

**Gateshead Community
Safety Board**

PARTNERSHIP PLAN

2018/19



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Strategic Priorities for 2018/19 – at a glance...

We have identified the following four themes that will be prioritised for 2018/19:

PRIORITY: Anti-Social Behaviour & Environmental Crime

Tackling issues of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime continues to be one of the biggest areas of concern identified by residents.

PRIORITY: Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to increase year-on-year and the effect that it has on individuals, their families, their children and wider society is profound.

PRIORITY: Mental Health

The impact of mental health on community safety issues is far-reaching – and is an influencing factor in crime and disorder, re-offending and victimisation.

PRIORITY: Restricting Supply – Drug Misuse

We know drug misuse causing significant problems for local communities – and recognise that we need to do more to be able to restrict its supply.

Thematic Areas for Monitoring

There are also several thematic areas which the Board will monitor for 2018/19:

MONITOR: Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

We will continue to raise awareness of hate crime and provide relevant support/guidance to victims as well as monitoring local tensions to ensure we engender cohesive and integrated communities.

MONITOR: Preventing Violent Extremism (Terrorism)

The threat of terrorism continues to be ever-present and we will continue to promote amongst our partners and to engage/safeguard vulnerable persons who have the potential to be drawn into this area.

MONITOR: Serious and Organised Crime (Disruption)

We will persist in preventing people getting involved in serious and organised crime activity, strengthen our protection/response to it as well as continuing to work collectively to pursue and disrupting the criminals behind it.

MONITOR: Repeat Victimisation and Vulnerability

We need to ensure that we have services in place that will help us to tackle repeat victimisation and vulnerable clients.

MONITOR: Reducing Re-offending

We know that a small proportion of offenders generate a disproportionate level of crime and disorder. We will continue to work collectively to provide appropriate support/enforcement to change behaviour and divert offenders.

Foreword



Councillor Angela Douglas

Chair of the Gateshead Community Safety Board

I am proud to present the Community Safety Board Partnership Plan 2018/19 – which sets out the key priorities that partners will focus on over the next 12 months to help ensure Gateshead remains a safe place to live, work and visit for everyone. These are the strategic priorities where we feel we can collectively make the most difference and achieve positive outcomes for local individuals, families and communities.

We know the devastating impact that crime and disorder can have, if left unchecked, and we are fully committed to working together to address any problems affecting the Borough. We recognise that we cannot do this alone – we are all part of the solution. We must be able to work together in order achieve a collective social response to community safety issues.

We have carried out a great deal of work over the last year – too much to credit here – but it ranges from: creating innovative World Café events designed to challenge local perceptions of crime and disorder, through to taking robust enforcement action to address complex anti-social behaviour problems through to implementing several initiatives to help better support victims of domestic abuse, just to name a few...

I'm reminded daily of how the Council, Police and its partners work together to keep residents safe and I truly believe we have a proactive and progressive partnership within Gateshead. I am proud that the Borough remains to be one of the safest places across the whole of Tyne and Wear – with a significant reduction in the levels of recorded crime over the past decade – and yet, you can be assured that we will not stop there.

We know more can, and will, be done to ensure people are safe and feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities – and by putting residents at the heart of everything we do, I am more than confident that, as a Partnership, we can fight for an even better future for Gateshead, making it a place where everyone can thrive.

The landscape in which Community Safety operates continues to evolve – and in the coming months, we can expect big changes to the domestic abuse agenda, increased focus around serious and organised crime as well as further movement linked to activities that we carry out around Preventing Extremism. It is now more than ever, at a time where resources are constantly reducing, where we need to be able to rely on our existing Partnership structures, share our resources and support one another to ensure we are effective at tackling the key community safety priorities set out within this Plan.

Finally, working collaboratively with our communities is an essential ingredient to help us to continue to evolve and make further improvements – and we look forward to working with you throughout the year to continue to make Gateshead even safer.

Community safety is a key priority...

...by putting people and families at the heart of everything we do, we are confident we can work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead, making it a place where everyone can thrive.

