety issues that impact on your neighbourhood.

Through the strong multi-agency working that exists within Gateshead, I am assured the Partnership will continue to promote and encourage community cohesion – and I am confident by delivering the priorities outlined within this Plan, we will be able to bring neighbourhoods and communities closer together making Gateshead an even stronger and safer place.

By combining appropriate enforcement action with preventative and educational work, I am certain that as a partnership we can address crime and disorder issues – and ultimately improve quality of life for all local residents, businesses and visitors.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all of the hard work and efforts of partner agencies and internal Council services who on a daily basis contribute significantly to protecting and supporting Gateshead residents – and I look forward to replicating further successes in the next 12 months.



Councillor John McElroy

Chair of Gateshead Community Safety Board

Demand for Community Safety Services in Gateshead

On an average day in Gateshead, there are...

- 158 separate incidents reported to the Police
- 43 crimes recorded by the Police
- Two road traffic collisions
- 5+ incidents of domestic abuse involving children
- 1,800+ individuals open to treatment services suffering from drug and alcohol misuse
- 8 admissions to hospital due to alcohol consumption
- 40 offenders with have face to face contact with the National Probation Service
- 10 individuals reporting to the Council as homeless

On an average week in Gateshead, there are...

- 23 high-risk domestic abuse victims referred to the local domestic abuse service
- Nine burglaries to homes and twenty incidents of car crime
- Six hate crimes taking place
- 24 incidents of noise/neighbour disputes
- 11 deliberate secondary fires started
- 20 presentations to Accident and Emergency suffering assault-related injuries
- 40+ individuals presenting to Accident and Emergency more than 3 times a week
- 46 deliberate secondary fires reported to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- 6 x drink driving cases heard at Gateshead Magistrates Court

On an average month in Gateshead, there are...

- 650+ offenders being managed by Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
- 380 incidents of domestic violence and 25 incidents of sexual violence reported to Police
- 153 reports of youth-related disorder
- 12 deliberate primary fires taking place
- 82 reports of littering, 64 reports of dog fouling and 23 reports of graffiti
- 2 deaths as a result of drug misuse
- 59 vulnerable clients supported via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- 100+ ASB cases opened/investigated by The Gateshead Housing Company

Last year in Gateshead, there were...

- 4,800+ Home Safety Checks carried out by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- 51% increase in recorded crime – an additional 26 crimes for every 1,000 residents
- Almost 8,000 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported
- 7,300+ victims of crime – of which 44 individuals were victims 5+ times
- 4,100+ offenders across a 12 month period.
- 53% of calls to Police related to public safety/welfare
- 393 serial victims of domestic abuse (2+ different perpetrators)
- 125 young people supported via the Youth Offending Team

Snapshot of Community Safety Activity in 2016/17

Substance Misuse Strategy

A Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan has been produced which sets out the activity that will be undertaken to address drug and alcohol misuse within the Borough

Drug-related Deaths

Following a concern around an increase in DRDs, over 450 Naloxone kits have been distributed to supported accommodation providers, hostel workers and carers

Hate Crime Awareness

Several training sessions were commissioned from Show Racism the Red Card and 'Be' (an LGBT organisation) to increase understanding of hate crime and its consequences

Supporting Vulnerable Adults

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to has continued to provide additional support to vulnerable adults with multiple and complex needs

Preventing Violent Extremism

Continued to work in partnership with partners and communities to reduce the impact of community tensions and to raise profile of Preventing Extremism

Strengthening Links

The re-alignment of Community Safety has resulted in stronger links with Licensing and Enforcement, Trading Standards, Private Rented Sector Housing and Public Health

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Commissioned several Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to review local practice to ensure robust and effective processes to safeguard local residents

ASB Tools and Powers

Implementation of the new ASB Tools and Powers (including the roll out of a number of Public Space Protection Orders across the Borough) and Problem Solving Training

Training and Development

Delivered and commissioned a range of training / development to staff to equip staff with necessary skill and knowledge to tackle community safety issues

Phoenix Project

Commissioned Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service to work with young people to change their attitude and behaviour in relation to setting deliberate fires and hoax calls

Platform – Outreach Work

Commissioned Platform to deliver outreach work within hotspot locations to offer advice and specialist intervention on drug and alcohol awareness to young people

CSB Structures

The Community Safety Board held a Development Session to realign its existing structures to ensure that it remained fit for purpose

Community Safety Funding

Successfully bid for national funding to increase local provision linked with domestic abuse, preventing violent extremism and hate crime agendas

Domestic Violence Support and Advice (DVSA) Car

Supported the roll out of a bespoke project designed to respond in a timelier manner to protect victims of domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse Champions

Gateshead CSB has continued to train Domestic Abuse Champions across a range of Council services and partner agencies to raise profile of support available

Community Safety Strategies

Working with our partners, a range of multi-agency strategies have been produced and/or refreshed and implemented throughout the last 12 months

Bonfire Night

A partnership intelligence-led approach was taken to help minimise the impact of deliberate secondary fires within Gateshead in the lead up to Bonfire Night

Supporting ASB Victims

Commissioned an ASB Volunteer Scheme to provide help, guidance and support to victims of Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime within Gateshead

Closure Order

Successful in obtaining our first Closure Order which provided reassurance and protection to local residents suffering from disturbance, harassment and intimidation

Task and Finish Groups

A range of time-limited Task and Finish Groups have been established to provide a co-ordinated multi-agency response combat anti-social behaviour in hotspot locations

Strategic Assessment Process

Fundamentally change the way in which we deliver the statutory multi-agency Strategic Assessment process and delivered a joint session in conjunction with Safe Newcastle

Introduction

What is Community Safety?

Community safety involves various organisations working together with local communities to tackle persistent crime and disorder issues that are adversely affecting the quality of life of local people within the Borough. From feeling secure in your home to feeling confident whilst out in your local neighbourhood, community safety continues to be one of the most important issues for residents living in Gateshead.

We are pleased to report that Gateshead continues to be one of the safest places to live, work and visit throughout the whole of Tyne and Wear. When compared to its Most Similar Family Groups across England and Wales, the Borough remains one of the best performing areas in relation to the vast majority of crime and disorder indicators. Satisfaction levels with Northumbria Police remain high; while the findings outlined within the Safer Communities Survey show that almost seven out of every ten respondents feel as though we are tackling issues effectively within their area.

Despite this success, in the last 12 months, Gateshead has experienced a rise in the number of crimes recorded by Northumbria Police. These increases are directly attributed to national changes in the way in which crime is now recorded by Police Forces; similarly, increased confidence in victims to come forward has resulted in an upturn in certain crime categories; while greater emphasis to address vulnerability has resulted in changes to the way in which Community Safety partners operate.

You can be assured that all of our partner agencies are fully committed to tackling the community safety issues facing the Borough – and you can be confident that these agencies will continue to take timely and effective action to address these issues and at the earliest possible opportunity.

Our Vision...

The vision of the Gateshead Community Safety Board is for:

“Gateshead to remain a safer place to work, live and visit”

Context

What is the Community Safety Board?

The Community Safety Board is the local multi-agency partnership that has been established to tackle community safety issues within Gateshead. Along with other supporting partner agencies, some of the key organisations that make up the Community Safety Board include:

- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
(Community Safety, Youth Offending, Licensing, Trading Standards and Public Health)
- Northumbria Police
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
- National Probation Service
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
- Gateshead Magistrates Court
- The Gateshead Housing Company
- Representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector
(Newcastle CVS)

By working collectively together, these organisations have a greater impact on preventing crime and disorder – and develop more effective and sustainable solutions to better protect, support and empower local residents to feel safe and secure living within Gateshead.

What are the Community Safety Board duties?

The Board has a statutory obligation under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work in partnership to address issues linked with:

- crime and disorder
- anti-social behaviour
- behaviour adversely affecting the environment
- substance misuse (including both drug and alcohol misuse)
- reducing re-offending

The Community Safety Board meets on a quarterly basis and is supported by a range of operational Sub-Groups that deliver the actions identified with this Partnership Plan. These Sub-Groups include:

- Domestic Abuse Executive Forum
- Substance Misuse Sub-Group
- Time-limited Task and Finish Groups (including Domestic Homicide Reviews)

The Community Safety Board is required to produce a Partnership Plan every year to inform local residents of the areas that we intend to prioritise over the next twelve-months. The priorities are set following a rigorous intelligence-led assessment of key crime, disorder and substance misuse issues impacting upon the Borough – known as the Strategic Assessment – and involves consultation with local residents.

