

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Community Safety Board – End of Year Performance Update (2017/18)

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

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### Summary

The Community Safety Board is required to attend Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (OSC) to provide an overview of the activities that have been undertaken to address the strategic priorities (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 The Partnership Plan complements the Strategic Assessment, bringing together the analytical findings from the Strategic Assessment and the key activities undertaken by the Board in the previous 12 months. The plan also sets out the strategic priorities that will be delivered upon in the forthcoming year. The priorities confirmed for 2017/18 were:
- (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 28 February 2018. It must be noted 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.

4.2 *Further performance information to follow (\*discussion in pre-meeting)*

## **5. Progress to date**

5.1 Appendix 2 provides details of the work carried out by partners and Council services involved in Community Safety against the objectives identified within the Partnership Plan 2018/19. Activity has been carried out across all priority areas, most of which have progressed well and are due to be completed and/or has been completed within this financial year.

5.2 As a reminder, some of the key activities undertaken in the first six-months of the year, and highlighted in the last report to Committee included:

- 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).
- Initiated a review of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Domestic Abuse functions 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.
- 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.
- 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 As well as continuing to deliver activity outlined in the section above, some of the additional activities undertaken in the second half of the year to address the strategic priorities include:

(1) Tackling Domestic Violence

- Commissioned a further Domestic Homicide Review into Adult D, which has resulted in key national, regional and local recommendations for agencies involved in domestic abuse.
- Secured Department for Communities and Local Government funding to increase specialist accommodation provision within Gateshead to support victims of domestic abuse.
- Arranged specialist training to raise awareness of Forced Marriage and Honour-based Violence.
- Commissioned a series of training sessions with Early Help to improve understanding and knowledge linked with Adolescent to Parent Violence.

(2) Combatting Anti-Social Behaviour

- Made more effective use of the tools and powers available to take action on problem residents/premises providing respite to local residents.
- Responded to areas of concern in relation to youth ASB through effective multi agency problem solving approaches
- Designed and hosted a learning event for all council, housing and police officers involved in addressing to ASB so that good practice could be shared and mistakes learned from (including training all 24/7 response officers in options available to them)
- Adopted a much more proactive joined up approach to investigating environmental crime
- Initiated discussions across council services in relation to a multi-agency review of how we tackle ASB locally to ensure we are delivering the most appropriate approaches to preventing ASB, ensuring action is taken swiftly and is effective and providing adequate support to victims of ASB. This is an ongoing piece of work that will progress over the year.
- Developed a standardised approach to monitor respond to and provide interventions to young people involved in ASB

(3) Addressing Substance Misuse

- Re-established formal networks and processes across Gateshead and Newcastle Police, Councils and drug and alcohol services to share intelligence linked with reducing supply across both areas.
- Formally established a Complex Cases Panel which seeks to provide support to those who are vulnerable, at risk of harm and involved with multiple services. This panel has considered how it can work alongside other similar work-strands (such as the Integrated Offender Management pilot and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub).
- Consulted on the re-commissioning of the local drug and alcohol service alongside Public Health.
- Started a pilot in East Gateshead to train community groups about safe collection and disposal of discarded needles as one response strand to the increase across the borough
- Revoked several premises licenses following positive test purchases for underage sales

#### (4) Improving Public Confidence

- Developed a series of bespoke engagement events targeting hard to reach communities to understand their concerns, enhance trust and confidence in services and build community resilience.
- Established a communications group to proactively tackle perceptions of crime, ASB and feelings of safety.
- Increased our social presence on forums such as Facebook and Twitter to ensure we communicate with those who don't use the usual networks.
- Increased engagement with community groups including providing support for newly established Neighborhood Watch groups.

#### (5) Additional work undertaken (but not linked to the key priorities):

- Hosting a regional conference which demonstrated the breadth of work carried out in Gateshead to tackle hate crime;
- Creating a workplace Hate Crime Champions network designed to increase awareness and support for victims within Gateshead Council and local partner agencies.
- Contributing to the Home Office Young Person's IAG (Independent Advisory Group) designed to capture young peoples' view around hate crime and community safety.
- Reviewing procedures linked with Preventing Violent Extremism and Counter Terrorism – including re-establishing the local Prevent Strategy Group – and increasing awareness through delivery of WRAP sessions.
- Together with Newcastle CVS, introduced an e-Learning package and set of resources for frontline practitioners to spot signs of potential Radicalisation and be more confident to challenge behaviour/attitudes around hate crime.

5.4 There are some actions identified in the Partnership Plan, which have been progressed to some extent, during this financial year, but have not necessarily been completed and/or require a longer-term approach. Where possible, these actions will be subsequently moved into the Partnership Plan for further delivery during 2018/19 – and include work strands such as:

- 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.
- 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.
- Delivering a range of activities designed to promote feelings of safety and address perceptions of crime and disorder within the Borough.
- 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: 1 April 2017 to 28 February 2018

\* received from Corporate Development Department at Northumbria Police

Measure (Location)	Northumbria			Gateshead		
	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance
Total crime	140227	111695	+26%	18870	15934	<b>+18%</b>
Violent crime	46047	34069	+35%	6019	4646	<b>+30%</b>
Violence against the person	40160	29430	+36%	5159	4021	<b>+28%</b>
Violence against the person - With injury	11860	10952	+8%	1438	1478	<b>-3%</b>
Most serious violence	678	596	+14%	90	88	<b>+2%</b>
Less serious violence	11182	10356	+8%	1348	1390	<b>-3%</b>
Violence against the person - Without injury	28300	18478	+53%	3721	2543	<b>+46%</b>
Possession of weapons	1051	870	+21%	128	131	<b>-2%</b>
Robbery	711	683	+4%	115	112	<b>+3%</b>
Sexual offences	4125	3086	+34%	617	382	<b>+62%</b>
Vehicle crime	7314	6238	+17%	1159	983	<b>+18%</b>
Vehicle interference	989	800	+24%	151	135	<b>+12%</b>
TFMV	4832	4178	+16%	828	679	<b>+22%</b>
TWOC	1493	1260	+18%	180	169	<b>+7%</b>
Burglary	8718	8091	+8%	1331	1072	<b>+24%</b>
Burglary dwelling	5855	3176	+84%	917	451	<b>+103%</b>
Burglary OTD	2863	4915	-42%	414	621	<b>-33%</b>
Criminal damage	22802	20074	+14%	3208	3067	<b>+5%</b>
Drug crime	2614	2652	-1%	322	355	<b>-9%</b>
Other crime	52677	40520	+30%	6821	5805	<b>+18%</b>
Shoplifting	13009	11688	+11%	1721	1852	<b>-7%</b>
Theft from the person	1325	998	+33%	137	89	<b>+54%</b>
Serious acquisitive crime	12891	9297	+39%	2040	1411	<b>+45%</b>
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	1123	1154	-4%	146	188	<b>-22%</b>
Anti-social behaviour	55827	50075	-10%	6929	5973	<b>-14%</b>
Youth-related anti-social behaviour	14079	12888	-8%	1598	1405	<b>-12%</b>