

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Community Safety Board – 6mth Progress Update

**REPORT OF:** Paul Dowling  
Strategic Director – Communities and Environment

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### **Summary**

The Community Safety Board is required to attend the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (OSC) on a six-monthly basis to provide an overview of the activities that have been undertaken to address its strategic priorities (as set out in the statutory Partnership Plan for 2017/18).

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## **1 Background**

- 1.1 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.

## **2 Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan**

- 2.1 As a reminder, the Strategic Assessment is a detailed analysis of the key crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues within Gateshead in order to assist in setting future community safety priorities for the Board. The tenth Strategic Assessment was completed in December 2016 and identified four priorities for the Board to address over the next twelve-months.

## **3 Partnership Plan**

- 3.1 As a reminder, the Partnership Plan brings together the analytical findings from the Strategic Assessment, along with the key activities undertaken by the Board in the previous 12 months to set out the strategic priorities that will be delivered upon in the forthcoming year. The priorities confirmed for 2017/18 are:
- (1) Tackling Violence
  - (2) Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour
  - (3) Addressing Substance Misuse
  - (4) Improving Public Confidence

## **4 Current Performance**

- 4.1 The table set out in Appendix 1 shows performance of crime and disorder within Gateshead from April 2017 until 31 August 2017. It must be noted at the outset changes to National Crime Recording Standards has significantly altered the way in which crime is recorded and has subsequently inflated performance figures and makes it difficult to compare to previous years. Discussions held at the Police and Crime Panel suggests that inflated figures will continue until the end of the financial year – with Corporate Development in Northumbria Police projecting increases of between 9% and 18% at year end.

## **5. Progress to date**

### **5.1**

Appendix 2 provides details of some of the work carried out by partners and Council services involved in Community Safety in the last six-months against the objectives identified within the Partnership Plan. For reassurance, work has taken place against all priority areas, most of which is progressing well and/or has been completed. Some highlights include:

- Drafted a Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan for Gateshead.
- Re-established the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Executive Forum and set up an Operational Domestic Abuse Group (to drive forward actions outlined within the Domestic Abuse Action Plan).
- Undertaken a comprehensive review of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Domestic Abuse functions within Gateshead to ensure that the support offered to clients remains appropriate.
- Completed the Domestic Homicide Review in relation to Adult C – which has identified a number of recommendations to improve current practice.
- Secured funding from the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner to establish a pilot in Accident and Emergency designed to improve support for victims of domestic abuse – and have worked closely with the CCG to look at ways to more effectively engage with General Practitioners.
- Established an ASB Volunteer Service to support vulnerable victims of ASB and hate crime within the Borough.
- Arranged a Problem Solving event to showcase best practice examples of how we have collaboratively tackled problems in Gateshead and Newcastle. Examples included: Fewster Square, Operation Kestrel and proactive use of the Anti-Social Behaviour Tools and Powers to protect vulnerable persons.
- Commissioned a series of training sessions to increase understanding and knowledge of hate crime and how to report it – as well as commissioning the voluntary and community sector to deliver activities to address community tensions and cohesion issues.
- Rolled out a series of ASB training sessions to internal Council services and partner agencies to increase awareness of the Tools and Powers available to practitioners when tackling anti-social behaviour.
- In conjunction with partners, we have attended (and arranged) a number of community engagement events to raise awareness of crime and disorder and to address feelings of safety.
- Produced a multi-agency Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan that sets out our ambitious to eliminate substance misuse within Gateshead.
- Created a Complex Offender Group to identify individuals causing significant crime and disorder problems and put in place a range of multi-agency support and enforcement actions designed to curb their offending behaviour.
- Co-ordinated a range of multi-agency enforcement operations designed to tackle issues within neighbourhoods (e.g. Operation Axel and Kestrel).
- Continued to deliver training sessions linked with: hate crime, domestic and sexual abuse, drug and alcohol misuse and preventing violent extremism.
- Arranged a Regional Conference to demonstrate the breadth of work carried out in Gateshead to tackle hate crime and community tensions.
- Commissioned Fire Service to deliver 2 x Phoenix Projects for young people on the cusp of offending and to help divert them away from committing ASB.
- Commissioned Platform to deliver outreach work in hotspot areas for ASB to provide advice and guidance around substance misuse to young people.

