

TITLE OF REPORT: Community Safety Board – Partnership Plan 2019/20

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington
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Summary

This report provides Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the statutory Partnership Plan for Gateshead Community Safety Board, which provides details of the strategic priorities and workstreams for the next 12 months.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the statutory Partnership Plan that has been produced on behalf of the Community Safety Board in Gateshead for delivery in 2019/20.

2 Background

2.1 Gateshead Community Safety Board has a statutory duty (under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) to produce an annual intelligence-led Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan. The Strategic Assessment is an analysis of the key crime and disorder issues impacting on the Borough to help assist in identifying priority areas. As part of the process, we are required to consult with residents and local community groups to ensure that the priorities that we have chosen appropriately reflects local need. Following a public consultation exercise, a Partnership Plan is then produced which sets out what the agreed priorities will be for the forthcoming year.

2.2 In January 2019, the Board received a comprehensive overview of the Strategic Assessment findings and agreed to undertake public consultation on its draft priorities for 2019/20. This process was carried out over a six-week period and ended in March 2019.

3. Consultation

3.1 The consultation exercise, an online questionnaire using Gateshead Council's ViewPoint, sought views in relation to crime and disorder issues, feelings of safety and to comment on the proposed strategic priorities. The consultation has elicited a significant number of responses, with more than 900 replies over the six-week period.

3.2 Analysis of the responses highlight:

- 41% of respondents felt that their neighbourhood has got worse in the last 12 months. We know crime has increased steadily over the last three-years – with levels rising by a further 4% (+863 additional crimes) on last year.

- However, despite the feeling that their neighbourhood has got worse, most respondents still report feeling safe, with 76% of people say they feel very or fairly safe in their neighbourhood.
 - 60% of respondents stated they do not feel anti-social behaviour or crime are specific problems, which may suggest national headlines impacting.
 - Over a third of respondents believe partner agencies (including Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police) work well together to tackle the issues that matter to them.
- 3.3 In terms of the proposed strategic priority areas, anti-social behaviour was ranked as most important followed by domestic abuse and substance misuse. Fewer respondents felt hate crime was a priority. The reason for this could be because it's an issue that affects a very small proportion of the community. In addition, environmental issues such as such as fly-tipping, graffiti, dog-fouling and littering continued to be identified as key concerns – all of which are visible incidents which impact on feelings of safety and perceptions of Council/Police to tackle issues and is linked to the wider anti-social behaviour agenda.
- 3.4 There are no references made within the consultation to issues such as County Lines, Modern Day Slavery and Knife Crime – and yet, we know these issues are closely intertwined in community safety activity. These areas will be picked up as part of the work around anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.
- 3.5 Analysis of the qualitative data highlighted information which has been shared with Gateshead Operational Tasking Group and Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group for action (e.g. hotspot locations).

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Five strategic themes were confirmed for 2019/20:

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 our 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: Substance Misuse – Reducing the Harms

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

PRIORITY: Hate Crime, Tension Monitoring and Community Cohesion

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

PRIORITY: Preventing Violent Extremism (Terrorism)

The threat of terrorism continues to be ever-present. We intend to raise awareness of, and safeguard, vulnerable persons who have the potential to be drawn into this area.

- 4.2 These are the areas where the Board felt that it could collectively make a bigger impact by working together. It is important to note that whilst the Board has chosen to focus on these priorities – our partners will continue to tackle crime and disorder issues identified within their own operating practices. The Board also remains flexible enough to be able to respond proactively to emerging risks and threats not linked to these priority areas.

Action Plans

- 4.3 Tailored action plans will be produced under each priority area which will set out the partnership work and activities that will be delivered over the next 12 months to make Gateshead a place where everyone can thrive. Lead partners were identified by the Board and they are responsible for ensure action plans are working effectively and are required to feedback to the Board in relation to key achievements, gaps and barriers. The lead for each strategic priority is:

Priority Area	Lead Organisation (identified by Board)
Anti-Social Behaviour	Northumbria Police
Domestic Abuse	NewcastleGateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
Harms from Substance Misuse	Northumbria Police
Hate Crime et al.	Gateshead Community Rehabilitation Company
Preventing Violent Extremism	Gateshead Council – Community Safety

5 Partnership Plan 2019/20

- 6.1 The Partnership Plan 2019/20 has been included in Appendix and provides the headline details of some activity that has been undertaken over the last twelve-months to keep residents safe. It provides some context issues to the Board, details some of the demand on Community Safety services within the Borough as well as setting out how we monitor delivery over the next 12 months.
- 6.2 The Board is statutorily required to "publish the Partnership Plan in the local area, bringing it to the attention of as many different groups or persons within the area, as is reasonable". Like in previous years, copies will be available electronically via Council and partner websites and hardcopies will be circulated to key stakeholders (including Police and Crime Commissioner).
- 6.3 It is important to note some of the strategic themes/priorities have strong links to work overseen by other statutory Boards (e.g. Safeguarding Adults, Local Safeguarding Children and Health and Wellbeing Boards) and will require a co-ordinated approach to ensure actions are delivered collaboratively.

6 Northumbria Police and Crime Plan 2017-20

- 6.1 The Community Safety Board, has a statutory duty to have "due regard to the priorities set out within the local Police and Crime Plan 2017-20, produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner. For reassurance, when developing our Partnership Plan, we have tried, where possible, to ensure we replicate similar themes to those identified in the Commissioner's Plan.

7 Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 7.1 The Partnership Plan will be formally scrutinised through the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations) and update reports will be presented over the next twelve-months (as per the annual workplan 2019/20).

8 Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Comment on the report;
- (ii) Agree to receive regular updates on actions undertaken in relation to the strategic priorities (as per the OSC Workplan 2019/20).

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* Appendix 1 – Partnership Plan 2019/20