Demand for Community Safety Services in Gateshead

On an average day in Gateshead, there are...

- 168 separate incidents reported to the Police
- 54 crimes recorded by the Police
- Two road traffic collisions
- Seven incidents of domestic abuse involving children
- 1,800+ individuals open to treatment services suffering from drug and alcohol misuse
- 5 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...

- 24 high-risk domestic abuse victims referred to the Council IDVA Service
- 13 burglaries to homes and 20 incidents of car crime
- Eight hate crimes taking place
- 59 incidents of noise/neighbour disputes
- 18 deliberate secondary fires attended by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- 18 presentations to Accident and Emergency suffering assault-related injuries
- 40+ individuals presenting to Accident and Emergency more than 3 times a week
- 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
- 392 incidents of domestic violence reported to Police
- 137 reports of youth-related disorder
- 11 deliberate primary fires taking place
- 194 reports of littering, 42 reports of dog fouling and 39 reports of graffiti
- One death as a result of drug misuse
- 69 vulnerable clients supported via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- 100+ ASB cases are opened 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
- 26% increase in recorded crime – an additional 18 crimes for every 1,000 residents
- Just over 7,000 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported
- 8,900+ victims identified – of which 171 individuals were victims 5 or more times
- 5,300+ offenders
- 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

Background and Context

The Community Safety Board is the statutory Community Safety Partnership responsible for tackling crime and disorder, combating substance misuse and reducing re-offending within Gateshead. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation placed a statutory duty on local Community Safety Partnerships to:

- Produce an annual Joint Strategic Assessment;
- Prepare and implement a Community Safety Partnership Plan;
- Co-ordinate Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Along with other supporting partner agencies, some of the key organisations/services that make up the Community Safety Board include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ⊕ Gateshead Council | ⊕ Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service |
| ⊕ Northumbria Police | ⊕ NewcastleGateshead Clinical Commissioning Group |
| ⊕ Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company | ⊕ The Gateshead Housing Company |
| ⊕ National Probation Service | ⊕ Voluntary and Community Sector |

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 residents to feel safe and secure living within Gateshead.

Reporting Arrangements

The Community Safety Board reports directly into the local Gateshead Strategic Partnership – and provides regular reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board, representing the links between crime, community safety and overall health and wellbeing.

We also work closely with other strategic groups including the Adults/Children Safeguarding Boards and Youth Crime Management Board. This ensures that where joint priorities are identified, work is undertaken collaboratively to ensure the best possible outcomes for and with local people and communities.

This plan aligns with the themes outlined in the local Police and Crime Plan for Northumbria produced by Dame Vera Baird QC, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, as well as the priorities set out within our partners respective strategies and business plans to ensure we are all working towards a collective vision to achieving best possible outcomes for, and in partnership with, our communities.

Key activity/achievements in 2017/18

This section provides a snapshot of some of the key activities that have been carried out by Community Safety partners in relation to the strategic priorities identified in 2017/18:

ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE MISUSE

The key priorities addressed under this theme were:

- ⊕ Drugs; Drug-related Deaths; and Alcohol
- Produced multi-agency Substance Misuse Strategy/Action Plan setting out our ambitious plans to eliminate substance misuse within Gateshead.
- Formally established a Complex Case Panel which seeks to provide support to those who are vulnerable, at risk of harm and involved with multiple services.
- Re-established formal networks and processes to share intelligence/information to help reduce the supply of drugs across Gateshead and Newcastle.
- Implemented activity in response to identified learning points around Drug-related Deaths.
- Delivered actions to tackle drug litter and discarded needles being left in public places.
- Commissioned a review into the local Shared Care Prescribing arrangements across GP Practices and Treatment Services leading to a revised model of delivery.
- Consulted with residents and professionals on the re-commissioning of a new integrated Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service.
- Successful representations made to Licensing Committee resulting in licence revocations for underage alcohol sales at several premises.