What is the Strategic Assessment?

The review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed certain aspects of how crime and disorder is tackled by the Partnership. The legislative changes brought in by the Police and Justice Act 2006 no longer require us to conduct a Crime and Drugs Audit every three years, which in the past has determined the strategic priorities of the Community Safety Board, but instead we are now required to conduct yearly Strategic Assessments, which inform our strategic priorities set out in this Partnership Plan. A strategic assessment is a detailed study of crime and community safety and includes:

- Information from all of the statutory Responsible Authorities;
- Information from wider partners and services;
- Information from Overview and Scrutiny Committee considering crime and disorder matters;
- Information provided by the community (including perceptions surveys);
- Information contained within the previous Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan, and
- Detailed horizon scanning to inform future and emerging trends.

The tenth Strategic Assessment was completed in December 2016 and the findings have been used to determine the strategic priorities for delivery in 2017/18. This year, the Community Safety Board agreed to undertake a joint process in collaboration with Safe Newcastle to help identify any similar areas for future collaboration and joint working. This included a joint workshop with key partner agencies to help identify the key issues affecting the Borough and to identify potential emerging and future threats to Community Safety activity. In addition, the Strategic Assessment consulted with local residents and community groups to ensure that the services we offer in Gateshead remain responsive to local needs.

What is the Partnership Plan?

The Partnership Plan is an agreed plan between all partners. It sets out the Borough's priorities and how, in partnership, we plan to meet them and make the best use of resources available to us. This includes both general aims as well as more specific planned action, so we can be flexible to adapt to new legislation, changing priorities, and good practice in the field of community safety. It also lists the targets by which we will measure our progress.

This Plan brings together partnership working on crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending in a single document. Although it is the Community Safety Board who has a statutory responsibility for delivering the actions outlined within this Partnership Plan, we recognise that we must work closely with other strategic partnerships and services to achieve our vision – particularly the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board, Safeguarding Adults’ Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

National and Regional Landscape

Over the last few years, Government has introduced a number of significant national changes that have significantly impacted on the community safety landscape. Some of these changes include: the introduction of directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners, the national reforms set out as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda as well as publishing range of national strategies and policies linked with domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, counter terrorism and crime prevention – all of which have altered the focus of the work delivered by community safety partners.

In the last few years, there continues to be a number of local organisational changes including: the merger of Northumbria Police Area Commands, changes to the operational delivery model of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and split in Probation Services – and we fully recognise that these changes will continue into take place in the coming future years.

Policing and community safety continues to change. Crime and the demand on services/resources is different. Online and cyber-crime are increasing and there is an emergence of complex and harmful crimes such as sexual exploitation and human trafficking; while incidents linked with vulnerability (e.g. mental health problems) are increasing and more victims are confidently reporting issues linked with domestic and sexual abuse. The impact of triggering Article 50 to exit the European Union will also need to be considered from a crime and disorder perspective. As a result, it is likely all of our partners will, at some point, have to re-shape and alter their working practices to be able to respond to this unprecedented change. Partnership working is crucial. It is important now more than ever to work collectively across all public services to ensure that we have the right resources and skills across the partnership to be able to successfully protect and support residents and victims from crime and disorder.

Finally, we also are mindful of the work undertaken at a regional perspective by the local Police and Crime Commissioner and bordering Community Safety Partnerships, and endeavour, where possible, to discuss and share how we can work effectively with these partners and services to help achieve a consistent approach to community safety work.

Consultation Responses

It is pleasing that more than 675 residents took the time to respond to the consultation process and help shape Community Safety priorities for their local area. In addition, Community Safety also made contact with a wide range of local community and voluntary groups and Council services to seek their views and to ensure that the consultation fully reflected issues taking place locally.

The consultation showed that the key findings outlined within the Strategic Assessment were similar to the concerns expressed by residents and partners. However, a greater emphasis was placed on burglary, theft-related offences and youth-related disorder. Environmental issues also were found to be an area of concern for local residents – particularly signal crimes such as graffiti, fly-tipping and dog-fouling.

- Top priorities: tackling violence (34%) followed by combatting anti-social behaviour (27%) followed by tackling substance misuse (24%). Very few respondents felt improving public confidence (15%) should be prioritised by the Community Safety Board.
- 63% of respondents said they didn't think there had been any change in their neighbourhood (relating to crime and disorder) in the last 12 months; 32% felt it had got worse
- 87% of respondents felt safe living in their neighbourhood
- People generally feel safe on public transport during the day; however, four in ten respondents stated feeling unsafe using public transport on an evening/at night
- More than half of respondents (55%) don't feel that ASB is a big problem; while 59% don't feel that crime is a big problem
- 51% of respondents stated they never see police or CSOs on foot in their neighbourhood
- 48% agree that police can be there when needed
- 36% agree that police can be relied upon to sort out a problem
- 59% agree police treat everyone fairly
- 43% agree police and council work in partnership to keep neighbourhood safe
- 64% aren't confident in the criminal justice system
- 92% aren't aware of Community Payback
- 81% are interested in a community messaging service

These areas will be considered as part of the operational Sub-Group work plans for 2017/18 to ensure that the work undertaken by the Board is directly influenced by the findings from the consultation phase. In addition, over the next twelve-months, the Board will be in regular contact with many residents, businesses and other involved agencies – and are fully committed to regularly informing and consulting about key community safety issues that impact on neighbourhoods.

Performance Monitoring and Governance

The Community Safety Board is responsible for delivering actions to address the strategic themes and priorities identified within this Partnership Plan. Regular reports will be submitted to the Board and will allow partners to challenge and scrutinise the work that has been undertaken.

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The actions associated with the Plan will also be formally scrutinised through the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee which was established in 2014/15 to ensure that the Board is delivering its necessary functions linked with crime and disorder, as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations.

Strategic Priorities 2017/18

To achieve our vision, Gateshead Community Safety Board has identified 4 strategic priorities that it will deliver against for 2017/18:

Theme 1: TACKLING VIOLENCE

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Violent Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence

Theme 2: COMBATTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Youth and adult-related ASB
- High Demand Locations – identified through Problem Solving
- Community Tensions
- Hate Crime

Theme 3: ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE MISUSE

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Drugs
- Drug-related Deaths
- Alcohol

Theme 4: IMPROVING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

The key priorities that will be addressed under this theme are:

- Improving Community Confidence in Services
- Community Cohesion and Engagement
- Prevent Violent Extremism and Radicalisation

A full action plan will be produced by each of the operational Sub-Groups, which will set out the specific actions that will be undertaken under each of the priorities/themes identified above and will highlight what we want to achieve and what we are planning to do to meet those aims. It will also provide details of the performance measures that will be used to quantify our success and enable us to respond to changes in the community safety environment in a timely and effective manner. The Community Safety Board also recognises that some priorities identified have strong links to work overseen by other statutory Boards and will require a co-ordinated approach to ensure that actions are delivered.

It is important to recognise that the Community Safety Board has a number of statutory obligations and, although not listed as strategic priorities above, there continues to be a lot of work undertaken to ensure we comply with relevant legislation. For example, as a Board we have a responsibility to deliver activity linked with Preventing Violent Extremism, commission reviews into domestic-related homicides and deliver actions to help minimise Serious and Organised Crime within the Borough. A great deal of partnership activity takes place around these themes, as part of our core day-to-day business, and will continue to be delivered in 2017/18.

Theme 1: TACKLING VIOLENCE

Why is it important and what are the key challenges?

- 71% (+1,534) increase in violence against the person offences within Gateshead, placing increased demands on existing services.
- Northumbria has experienced the highest increase in levels of reported domestic and sexual abuse – with levels in Gateshead increasing significantly over the last few years.
- Despite significant levels of resource and activity, it remains significantly under reported (with an estimated 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men purportedly suffering domestic violence).
- Significant increases in volume of domestic violence victims deemed high risk of homicide.
- Increases in repeat cases referred to MARAC and more than 1,400 children supported via Operation Encompass.
- Increased emphasis at both a national and regional level on tackling domestic violence.
- Build upon and strengthen the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) approach within Gateshead (following the recent success and evaluation).
- Increased attendance at Accident and Emergency from those suffering from assault-related injuries.
- Wider implications of violence – including costs incurred by Community Safety partners, wider economy and impact on health and wellbeing.

