

TITLE OF REPORT: Community Safety Board – Draft Strategic Priorities 2018/19

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Summary

This report provides Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with an overview of the draft strategic priorities that have been identified for the Community Safety Board to deliver against for 2018/19.

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

- 2.1 The annual Strategic Assessment is an 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.
- 2.2 Members may recall that, in 2016, a new approach was trialled for completing the Strategic Assessment. As a result, it was agreed that members of both the Community Safety Boards covering Gateshead and Newcastle would come together to discuss a range of issues and identify the draft strategic priorities across both localities.

3 Draft Strategic Themes and Priorities for 2018/19

- 3.1 As a reminder, the draft strategic themes that were identified for 2018/19 are:

Name
Anti-social Behaviour and Environmental Crime
Domestic and Sexual Abuse (inc. Domestic Homicide Reviews)
Mental Health
Prevent/Contest
Protecting Vulnerable People (inc. hate crime, all forms of vulnerability and repeat victimisation)
Reducing Re-offending
Repeat Victimisation
Serious and Organised Crime (inc. disruption of sexual exploitation, modern day slavery, human trafficking)
Substance Misuse

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Public consultation is a statutory requirement in developing the draft strategic priorities. Following agreement of the draft priorities by the Community Safety Board in January 2018, a series of activities has been undertaken by partners to encourage members of the public to feed in their views.
- 4.2 An online consultation was developed, seeking views on the proposed priorities. The consultation also includes sections on general community safety issues, affording respondents the opportunity to raise any other issues that they are aware of in their neighbourhoods. This has been heavily promoted via partner agencies using means such as email, social media promotion and face to face discussions.
- 4.3 Following feedback from residents who were unable to complete last year's consultation, paper copies of the consultation have also been made available. These have been distributed to community groups and individuals who have expressed an interest in taking part.
- 4.4 Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee were consulted in January 2018 – and consultation has also taken place with Communities Portfolio and with Gateshead's Diversity Forum. Members of the Diversity Forum in particular were keen to be more involved and have requested further paper copies to enable as many of their friends, families and peers to take part.
- 4.5 A presentation was given to the Gateshead Youth Assembly in early February. The young people in attendance found the topic quite interesting and have since approached their schools to request that all pupils are given the opportunity to take part in the consultation. To date, three secondary schools have agreed to allow their pupils to take part (approximately 1,200 pupils per school) – and findings from this survey will be shared with Local Safeguarding Children's Board colleagues.
- 4.6 The consultation runs until Saturday 31st March 2018.

5. Results to Date

- 5.1 As at 7th March 2018, 245 people have responded to the consultation. Respondents were asked to rank the priorities identified in Section 3.1 in order of priority, with 1 being the most important and 9 being the least important. Preliminary results are set out below:

Rank	Priority	Score	% of Total Score
1	Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Issues	1373	16.1
2	Substance Misuse	1119	13.1
3	Disruption of Serious and Organised Crime	1034	12.1
4	Domestic and Sexual Abuse	1015	11.9
5	Mental Health	919	10.8
6	Reducing Re-Offending	877	10.3
7	Hate Crime	838	9.8
8	Repeat Victimisation	718	8.4
9	Prevent / CONTEST	640	7.5

- 5.2 The results have been weighted and ranked. As can be seen from the table above, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues has the highest score and therefore is the current top priority that members of the public think the Community Safety Board should address in 2018/19. The weighting attributed to this priority as well as Substance Misuse, Disruption of Serious and Organised Crime and Domestic and Sexual Abuse account for 53% of the total scores allocated to the priorities.
- 5.3 Please note, this figure is subject to change; at the time of writing this report there was still three weeks remaining for people to feed in their views. Visits to several community groups are planned over the next few weeks in order to get as broad a range of responses as possible.
- 5.4 Of the general community safety questions that were asked, 54% of respondents to date have said that their neighbourhood is worse than it was 12 months ago. Despite this, more than two thirds report that they feel safe in their neighbourhood. Further analysis will be carried out and will be submitted to the Crime, ASB and Confidence Sub-Group for action in 2018/19.
- 5.5 A number of areas have been identified by respondents as places to be avoided or places where there are ongoing issues – and will allow partners to tackle some of those issues, or address misconceptions, where applicable. In the main, these are localities that are traditionally already known and/or are in-scope for Community Safety partners; however, there are some new areas that have been identified that warrant additional attention over the coming months.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 Once the consultation closes on 31st March, the final responses will be scored and presented to the Community Safety Board for endorsement.
- 6.2 As a reminder, the annual Partnership Plan for 2018/19 will be produced; using the information identified as part of the consultation, and will be presented to the Community Safety Board and to this Committee in June 2018.
- 6.3 Where specific responses have been provided, for example information relating to ongoing issues at localities, these will be shared with relevant services and partners to determine if anything can be done to address concerns raised.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are asked to:
- (i) Agree to receive details of the final priorities for 2018/19 once approved by the Community Safety Board