TACKLING VIOLENCE

The key priorities addressed under this theme were:

- ⊕ Violent Crime; Domestic Abuse; and Sexual Violence
- Our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) designed to protect vulnerable adults living within the Borough has continues to operate
- Creation of a DA Health Advocate role to increased support to victims of domestic abuse presenting at Accident and Emergency.
- Support for the Domestic Violence, Support and Advice (DVSA) car designed to provide guidance to victims at an earlier stage (immediately following an incident).
- Drafted a local Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough.
- Development of a dedicated resource to support serial/repeat victims of domestic abuse.
- Commissioned a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) to identify the recommendations and lessons learnt to further improve current practice following a domestic-related murder.
- Secured funding to increase specialist accommodation provision within Gateshead
- Commissioned a series of sessions to raise awareness of specialist areas including Forced Marriage and Honour-based Violence, Stalking and Harassment and Cyber-enabled.
- The local Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination Group continues to take place to address offending behaviour of perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Commissioned training to improve knowledge around Adolescent to Parent Violence.

COMBATTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

The key priorities addressed under this theme were:

⊕ Youth and adult-related ASB; High Demand Locations – identified through Problem Solving; Hate Crime; and Community Tensions

- Trained approximately 100 Police and Council officers to increase awareness of the ASB Tools and Powers available leading to more effective use across the Borough.
- Organised and hosted a Problem-Solving event to showcase best practice examples of how we have collaboratively tackled issues for residents and communities.
- Reviewed our approach to managing Youth-related ASB and instigated a new process.
- Established an ASB Volunteer Service to support victims of ASB and hate crime.
- Adopted new approaches to the allocation of operational partnership resources.
- Implemented several Public Space Protection Orders across the Borough.
- Co-ordinated and hosted the Regional Hate Crime Conference to cascade best practice in relation to hate crime and tension monitoring.
- Northumbria Central Community Engagement Team continues to go from strength to strength and enhances our reach and contact with local communities.
- Several operations to disrupt the day-to-day activities of those involved in serious and organised crime in Gateshead including:
 - **Op Axel** – multi-agency disruption operation to tackle environmental crime;
 - **Op Axel Roads** – compliance and enforcement activity around taxi trade, waste and scrap metal carriers;
 - **Op Dahoon** – disruption activity and safeguarding around human trafficking;
 - **Op Rigsby** – specific investigation linked to private sectors/rental properties.

IMPROVING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

The key priorities addressed under this theme were:

⊕ Improving Community Confidence in Services; Community Cohesion; and Engagement

- Developed a series of bespoke World Café engagement events targeting hard-to-reach communities to understand their concerns, enhance trust and confidence in services and build community resilience – generating lots of fantastic ideas to keep people safe.
- Established a Communications Group to proactively tackle perceptions of crime, ASB and feelings of safety – which included:
 - Increasing our social-media presence on forums such as Facebook and Twitter to ensure we communicate with those who don't use the usual networks.
 - Continuing to actively promote via Council News and other media platforms details of multi-agency activities and crime prevention advice.
 - Supported the launch of the Community Messaging App ('your Northumbria')
- Increased engagement with community/voluntary sector (including providing support for newly established Neighbourhood Watch groups across the Borough).
- Consulted with a significant number of residents on community safety issues – helping to formulate the strategic priorities identified for next year.

Emerging Issues

The Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement which is carried out annually with a view to providing an evidence base on which to inform the CSP's strategic plan and priorities. The emerging issues from the Strategic Assessment for 2017 are:

*** National Context ***			
Increased threat / potential for cyber-enabled crimes .	Rise in the number of Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery	Threats of terrorism – continues to be at Severe ('an attack is highly likely')	Sexual Exploitation – and the associated risks linked with community tensions and cohesion .
Civil emergencies – the impact on resources.	The scale of serious and organised crime – and the influence this has on a range of crime and community safety issues.	Potential threats linked with public order .	Ongoing austerity measures – resulting in fewer resources.