5.3 We will continue to progress work in relation to all of the objectives; however, some of the areas that be prioritising and/or be developed further over the next six-months are:

- Continue with to review the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Domestic Abuse functions and identify a new operating/delivery model for Gateshead.
- Undertake a systems-thinking review of how we tackle ASB to ensure we have the right approach for supporting victims.
- Continue to roll out training and awareness around ASB Tools and Powers and to further embed a problem solving culture within Gateshead in relation to Community Safety issues.
- Further develop our communications/engagement approaches to ensure we continue to proactively tackle perceptions of crime and disorder and feelings of safety with local residents.
- Produce the statutory Strategic Assessment (and explore options for a joint assessment with Safe Newcastle) as well as undertaking public consultation on the draft priorities.
- Finalise the Domestic Homicide Review into Adult D and implement any of the recommendations identified.

## **6 Recommendation**

6.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) Comment on the progress made in relation to the strategic priorities of the Community Safety Board;
- (ii) Continue to receive six-monthly Community Safety updates;
- (iii) Identify any issues/areas that OSC want to scrutinise in greater detail at a future Committee meeting.

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\* Appendix 1 – Crime Performance Table

\* Appendix 2 – Partnership Plan Actions Table

## Appendix 1 – Crime Performance Table

\* received from Corporate Development Department at Northumbria Police – 19 September 2017

1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017

Measure (location)	Northumbria			Gateshead		
	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance
Total crime	64050	49400	+14650 (+30%)	8695	6933	+1762 (+25%)
Violent crime	20614	15237	+5377 (+35%)	2711	2080	+631 (+30%)
Violence against the person	17996	13229	+4767 (+36%)	2337	1801	+536 (+30%)
Violence against the person - With injury	5372	5128	+244 (+5%)	666	707	-41 (-6%)
Most serious violence against the person	297	273	+24 (+9%)	37	48	-11 (-23%)
Less serious violence against the person	5075	4855	+220 (+5%)	629	659	-30 (-5%)
Violence against the person - Without injury	12624	8101	+4523 (+56%)	1671	1094	+577 (+53%)
Possession of Weapons	476	420	+56 (+13%)	54	72	-18 (-25%)
Robbery	287	266	+21 (+8%)	44	46	-2 (-4%)
Sexual offences	1855	1322	+533 (+40%)	276	161	+115 (+71%)
Vehicle crime	3318	2543	+775 (+30%)	489	361	+128 (+35%)
Vehicle interference	399	301	+98 (+33%)	66	44	+22 (+50%)
TFMV	2196	1707	+489 (+29%)	348	246	+102 (+41%)
TWOC	723	535	+188 (+35%)	75	71	+4 (+6%)
Burglary	3889	3451	+438 (+13%)	561	437	+124 (+28%)
Burglary dwelling	2452	1383	+1069 (+77%)	372	173	+199 (+115%)
Burglary OTD	1437	2068	-631 (-31%)	189	264	-75 (-28%)
Criminal damage	10566	8915	+1651 (+19%)	1484	1393	+91 (+7%)
Drug crime	1103	1334	-231 (-17%)	133	163	-30 (-18%)
Other crime	24536	17899	+6637 (+37%)	3313	2496	+817 (+33%)
Theft and handling	15094	12364	+2730 (+22%)	2039	1699	+340 (+20%)
Shoplifting	6138	5077	+1061 (+21%)	900	757	+143 (+19%)
Theft from the person	691	438	+253 (+58%)	81	45	+36 (+80%)
Theft of a pedal cycle	1085	830	+255 (+31%)	105	67	+38 (+57%)
Other theft and handling	7180	6019	+1161 (+19%)	953	830	+123 (+15%)
Fraud and forgery	98	64	+34 (+53%)	17	11	+6 (+55%)
Public disorder	8658	4896	+3762 (+77%)	1145	689	+456 (+66%)
Miscellaneous crime	686	575	+111 (+19%)	112	97	+15 (+15%)
Serious acquisitive crime	5658	3891	+1767 (+45%)	839	536	+303 (+57%)
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	513	535	-22 (-4%)	72	84	-12 (-14%)