What we will do?

- Produce a refreshed Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy and Action Plan that will set out the activities that will be undertaken locally within Gateshead – ensuring that the National Statement of Expectations are embedded.
- Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver activity to support national and regional Violence Against Women and Girls strategies and policies.
- Reintroduce and strengthen the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Executive Forum to review and monitor the strategic and operational response to domestic and sexual abuse.
- Improve reporting of domestic and sexual abuse – particularly within hard-to-reach and marginalised communities/groups.
- Implement findings outlined within Domestic Homicide Review Action Plan(s) and refresh local DHR Framework (following changes to national guidance).
- Work with Local Safeguarding Children's Board to educate, inform and challenge young people about healthy relationships, abuse and consent
- Raise public and staff awareness of domestic abuse and its impact on individuals/communities
- Prevent domestic and sexual abuse by challenging attitudes and behaviours

- Provide early identification and co-ordinated intervention to be able to protect and support victims in a timely manner
- Contribute and commit to the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken to support victims of domestic abuse
- Develop a detailed/accurate understanding of the different aspects of domestic and sexual abuse within the Borough to inform commissioning arrangements
- Continue to utilise the Troubled Families model to ensure that we deliver effective wrap-around support for the whole family
- Work with local health services to strengthen local interventions to help identity violence and abuse at an earlier stage (e.g. health DV worker, IRIS model, A&E pilot)
- Ensure that adequate support and appropriate pathways are embedded to addressing Adolescent to Parent violence
- Ensure that timely enforcement action is taken against perpetrators of domestic abuse – including providing support
- Explore specific work (e.g. re-align resources to target risk groups, repeat/serial victims)
- Review existing training and produce a refreshed directory of suitable training (e.g. mental health, stalking and harassment, cyber-related incidents)
- Review use of DVPO/Ns to increase awareness and uptake locally
- Further develop the Cardiff Model data and identify how this can be utilised locally

Who is responsible?

- The Domestic Abuse Executive Forum is responsible for delivering actions linked with the 'Tackling Violence' strategic priority and is chaired by Gateshead Council (Public Health) on behalf of the Community Safety Board.

How will we measure our success?

- Rate/number of domestic/sexual-related incidents reported to Police and Council
- Percentage of repeats incidents/persons (referred to MARAC)
- Rate of violence against the person offences (including weapon-related incidents)
- Number of MATAC referrals (perpetrators)
- Referrals /engagement with IDVA and/or MASH (including Operation Encompass referrals)
- Victim satisfaction (Police/Council)
- Number of individuals presenting at Accident and Emergency from assault-related injuries

Theme 2: COMBATTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Why is it important and what are the key challenges?

- The Council and partners continue to receive a high volume of complaints relating to anti-social behaviour – ranging from nuisance and environmental-related issues through to calls concerning behaviour targeted towards specific persons/groups.
- Anti-social behaviour has fallen year-on-year – but still equates to almost 14% of all calls made to Northumbria Police.
- Anti-social behaviour can affect anyone and negatively influences public confidence.
- Tackling youth-related anti-social behaviour continues to be the top concern for local residents followed by rubbish or litter, dog fouling, speeding or dangerous driving and fly-tipping.
- Despite fewer partnership resources, resident expectations of how we respond to ASB remain the same, which may lead to an increase in calls for service where no action is taken.
- Rise in the number of ASB cases that involve complex needs and vulnerability – which are more difficult to address (e.g. mental health-related ASB).
- National and local increases in the number of hate crime incidents – with specific community groups known to be targeted – with significant underreporting.

What we will do?

- Work with partners to efficiently tackle the changing nature of anti-social behaviour in order to effectively meet the demands of local communities.
- Be intelligence-led and information driven to ensure resources are deployed through Tasking and Co-ordination into the right areas at the right time to combat ASB effectively.
- Ensure that timely and targeted enforcement action is taken against perpetrators of ASB.
- Tackle specific elements of ASB (e.g. youth disorder, graffiti – signal crimes etc.).
- Work collectively in order to prevent/divert ASB and hate crime from occurring in first place.
- Review how we combat anti-social behaviour within the Borough through Vanguard in order to improve our response to ASB complaints.
- Review the implementation of ASB Legislation locally (e.g. Public Space Protection Order).
- Deliver awareness raising campaigns to demonstrate the impact of ASB and hate crime.
- Roll out further training for frontline staff and practitioners to increase awareness of the ASB Tools and Powers that are available.
- Work with partners to ensure that we are effectively capturing and addressing vulnerability and addressing the root cause/driver of the problem.

- Provide support to vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB and hate crime.
- Develop a campaign that sets out expectations (i.e. what we will and won't deliver on...?)
- Raise the profile of hate crime within local communities to increase the level of reporting within specific at-risk and hard-to-reach groups.
- Review current case management processes in relation to hate crime (ARCH) to ensure a consistent approach is provided to all cases – and ensure that refreshed training is provided to all users.
- Provide targeted education and support programmes to specific groups most at risk of victimisation to increase understanding of hate crime and how to report as well as projects designed to tackle perpetrator behaviour.

Who is responsible?

- The Crime, ASB and Confidence Group is responsible for delivering actions linked with the 'Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour' strategic priority and is chaired by Northumbria Police on behalf of the Community Safety Board.

How will we measure our success?

- % who agree that the Police and Council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area
- % who think ASB is a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood
- Number of Police-recorded ASB incidents
- Number of Council-recorded ASB incidents
- Number of deliberate secondary fires recorded by Tyne and Wear Fire Service
- Number of hate crime cases reported to ARCH
- Victim satisfaction (Police/Council)

Theme 3: ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Why is it important and what are the key challenges?

- Substance misuse continues to play an important influencing factor in crime and disorder issues – and is increasing (with a 44% rise in the crimes involving alcohol last year alone)
- Alcohol-related hospital admissions in Gateshead are the 3rd highest in England
- Deaths from alcohol continue to increase – more than 110 people died in 2015
- 17,598 alcohol-related Ambulance call outs in 2014/15 – with alcohol responsible for up to 50% of all calls for ambulance services on a weekend
- Rise in the number of presentations at Accident and Emergency for assault-related injuries
- North East continues to have the highest percentage of: adults regularly drinking over the recommended limits and binge drinkers throughout England
- Significant increase in the number of drug-related deaths – both nationally and locally, which can have devastating impact on communities
- Increase in complex cases (involving mental health, substance misuse and offending)
- Alcohol remains a contributory factor in many domestic-related fires
- Alcohol use is often linked parenting problems and dysfunctional families
- High proportion of cases of Missing and Sexually Exploited and Trafficked are linked with substance misuse
- Substance abuse leads to risk taking behaviour – particularly amongst children and young people

What we will do?

- Produce a refreshed Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan that will set out the activities that will be undertaken locally within Gateshead to address drug and alcohol abuse.
- Work collectively with other Boards and statutory agencies to lobby Government for changes in legislation and to take proactive action to address drug and alcohol issues at a national level.
- Routinely review our local Drug and Alcohol Treatment services to ensure that those using substances receive the most appropriate and timely support.
- Support national and local communications, campaigns, and engagement work to increase understanding of the potential risks and issues generated by substance misuse.
- Continue to monitor and review all Drug-related Deaths and Overdoses that occur within Gateshead in order to maximise and share potential learning so as to minimise future deaths.
- Tackle drug and alcohol misuse through targeted actions designed to reduce demand, restrict supply and build recovery

- Ensure that we continue to develop and implement robust systems and have procedures in place to support a positive and responsible alcohol trade.
- Ensure robust proactive licensing procedures to reduce the impact of alcohol related harm for the public.
- Challenge the culture and societal norms around alcohol use.
- Improve quality and increase access to low level interventions.
- Support local people to understand the true long term health impact of alcohol.
- Support and champion the development of knowledgeable Health and Wellbeing services that promote and deliver prevention, sensible drinking and abstinence programmes.
- Implement approaches to modify risky behaviours amongst high prevalence or high risk groups.
- Improve the quality of data collection to understand the full impact of drugs and alcohol on crime, health, offending, reoffending and the community.
- Undertake robust offender management to those who have committed drug and alcohol-related crime, making best use of positive disposals/requirements.
- Roll out of substance misuse awareness and overdose awareness training for frontline staff, partner agencies, carers and family members.
- Tackle dual-diagnosis to ensure those who mental health and substance misuse issues receive the most appropriate and effective treatment.
- Increase the visibility of, and access to, a wide range of recovery communities across the borough – including facilitating peer support and mutual aid networks.