*** Regional Context ***			
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan	The ongoing regional developments linked with devolution process	Refresh of National and Regional VAWG and Domestic Abuse Strategy	Increased emergence of issues (inc. Modern Day Slavery, County Lines etc)
Ongoing (and potential future) changes to partner agencies structures/remits	Ongoing and emerging changes in Community Safety (including wider Policy) landscape	Fewer Budgets and Resources Available to local public and voluntary sector organisations	Potential changes to the way in which Preventing Violent Extremism is managed (Dovetail)

*** Local Context ***			
Notable increase in recorded in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime within Borough	Sharp increase in the number of drug-related deaths and discarded drug litter	Negative perceptions of crime and disorder amongst residents (single confidence measure)	Limited diversionary activities for young people committing ASB
Continued complex and multiple needs impacting on service demand	Fewer Budgets and Resources Available	Re-establishment of Integrated Offender Management	Increases in deliberate fires (linked to both youth disorder and fly-tipping)

Setting Our Priorities for 2018/19

The shared priorities, agreed by the Community Safety Board, for the coming period are:

- ⊕ **Anti-Social Behaviour & Environmental Crime**
- ⊕ **Domestic Abuse**
- ⊕ **Mental Health**
- ⊕ **Restricting Supply – Drug Misuse**

There are also several thematic areas which the Board will monitor:

- ⊕ **Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring**
- ⊕ **Preventing Violent Extremism (Terrorism)**
- ⊕ **Serious and Organised Crime (Disruption)**
- ⊕ **Repeat Victimisation and Vulnerability**
- ⊕ **Reducing Re-offending**

These priorities are based on information from the statutory Strategic Assessment coupled with consultation with representatives from agencies across the partnership and the public to focus activity on what safety issues matter most to communities in the Borough.

Public Consultation

We consulted residents and communities on the potential strategic priorities for this year – and we were really pleased to have received more than **530** separate responses – all of which have been used to help shape the Community Safety priorities.

Some of the key findings from the consultation:

- Greater level of priority placed on tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime – particularly signal crimes such as graffiti, fly-tipping and dog-fouling – with almost half feeling that these are big problems affecting their local area.
- 70% of respondents said they feel very or fairly-safe in their neighbourhood;
- Respondents were more positive when asked how much of a problem crime is – with just over a third (36%) feeling crime is a big problem in their neighbourhood.
- Almost half of respondents agree the Police and Council work together to deal with the issues that matter in their neighbourhood.
- Several locations have been identified by respondents as areas where there have been specific community safety problems/issues.

Monitoring the Delivery of Our Plan

Delivering our priorities

Gateshead Community Safety Board has overall responsibility for the delivery of this Plan but will require support and joint working with other statutory boards and partnership arenas.

To ensure delivery of the partnership priorities, a series of time-limited Task and Finish and/or formal Sub-Groups will be formed during 2018/19 and will be responsible for translating the strategic priorities into operational delivery/actions.

All priorities will have a nominated Lead Officer and actions will be time bound to ensure impact can be monitored and measured. This will be accompanied by a performance and delivery dashboard, where performance against outcomes and key metrics can be assessed and reported into the Board, as necessary.

Resources

Public services are going through an unprecedented time of austerity measures and, coupled with rising expectations of residents and communities, means that now more so than ever, the Partnership will have to hold individual agencies to account for the collective delivery of the priorities outlined within this Plan.

At a time when resources continue to shrink, it is essential all available resources are applied in the most efficient and effective manner to achieve the best outcomes for local people and communities. This challenge cannot be underestimated due to the organisational pressures the public sector faces over the coming period.

Communications and Engagement

Communication and engagement are essential components of a successful partnership. A Development Session was held with representatives from across the partnership, including the voluntary and community sector, to inform the development of the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan.

Running alongside the Partnership Plan, we will continue to develop and further strengthen our Communication and Engagement Plan to describe how stakeholders from across the partnership and wider public can be engaged in the delivery of Community Safety priorities.

Review

The Partnership Plan will continue to be reviewed annually to ensure any emerging trends from the Strategic Assessment can be factored into future years' delivery plan.

Further information on the Community Safety Board can be found at:

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/safergateshead>

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