

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.

Delivery of the Council Plan 2015-2020

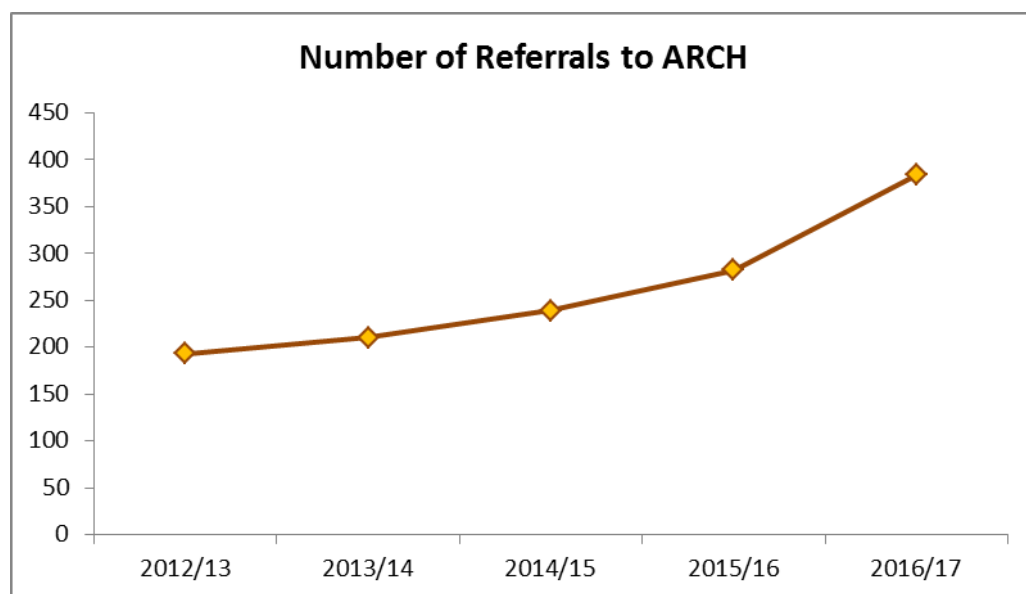
Strategic Outcome Indicators 2016 - 2020

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)



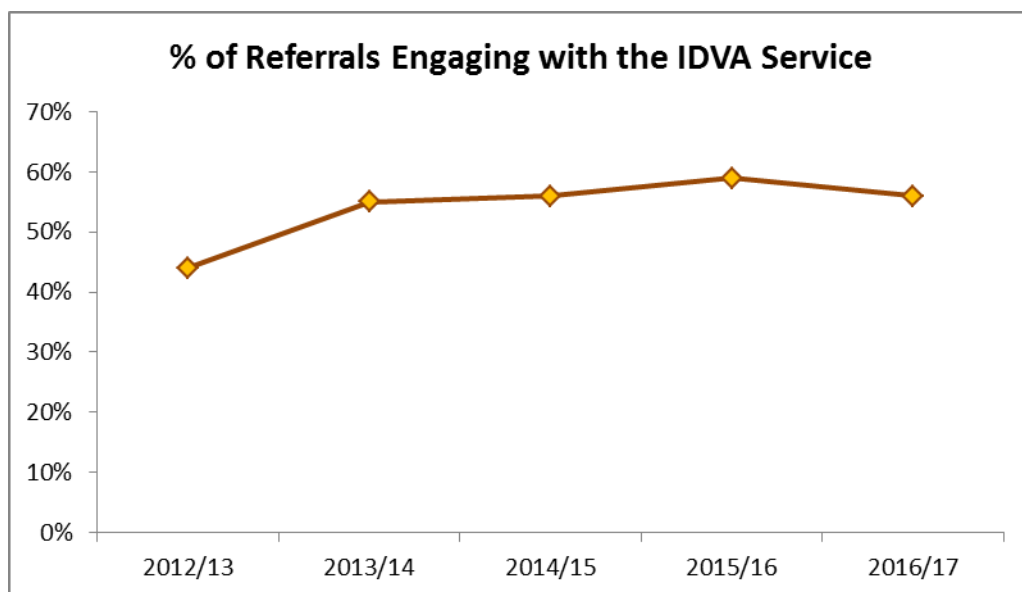
The number of referrals to the ARCH Hate Crime reporting system continues to increase.