Who is responsible?

- Primary responsibility for 'Addressing Substance Misuse' lies with the Community Safety Board. However, additional responsibility lies with the Health and Wellbeing Board, so we have created delegated arrangements from both Boards to deliver actions within this priority.
- Under authority from both Boards, the Substance Misuse Strategy Group will deliver the actions, and provide regular reports to each Board about progress, and any areas of difficulty or under performance. This Group will be chaired by Public Health.

How will we measure our success?

- The Substance Misuse Strategy Group measures a broad range of indicators that are measured on a regular basis linked with drug and alcohol issues.

Theme 4: IMPROVING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

Why is it important and what are the key challenges?

- Improving public confidence and trust in services is crucial to increase reporting of crime and disorder issues and problems within the Borough.
- Perceptions of crime and disorder are not necessarily related to the volume/issues experienced within the Borough – and feelings of safety are often negatively influenced by external sources.
- Evidence shows that feelings of safety can have a direct impact on health and wellbeing – and increase vulnerability / susceptibility to victimisation.
- Increased community cohesion is a fundamental role to be able to achieve more together.
- As public sector resources diminish, we must work collectively to minimise the impact on local communities and residents.
- Recent changes in legislation, national policy and local issues linked with: Preventing Violent Extremism, Serious and Organised Crime, Community Cohesion and Social Integration.

What we will do?

- Proactively engage with local communities to build relationships and provide advice, education and guidance – in particular to vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Work closer with the Voluntary and Community Sector to increase our knowledge and understanding of the resources available within Gateshead to support people and communities affected by community safety issues.
- Develop a Communications Framework to ensure that we have a co-ordinated approach to media and communications across all partner organisations, ensuring that we are proactively promoting positive messages about the work undertaken by the Board.
- Continue to work with the Central Engagement Team at Northumbria Police to monitor and respond to Community Tensions
- Ensure that we work collaboratively with other themed partnerships/boards on shared areas of concern to minimise duplication.
- Develop a series of personal safety and vulnerability campaigns (e.g. internet safety/cyber-crime, work with trading standards around doorstep crime/scams)
- Explore opportunities to support activity to improve community cohesion (and activities linked with the recent national review into integration).
- Proactively prevent people from being drawn into terrorism through continued delivery and awareness raising around extremism through WRAP

Who is responsible?

- All three Sub-Groups are responsible for delivering actions linked with the 'Improving Public Confidence' strategic priority – and will be expected to deliver a range of media campaigns and engagement activities to raise awareness of key issues and topics throughout the next 12 months.

How will we measure our success?

- % who say their neighbourhood has got better in last 12 months – Safer Communities Survey
- % who feel very or fairly safe living in their neighbourhood – Safer Communities Survey
- Number/rate of all crime
- Number of people attending WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent)
- Partner measures

Who to contact to find out more?

Further information can be found on Gateshead Council's website:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/safergateshead>

Alternatively, Community Safety can be contacted:

By Letter:

Community Safety Team
Communities and Environment
Gateshead Council
Civic Centre
Regent Street
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

By Email:

communitysafety@gateshead.gov.uk for general enquiries

By Telephone:

0191 433 3000

(Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9-5pm)

Produced by Gateshead Community Safety Board

April 2017

Refresh Date:

March 2018

TITLE OF REPORT: The Council Plan – Year End Assessment of Performance and Delivery 2016/2017

REPORT OF: Sheena Ramsey, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

SUMMARY

This report provides the year end assessment of performance for 2016/2017. It provides an update on the performance and delivery of the Council Plan 2015-2020.

Background

1. The report forms part of the Council's performance management framework and gives an overview of progress for the priorities appropriate to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).
2. The year end performance report monitors progress against the Council Plan 2015-2020.
3. The Council Plan was approved by Cabinet on the 14 July 2015, enabling the Council, along with partners, to be better placed to achieve positive outcomes for the people of Gateshead and deliver the ambition of Vision 2030 over the next 5 years.
4. Gateshead's Sustainable Community Strategy Vision 2030 was also refreshed and approved by Cabinet on 3 November 2015.

Five Year Target Setting to 2020

5. Targets for 2020 were set as part of the Council's Performance Management Framework, for the period 2015/2016 to 2019/2020 to enable performance to be monitored to ensure continuous improvement. These targets were approved by Cabinet on 12 July 2016.

Delivery and Performance

6. The year end 2016/2017 assessment of performance report relates to the remit of the Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and focuses on achievements, areas identified for improvement and future actions.
7. Progress as to how well the Council is performing in relation to the equalities objectives, where information is available at the year-end stage, is also reported in this report.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
 - (i) consider whether the activities undertaken at year end 2016/17 are achieving the desired outcomes in the Council Plan 2015-2020;
 - (ii) agree that the report be referred to Cabinet on 18 July 2017, with the recommendations from this Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

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Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

June 2017

Council Plan – End of Year Assessment of Performance and Delivery 2016/17

Portfolio:

- Communities & Volunteering – Councillor L Green

Lead Officer: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Community Safety OSC

Chair – Councillor N Weatherley

Vice Chair – Councillor T Graham

The committee undertakes scrutiny and review in relation to:

- Community Safety
-

Summary

This report sets out the end of year performance for 2016/17 in line with the Council's performance management framework. The focus of this report is the new Strategic Outcome Indicators (SOIs) listed below that fall within the remit of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Due to changes to the reporting frequency of the SOIs from 2016-2020, four of the six SOIs are now targeted to 2020.

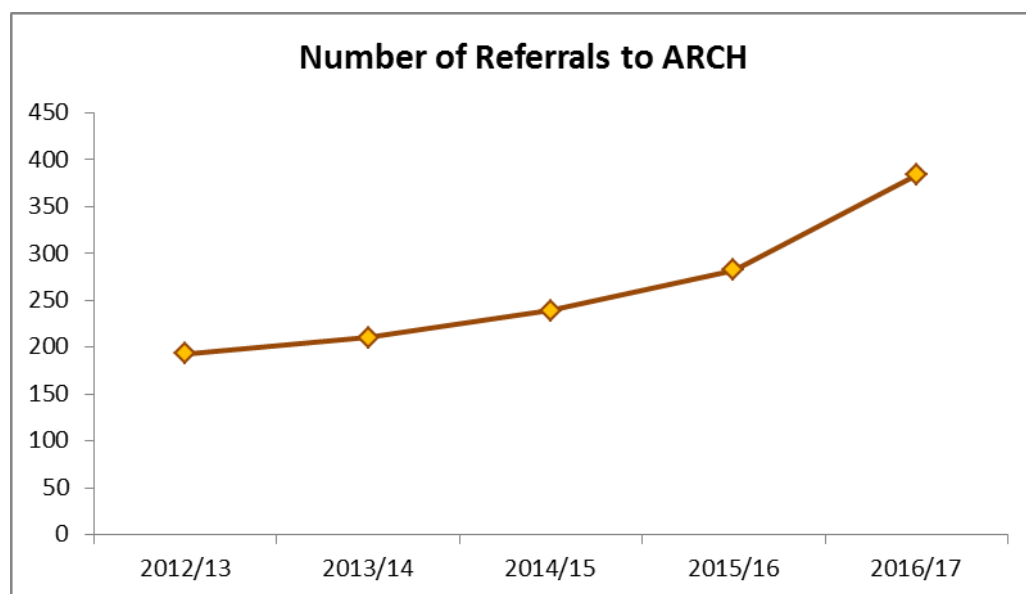
Members received a comprehensive update on all community safety activity linked to the strategic priorities in April 2017. As a result, only key areas of activity undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership or issues identified have been included in this report.

