

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Implementation of 2018/19 Priorities: End of Year Update

**REPORT OF:** Gateshead Community Safety Team –  
Development, Transport and Public Protection

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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 its Partnership Plan 2018/19).

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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.

1.2 As a reminder, the strategic themes prioritised in 2018/19 are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Restricting Supply – Drug Misuse

1.3 There were also five additional thematic workstreams which the Board said that it would monitor during 2018/19. These included:

- Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring
- Preventing Violent Extremism
- Disruption of Serious and Organised Crime
- Repeat Victimisation and Vulnerability
- Reducing Re-offending

## 2 Current Performance

2.1 The table set out in Appendix 1 shows performance of crime and disorder within Gateshead from April 2018 until February 2019\*\*\*.

2.2 To date in 2018/19, recorded crime in Gateshead has increased by 5% (+979). There were 19,683 crimes reported during the period, compared to 18,704 in the previous year. During the same period, crime in Northumbria has increased by 6%.

2.3 The number of violent crimes recorded in Gateshead has increased by 13% on last year. The 6,735 violent crimes reported account for a third of all recorded crime in Gateshead during the period. On a positive note, the number of sexual offences reported has fallen this year. Burglary has fallen by 8% (101 fewer offences) with residential burglaries falling 16% (149 fewer offences).

- 2.4 There has been a further reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Northumbria Police. In total, 5,531 incidents have been reported compared to 5,870 in the previous year, a reduction of 6% – with levels of youth-related ASB also falling.

### **3 Progress to date**

- 3.1 As a reminder, Committee received an update in October 2018, highlighting some of the key activities that had been undertaken in the first six-months of the year to address the priorities of the Board. Some of the work undertaken in the second half of the year includes:

## **PRIORITY WORKSTREAMS**

### Domestic Abuse

- Commissioned a further 2 x Domestic Homicide Reviews; one of which, has been concluded and has resulted in several high profile national, regional and local recommendations for agencies involved in domestic abuse.
- Embedded a new streamlined operating model to help provide an improved response to victims of domestic abuse – regardless of risk – and included re-establishing the Strategic Domestic Abuse Executive Forum.
- Secured external funding to increase specialist accommodation provision and support within Gateshead to victims of domestic abuse
- Fundamentally reviewed our existing training provision for domestic abuse and commissioned a series of specialist sessions to help raise awareness of stalking, cyber-stalking and
- Supported the delivery of the 'Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse' led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria.

### Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime

- Targeted operations around scrap metal
- Operation Vienna now fully operational
- New environmental enforcement team is operational
- Consultation on three public space protection orders complete
- Hosted four world cafes across Gateshead looking at what matters to local people

### Restricting Supply – Drug Misuse

- The creation of a Harm Reduction Inspector role in Northumbria Police
- In response to increasing drug-related deaths we moved to a rapid response approach – within three weeks of a death occurring a review takes place
- Re-established drugs alliance across Gateshead and Newcastle and made steps to expand this across Northumbria
- Training for providers around what is actionable intelligence and the creation of an information sharing process direct to the police intelligence department
- A robust approach including the distribution of new equipment to tackle increased needle finds in the community
- Reviewed and recommissioned adult substance misuse services with a new integrated model
- Limited the number of GPs who prescribe in Gateshead

## MONITORED WORKSTREAMS

### Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

- Established a Strategic Task and Finish Group to explore ways to increase the number of hate crime victims accessing practical and emotional support from VictimsFirst Northumbria.
- Co-ordinated a successful Hate Crime Awareness Week in November 2018 which saw a 'Walk of Solidarity' and an 'Experts by Experience' Event.
- Progressed with the Workplace Hate Crime Champions scheme, with more than 70+ Champions now trained and in place in organisations working across Gateshead to provide support to employees and customers.
- Carried out a review of Safe Reporting Centres in Gateshead and identified only a small number remained suitable. Refresher training has been provided to these organisations and we are now looking to source additional organisations to become a Safe Reporting Centre.
- Developed an improved Online Hate Crime Reporting and Referral Form on Gateshead Council website to increase reporting and facilitate increased reports.

### Preventing Violent Extremism

- A series of informal awareness raising sessions, and formal WRAP training, continues to take place and has included bespoke sessions for Councillors, Adult Social Care and Education Safeguarding Leads. In addition, Prevent Awareness is now embedded in the Corporate Induction for new employees.
- Ran a series of Channel HYDRA training sessions in October 2018 with the North-East Counter Terrorism Unit – which has led to staff in Community Safety being able to chair multi-agency Channel Panel meetings.
- Continue to review and revise our internal referral Prevent pathways.
- Re-established the Northumbria-wide CONTEST Board in October 2018 – and contributed to the refresh of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) which is used to highlight the current and emerging local threat.
- The Home Office Prevent Duty Self-Assessment Toolkit for Local Authorities has now completed – and action plan produced to tackle identified gaps.

### Disruption of Serious and Organised Crime

- Operation Magnet, Northumbria Police's dedicated operation to tackling serious and organised crime, has been re-branded and is now known as Operational Sentinel.
- Op Sentinel has a greater focus on partnership working, which has resulted in an increased number of operations that have taken place with agencies to disrupt the activity of criminal gangs across Northumbria.

### Repeat Victimisation and Vulnerability

- Increased use of some of the ASB Tools and Powers available in the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to provide support to victims.
- Closure orders have been used effectively to ban offenders from certain premises, offering respite for victims and wider community.
- Multi-Agency Assessment and Referral Team (MAART) continue to operate effectively with partner agencies – and has strengthened its links with other multi-agency meetings discussing complex clients.

- Continue to hold MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) meetings to safeguarding high-risk victims of domestic abuse.

#### Reducing Re-offending

- Re-introduction of Integrated Offender Management approach to identifying and tackling individuals causing the most harm within local communities.
- Housing Services attend fortnightly drop-in sessions with both Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Service (NPS) to provide housing and/or homeless advice and assistance. This has strengthened links with Approved Premises, improved pathway for offenders leaving prison and lead to increased understanding across CRC/NPS/TGHC about the role of housing.

## **4 Further Activity**

4.1 Key actions that will be carried forward into Partnership Plan for delivery during 2019/20 include:

- Undertake a systems-thinking review of how we tackle ASB to ensure we have the right approach.
- Implement actions to embed the recommendations and key learning points linked with the Domestic Homicide Review into Adult D.
- Refresh the existing referral pathways in relation to Prevent and roll out further training and awareness sessions.
- Continue to develop bespoke projects and initiatives to drive out hate crime and to combat any increased community tensions/cohesion.

## **5 Recommendation**

5.1 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.