

**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 do 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 continues 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 twelve-months, you can be assured that 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 J 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 are 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 VCS)

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, 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 Boroughs 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 legalisation, 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 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 a 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 MATAAC 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 and 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/board 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)

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