The following strategic outcome indicators for Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee have been devised going forward from 2016-2020:

- LW27 – ARCH Referrals – increase number of hate-related reports
- LW28 – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Engagement - % of high risk victims who engage
- LW31 – Crime – recorded crime in Gateshead
- LW32 – Anti-Social Behaviour – police reported incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour
- LW33 – Perceptions – of Police and Council
- LW34 – Perceptions – feelings of safety

Year End Performance 2016/17

LW27 – Increase the Number of Referrals to the ARCH Hate Crime Reporting System (Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



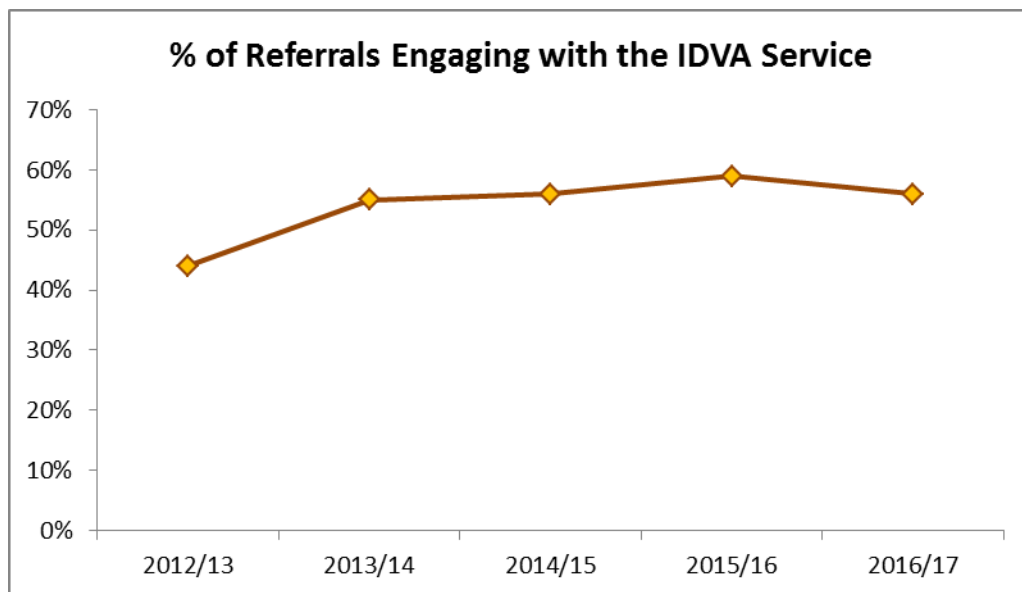
The number of referrals to the ARCH Hate Crime reporting system continues to increase.

Figures for 2016/17 show that there were 384 referrals made to ARCH, compared to 282 in 2015/16. This equates to an increase of 36% (+102 incidents reported).

The target for 2016/17 was to maintain performance. The target has been met as the number of incidents reported exceeds the number reported in the previous financial year. There has been a significant amount of engagement work undertaken with the local community, particularly in the last six months, which has helped increased the number of referrals made.

Tackling hate crime is a priority for the Community Safety Board to address in 2017/18 and it is expected that there will be further increases in reports in the next financial year.

LW28 – Domestic Abuse – % of referrals who have engaged with the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)

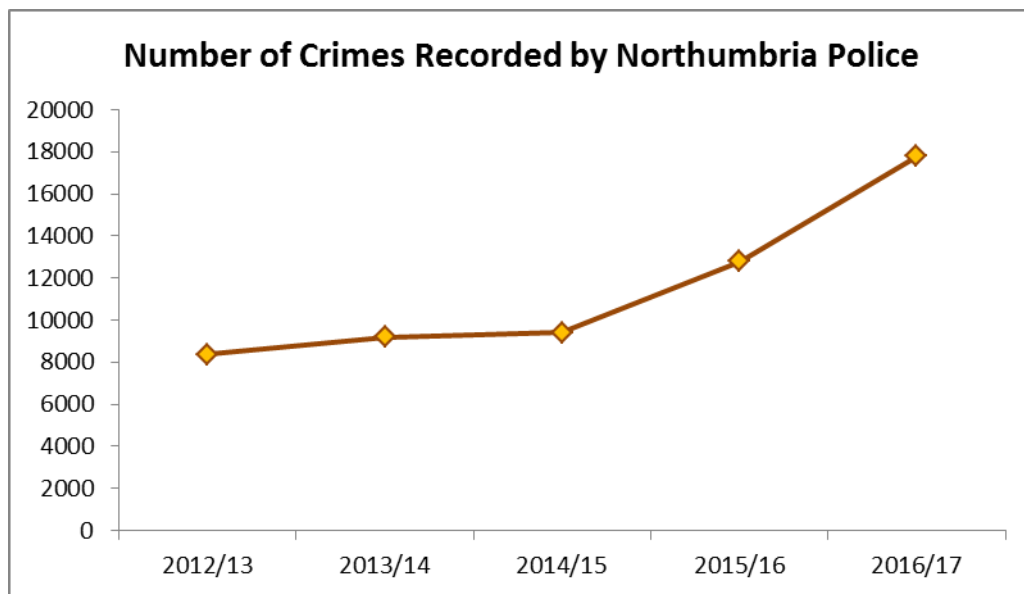


The target for this indicator was to maintain performance of 59%.

The engagement rate for 2016/17 is 56% for those the service has been able to contact. The target has not been met as the engagement rate has dropped slightly during this financial year. However, although the target of 59% has not been met, the current engagement rate of 56% is similar to that achieved in previous years, suggesting that the engagement rate in 2015/16 may have been an anomaly.

Referrals to the service, which deals with all high risk victims of domestic and sexual abuse, have fallen slightly in the last 12 months. There were 1,255 referrals received in 2016/17, compared to 1,414 in the previous 12 months. This represents a reduction of 11% (-159 referrals). This differs from police-recorded domestic abuse, where the number of high risk victims of domestic abuse identified across the Northumbria Police Force area has remained steady in the last 12 months.

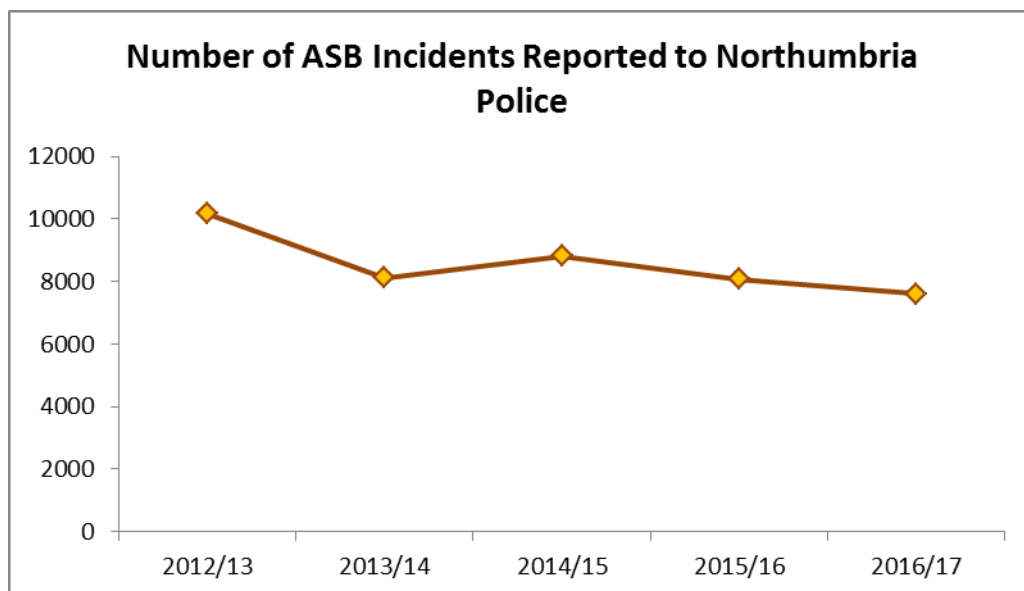
LW31 – Recorded Crime – Number of crimes recorded by Northumbria Police
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



The number of crimes recorded by Northumbria Police has increased during 2016/17. There were 17,804 crimes recorded during the period compared to 12,769, an increase of 39% (+5,003 crimes).