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)

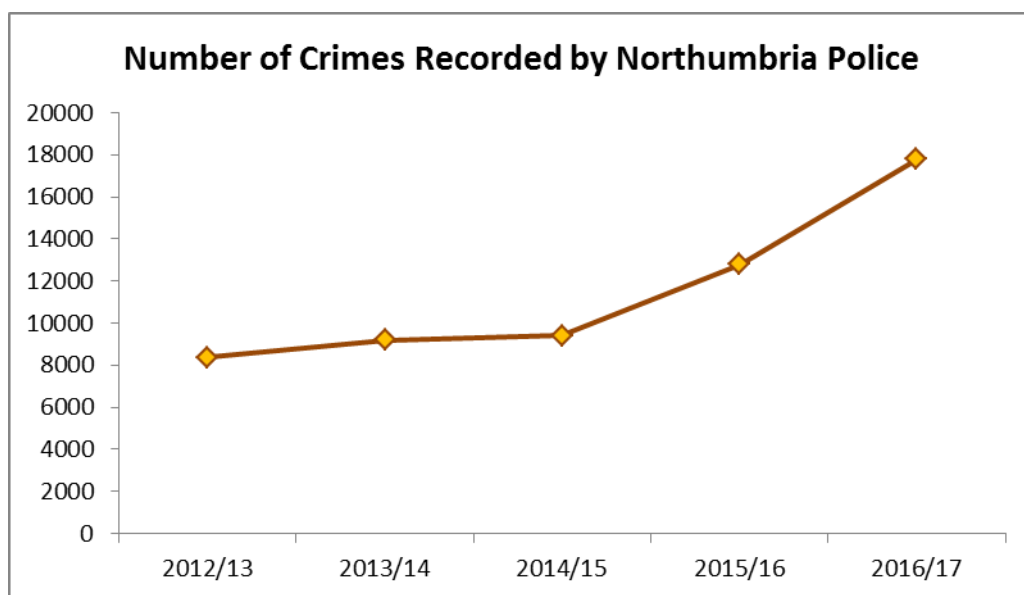


The target for this indicator was to maintain performance of 59%.

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.

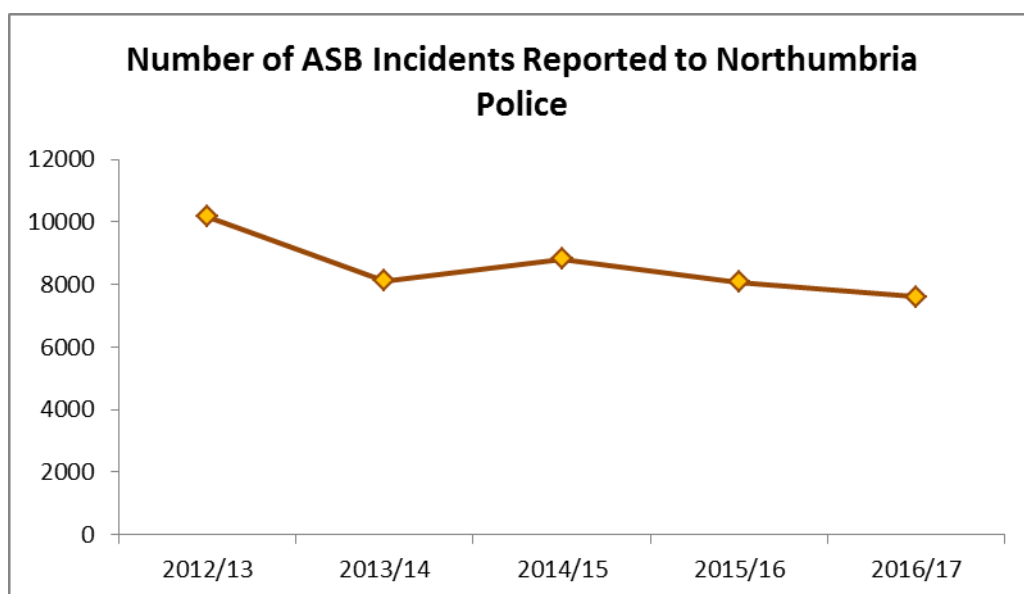
LW31 – Recorded Crime – Number of crimes recorded by Northumbria Police
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