The increase in crime can be directly attributed to national changes in the way in which crime is now recorded by police forces across England and Wales. Each of the other local authority areas in the Northumbria Police Force area have experienced similar increases

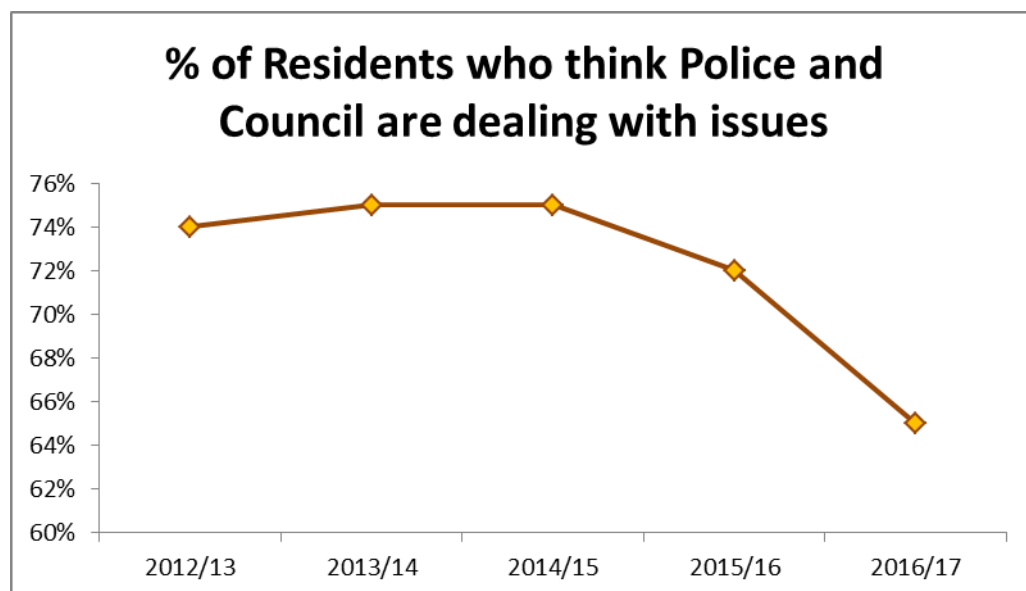
LW32 – Anti-Social Behaviour – Number of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour reported to Northumbria Police
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



The number of reports of anti-social behaviour recorded by Northumbria Police in Gateshead continues to fall year on year. Although no target was set for this indicator, performance has improved during 2016/17. There were a total of 7,613 incidents reported to Northumbria Police during 2016/17 compared to 8,074. This equates to a reduction of 6% (-461 incidents).

Tackling anti-social behaviour remains a priority for the Community Safety Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner, therefore any reductions are considered positive.

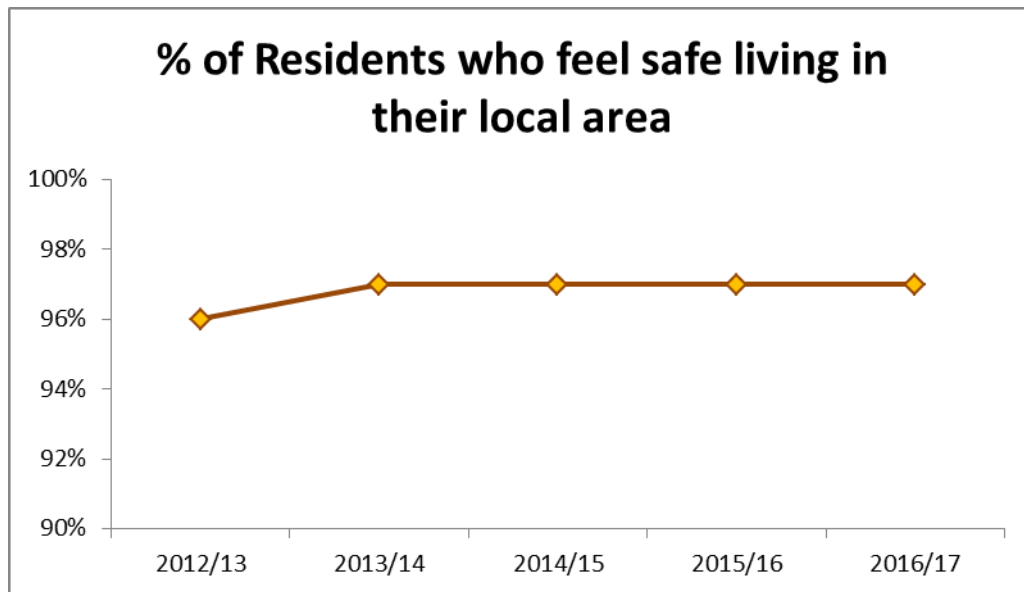
LW33 – Perceptions - % of residents who agree the police and council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



The target for this indicator was to maintain the figure achieved in 2015/16 (72%). In total, 65% of respondents to the Safer Communities Survey agree that the police and council work together to address anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area, compared to 72% of respondents during 2015/16, meaning performance has deteriorated. The target has therefore not been met.

It is not known why confidence in services has deteriorated and, whilst this is disappointing, this is comparable to all other area commands in the Northumbria Police Force area, who have also experienced reductions in confidence in the last 12 months. Improving Public Confidence is a priority for the Community Safety Board to address in 2017/18, so it is hoped this will improve in the next 12 months. A task and finish group has also been established which will identify actions so partners can tackle any negative perceptions of residents.

LW34 – Perceptions - % of residents who feel very or fairly safe living in their local area
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



The target for this indicator was to maintain performance of 97%. In total, 97% of respondents to the Safer Communities Survey state that they feel very or fairly safe living in their neighbourhood. The target for 2016/17 has therefore been met.

Whilst there is only a small amount of room for improvement, Improving Public Confidence is a priority for the Community Safety Board to address in 2017/18, so it is hoped that this figure will be maintained in the next 12 months.

A task and finish group has also been established which will identify actions so partners can tackle any negative perceptions of residents.

This section gives additional detail on the progress that has been made against the outcomes within the Council Plan 2015-2020.

Achievements

Live Well Gateshead – a healthy, inclusive and nurturing place for all

A place where people choose to lead healthy lifestyles, with more and more people across Gateshead living longer and without life-limiting illnesses

Platform Outreach Project

Platform (the drug and alcohol service for under 18s in Gateshead), in partnership with Community Safety, has established the Platform Outreach Project (POP) to help combat youth disorder across the Borough, especially that caused by substances. The project ran as a trial until the end of March 2017 and outreach workers delivered brief interventions to 198 young people over the course of 11 nights, providing harm reduction advice to those who may not usually receive it.

Drug-related Deaths

During the 2016 calendar year there have been 20 drug-related deaths in Gateshead.

In a number of cases it was identified that other people were present in the hours before the death. In order to help prevent future deaths, overdose awareness training has been delivered to practitioners, family members and carers of drug users to help them identify the signs of overdose and understand what to do should they find themselves in that situation. A dedicated session to parents of young people with substance misuse issues has also been delivered.

A clinical audit was commissioned to collect and interrogate the prescribing practices of the extensive 'Shared Care' arrangement for the treatment of substance misuse clients in Gateshead to fully understand the present picture. The audit has now been completed and the recommendations are being considered by Public Health.

Substance Misuse Strategy

A joint Substance Misuse Strategy for 2017-2022 has been produced for Gateshead. The strategy has been presented to the Community Safety Board and Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2017, joins together alcohol and drug misuse due to the similarities in actions required to address this agenda. There are three shared aims and objectives in the strategy:

- Reduce demand / prevention across the life course
- Reduce supply protection and responsibility
- Build recovery / health and wellbeing services

Although a joint strategy, it is recognised that there are some distinctively different approaches required to address alcohol and drug-related harm. Alcohol requires a population approach to address availability, acceptability and safer use. Substance misuse relates to a more specific client group and has a greater crime and disorder focus

A multi-agency action plan has also been produced that provides a detailed breakdown of the actions to address each of the objectives that partners will undertake to deliver the strategy.

A place where those who need help have access to appropriate joined up services that make a difference to the quality of their life

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has continued to support adults from across the borough, ensuring those individuals with multiple and complex needs have access to appropriate services that will help them make informed decisions and improve their quality of life.

The MASH has been extended until the end of September 2017. Northumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner are keen to roll out MASH models across the Northumbria Police Force area to support their increased focus around supporting and protecting vulnerable persons; a project team has been established to lead on the development across Northumbria.

Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) Project

A Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) Project has been rolled out in Gateshead, which offers specialist advice and support to victims immediately following a domestic abuse incident taking place. The service focuses on peak demand times, usually Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening and night (between 8pm to 4am) and, delivers targeted activity within hotspot locations. The project involves specialist domestic violence trained officers accompanying Police on patrols to domestic-related incidents. Evaluation of the project is ongoing.

Domestic Abuse Funding

Funding has been received to support domestic abuse work across the Borough. Projects that have benefitted from this funding include:

- Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse – The Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) approach to tackling perpetrators of domestic abuse continues to take place and the evaluation of clients from Gateshead has shown that following engagement with the process there is clear reduction recidivism levels
- Domestic Homicide Reviews – Community Safety has co-ordinated two DHRs (Domestic Homicide Reviews) in 2016/17 following domestic-related murders that took place within the Borough. It is expected that the findings of these Reviews will be published in the next three to six-months and will highlight a range of recommendations that will help to minimise the potential for future deaths. In addition, the DHR Framework for Gateshead has been updated following changes to national guidance published by the Home Office
- Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Provision – Housing Services, in partnership with Community Safety, has received funding from the DCLG to enhance and strengthen provision of, and access to, specialist accommodation/support for domestic violence victims with complex needs across Northumbria. Funding will be used to increase our capacity of dispersed and resettlement accommodation across the region as well as providing dedicated outreach provision designed to support complex/chaotic clients (estimated 200+ outreach and 80+ refuge clients across Northumbria)

ASB Volunteers

New online training has been agreed for the next round of Anti-Social Behaviour volunteers, who offer a befriending type service to victims of Anti-Social Behaviour. Volunteers are given a two week period to complete the training before attending an induction where they will receive further information on the service, be introduced to key partners and be allocated their first case. The new training is currently being trialled with three volunteers prior to being rolled out.

Community Safety Board and Health and Wellbeing Board Joint Meeting

A joint meeting between members of the Community Safety Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board was held in February 2017 on the subject of alcohol.

Alcohol was chosen as a theme for this joint meeting as this is an agenda that is addressed by both boards, and has a significant impact on crime, disorder and health across the whole of the Borough. Members considered how best to address alcohol-related issues in the short, medium and long term and identified a number of strategic actions to progress in the next six months.

A tolerant place where people feel safe

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Performance

During 2016/17 recorded crime in Gateshead increased by 39% when compared to the previous year, while recorded crime in the Northumbria Police force area increased by 33%. Increases were noted in most major crime categories, although reductions were achieved in burglary offences, particularly in burglaries to buildings other than dwellings (garages, sheds etc.).

Reports of anti-social behaviour to Northumbria Police also during the last 12 months, with a reduction of 6% reported in 2016/17. There were 7,613 incidents reported compared to 8,074 (-461 incidents).

Safer Communities Survey

The Safer Communities Survey, carried out by Northumbria Police on behalf of the six local authorities in the Northumbria Police force area, gathers the views of local residents on a range of community safety issues. The survey is carried out quarterly and asks a series of questions, ranging from perceptions of neighbourhood to views about the Criminal Justice System and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Perceptions of Gateshead residents are very positive and the latest results (to March 2017) show that 97% of those surveyed feel very or fairly safe living in their neighbourhood, while 65% believe the Police and Council work together to deal with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter. Both of these measures are on par with the overall figures for Northumbria.

Strategic Assessment Process

The Strategic Assessment is an annual statutory assessment of crime and disorder across the Borough which identifies priority areas for the Community Safety Board to focus on in the next financial year. The 2016 assessment was the 10th assessment and was marked by the trialling of a new innovative process. In trialling this new process, called Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE), the assessment process was reinvigorated and aimed to capture partners' views more effectively. Gateshead, in partnership with Safe Newcastle, is one of the first Community Safety Partnerships in England and Wales to use this process.

The Assessment identified similar issues and problems to that found in previous years and showed that the activity undertaken by Community Safety partners remained appropriate and relevant. The four strategic themes identified for 2017/18 are:

- Tackling Violence
- Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour
- Addressing Substance Misuse
- Improving Public Confidence

Community Safety Board Development Session

To support the Strategic Assessment process, a development session was held with Community Safety Board members in November 2016.

The aim of the session was to improve and develop current working practices in order to meet the changing landscape impacting on Community Safety partners. The session was very positive, with many examples of good partnership working identified. In addition, there were also some gaps and areas for improvement identified. These include:

- Greater scrutiny and challenge of partner agencies and activity
- Identifying opportunities for collaborative working, either with other statutory board (e.g. Local Safeguarding Children's Board) or with partners in other local authority areas
- Exploring the possibility of recruiting lay members and specialist advisors to increase the independence of the Community Safety Board

Community Safety Board members reviewed the existing priorities and determined which of those should be classed as core business for partners, which priorities required a multi-agency approach, and which were not believed to be a strategic priority. The discussions at the development session, which focused on partner resources and capacity to respond to issues, were a key part of the MoRiLE process mentioned above.

Phoenix Project

The Phoenix Programme is a programme run by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and aimed at young people aged up to 17 years. The programme's aim is to work with young people to change attitude and behaviour, instil confidence and self-esteem, discipline and self-discipline, team working and social skills. It aims to create empathy for the Fire and Rescue Service and teaches young people the dangers of fire, fire setting and hoax calls.

The Community Safety Board has supported two rounds of this programme, which has been tailored specifically for Gateshead. The four day course allowed each of the young people involved to gain an insight into the life of a firefighter by engaging them in practical training and teamwork focused education. Each of the young people involved took part in an end of course presentation and drill; the young people performed a drill in front of their families and each received a certificate from the Deputy Mayor of Gateshead and a Senior Fire Officer.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

PSPOs were implemented as part of Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Three PSPOs – one covering the entire Borough (which has replaced the Designated Public Protection Orders), one covering Town Centre and one covering the MetroCentre Retail Park – went live in early January 2017 and, following a series of public awareness campaigns, started to be enforced from 1st March 2017. Initial evidence suggests that the PSPOs have resulted in some reductions in complaints and problems being raised and a formal evaluation will take place in the near future.

Hate Crime Reporting – ARCH

Hate-related incidents reported to ARCH have continued to increase during 2016/17. There have been 350 incidents reported between April 2016 and February 2017. This is an increase of 34% when compared to same period last year, an additional 89 incidents. The majority of incidents reported continued to be racist incidents, accounting for 7 in 10 incidents reported during the period.

Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Strategy

There has been a range of activity undertaken to improve the local response to hate crime. Training sessions have been commissioned, a number of events attended to promote hate crime reporting and tailored projects working with groups to challenge negative stereotypes, all of which have contributed towards achieving the actions identified in the local Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Strategy

Areas for improvement / Actions to take in the next 6 months

Live Well Gateshead – a healthy, inclusive and nurturing place for all

In the next six months, to increase the number of referrals to the ARCH Hate Crime reporting system (LW27) we will:

- Raise the profile of hate crime within local communities to increase the level of reporting within specific at-risk and hard-to-reach groups.
- Review local case management processes in relation to hate crime.

Actions to be taken in the next six months linked to the engagement of high risk victims of domestic abuse (LW28) include:

- Produce a refreshed Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy and Action Plan that will set out the activities that will be undertaken locally within Gateshead, ensuring that the National Statement of Expectations are embedded.
- Reintroduce and strengthen the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Executive Forum to review and monitor the strategic and operational response to domestic and sexual abuse.
- Implement findings outlined within Domestic Homicide Review Action Plan(s)
- Contribute to the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken to supporting vulnerable victims.

Actions to be taken in the next six months linked to recorded crime (LW31) include:

- Work with local Accident and Emergency Service to strengthen local interventions to help identify violence and abuse at an earlier stage.