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

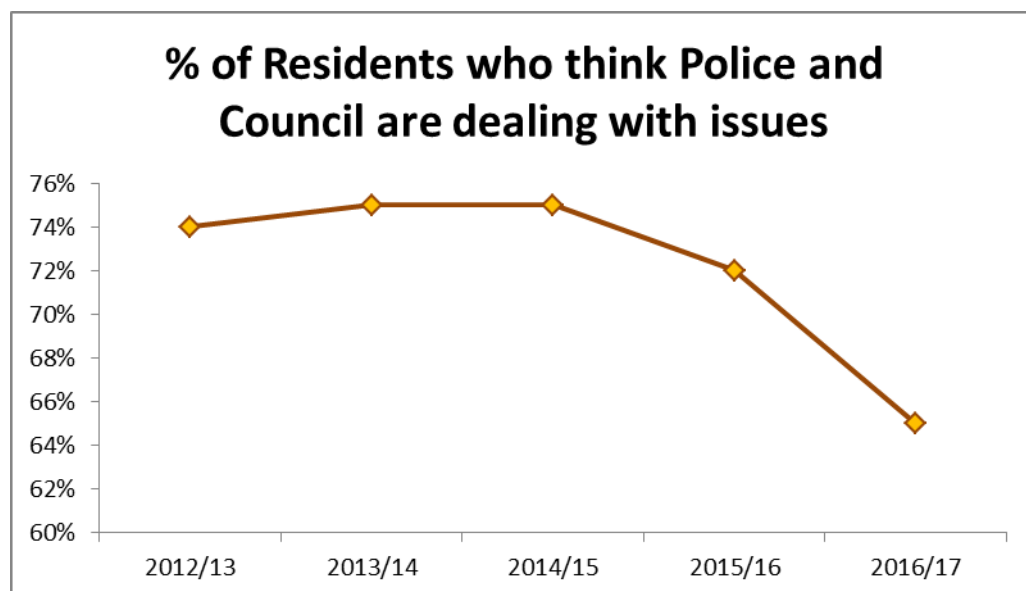
LW32 – Anti-Social Behaviour – Number of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour reported to Northumbria Police
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



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.

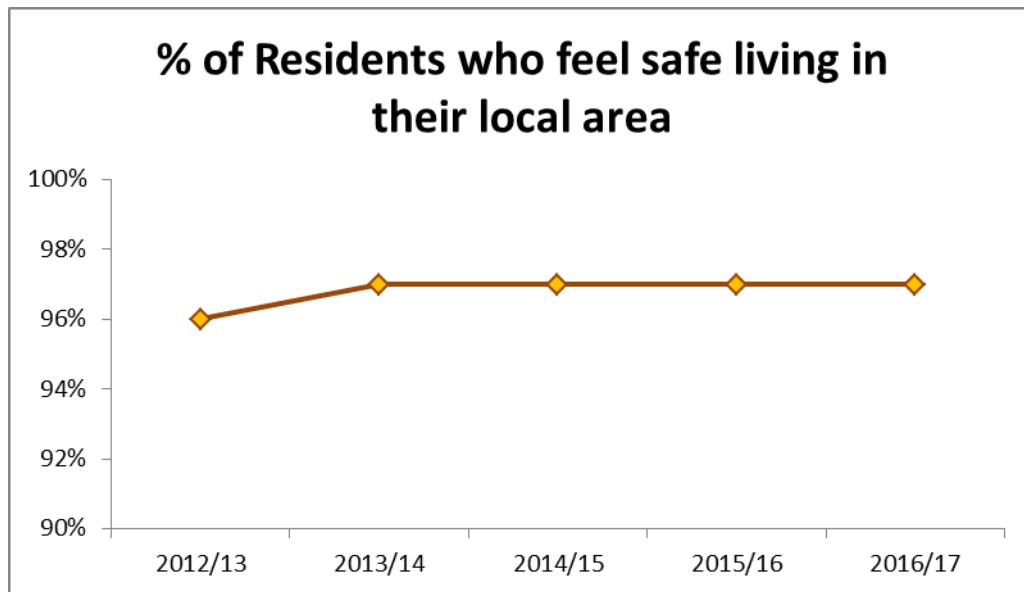
LW33 – Perceptions - % of residents who agree the police and council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area
(Contributes to Live Well Gateshead)



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