Actions to be taken in the next six months linked to police-recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour (LW32) include:

- Review the implementation of ASB legislation locally (e.g. Public Space Protection Order).
- Roll out training for frontline staff and practitioners to increase awareness of the ASB Tools and Powers that are available.
- Deliver awareness raising campaigns to demonstrate the impact of ASB and hate crime.

Actions to be taken in the next six months linked to perceptions and feelings of safety (LW33 and LW34) include:

- Develop a Communications and Engagement Framework to ensure that we have a co-ordinated approach across all partner organisations involved with Community Safety.

Other actions that do not directly link to strategic outcome indicators include:

- Develop an approach to identifying complex/chaotic individuals as a result of alcohol misuse and determine what measures can be put in place to support them (and ultimately reduce the level of demand placed on local services).

- Continue to monitor and review all Drug-related Deaths and Overdoses that occur within Gateshead in order to maximise and share potential learning so as to minimise future deaths.
- Continue to deliver and build upon delivery and awareness raising around 'Preventing Violent Extremism' agenda

TITLE OF REPORT: Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) – Update

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling
Strategic Director – Communities and Environment

Summary

This report provides Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with an update in relation to the ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) as well as details of a project being carried out in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to improve support provisions within healthcare settings for victims of domestic abuse. *It forms part of a wider presentation on violent crime and complements the work undertaken by the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser and Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub.*

1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with an update in relation to the ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) as well as details of a project being carried out in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and Queen Elizabeth Hospital to improve support provisions within healthcare settings for victims of domestic abuse.

2 Domestic Homicide Reviews

2.1 As a reminder, DHRs were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 (3) of Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) and came into force on 13 April 2011. DHRs require certain partner agencies to come together to review a domestic-related homicide (in order to identify any lessons to be learnt so as to minimise the potential for future deaths).

2.2 The overall responsibility for establishing a DHR rests with the Chair of the local Community Safety Partnership and involves reviewing the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16yrs+ has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by: a person to whom he was related, a person with whom he was or had been in an intimate relationship, or a member of the same household as himself.

2.3 The purpose of a DHR is not to reinvestigate the death or apportion blame, but to establish what lessons are to be learned, regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims of domestic abuse and to apply these lessons to change service policies and procedures to prevent future domestic violence homicides.

- 2.4 The refresh guidance, published by the Home Office in December 2016, places a greater emphasis on 'victim prominence' within the process (including further interaction with the victims' family members, friends and colleagues etc). It also includes an additional element, and states that where a victim takes their own life (through suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern, for example, if it emerges there was coercive controlling behaviour in the relationship, a DHR should potentially be undertaken. Community Safety is currently drafting a process for when and how this should be completed, which will be shared with relevant Boards for endorsement.

3 Finalised DHRs

- 3.1 Within Gateshead, we have successfully completed a total of 2 DHRs:
- Adult A (finalised September 2011) which related to the death of a father from his son; and,
 - Adult B (finalised August 2016) which related to the murder of a female from her current partner.
- 3.2 An Independent Chair and an Overview Report Writer were commissioned to undertake each of the DHRs on behalf of the Community Safety Board and a formal Domestic Homicide Review Panel was established. The DHR Panel was comprised of statutory and non-statutory partners, internal Council services and representatives from voluntary and community sectors.
- 3.3 The Panels have identified the scope/remit of each DHR, establish appropriate timescales, for both the chronological documents and Individual Management Reviews, and scrutinizing the various drafts of the Overview Report to ensure that the information contained from their organisation is fairly represented within the report (prior to being submitted to Community Safety Board for approval).

4 Current DHRs

- 4.1 We are also undertaking a further 2 x DHRs (which are yet to be finalised):
- Adult C – relates to a homicide of a female back in September 2015 which involved French national. The final Panel meeting has taken place and the final Overview Report and Action Plan will be considered for approval by the Community Safety Board in July prior to submission to the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel.
 - Adult D – relates to the murder of a female that took place in October 2016. The first Panel meeting took place following the trial in April 2017 and has met on two occasions – agreeing the scope, timescales and remit of the Panel. It is anticipated the DHR will be quite broad and covers a number of geographical areas (due to the residence of the victim and the perpetrator). It is also envisaged that the DHR will be quite high profile, with the potential for national, regional and local recommendations being identified linked with stalking and harassment, social media and use of Police Information Notice for perpetrators. In addition, family members of the deceased appear to be keen to take positive action to raise awareness of domestic abuse as a result of the tragic death of their daughter. There will also be high levels of interest from the Police and Crime Commissioner in the outcome of the DHR and its recommendations.

- 4.2 For reassurance, the Community Safety Board has a DHR Framework which outlines the steps that will be undertaken by Community Safety in the event of a domestic homicide occurring, and has been updated to reflect the changes in set out in the national guidance document. It also provides standardised report and templates that are expected from partner agencies as well as details on how the partnership will publicise the findings from the DHR. This Framework has been successfully followed for all 4 x DHRs undertaken within the Borough.

5 Health Project

- 5.1 Evidence shows that the NHS spends more time dealing with the impact and effects of domestic abuse than almost any other partner agency – and we know that health services are often the first point of contact for those individuals who experience violence (for both physical injuries as well as psychological trauma caused by emotional abuse which can often manifests itself into self-harming, substance misuse as a coping mechanism, eating disorders, anxiety attacks and/or can trigger other physical health problems).
- 5.2 We know through various nationally evaluated projects ('A Cry for Health' and IRIS: Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) by extending the presence of specialist domestic abuse services into health settings, they can intervene at a much earlier stage by reaching victims both who are hidden from the criminal justice system as well as those who have a different victim profile compared with those accessing community-based services (e.g. BME, Older Persons etc). We also know victims who come to the attention of health services are more likely to be at an earlier stage of an abusive relationship and are more likely to be still living with the perpetrator – increasing their risk to further abuse/incident and usually at their most vulnerable. Moreover, domestic homicide reviews and serious adult reviews across the UK regularly identify missed opportunities to spot the signs of abuse, ask about it and act – particularly in health settings.
- 5.3 To address these concerns, we are working in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in order to develop a project designed to improve the response that victims of domestic abuse get when accessing health services within Gateshead.
- 5.4 The project will initially last for three years, starting in July 2017, and is funded by PCC, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Community Safety – and involves a full-time specialist Domestic Abuse Advocate being located within Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the Adult Safeguarding Team. This individual will be the single point of contact for domestic abuse within the hospital setting and will be available to support staff (through providing specialist advice and guidance) during peak times for domestic abuse presentations (with evidence showing presentations are higher late evening through to early morning during weekend periods).
- 5.5 The Advocate will be expected to deliver tailored training to hospital staff and GPs (based within the walk-in centre) to increase understanding and signs of domestic abuse so that practitioners are better equipped to be able to identify, respond to and help prevent further abuse through earlier intervention, support, and referring patients to the right services (e.g. substance misuse and mental health). It is hoped this will translate directly into increased referrals from GPs and health professionals across the Borough to domestic abuse services.

- 5.5 It is envisaged the Domestic Abuse Advocate will hold a small caseload and will be the expert/single point of contact in the hospital for all domestic abuse issues and is responsible for referring patients, and attending, the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference held on a fortnightly basis to discuss actions to support high-risk victims. They will also be expected to make referrals into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Service, as necessary, as well as sharing appropriate information with the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination Groups to ensure that joined-up actions can take place to protect clients.
- 5.6 The project aims to upskill every single member of staff based in Accident and Emergency, Gynecology and Midwifery departments to be more effective in recognizing the signs of an abusive relationship and to provide suitable advice, guidance and support to improve the quality of life for patients experiencing domestic abuse. Although it is difficult to quantify the total number of patients that will benefit from the project, throughout its lifetime – it is likely hundreds of individuals will be supported (particularly if based on national estimates that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience some form of domestic abuse throughout their lives).
- 5.7 Further updates will be provided to Community Safety Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlining the progress and outcomes achieved throughout the next 12 months.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to consider the following proposals:
- (i) Comment on contents of report;
 - (ii) Agree to receive progress updates on DHRs and Health Project at future Committees, as necessary.

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