

**TITLE OF REPORT: Community Safety Priorities – 6 Month Update**

**REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health – Care,  
Wellbeing and Learning**

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### **Summary**

This report provides Housing, Environment and Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) with a brief overview of some of the key activities that have been co-ordinated and delivered by the Gateshead Community Safety Board between Apr-Sept 2022 to address the priorities outlined within the Partnership Plan 2020/23.

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## **1 Background**

1.1 The Community Safety Board is a standalone statutory partnership made up of representatives from five responsible authorities (including police service, local authority, fire and rescue, health, and probation). These responsible authorities work together to protect local communities from crime and disorder and to help people feel safer. The Board's core functions are to:

- address crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour and behaviours which adversely affect the environment)
- combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances
- reduce re-offending

1.2 The Board has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act to produce an annual intelligence-led Strategic Assessment (an assessment of need based on data) along with a Partnership Plan (which formally sets out the areas that will priorities and the activity that will be undertaken locally by the Board). A copy of the Partnership Plan 2020-23 has previously been presented to Committee and has been attached as Appendix 1.

1.3 As a reminder, the strategic themes that were agreed by the Community Safety Board for delivery in 2020-23 are:

### **(1) Violence, Exploitation and Abuse**

- Serious and Organised Crime
- Serious Violence
- Domestic Abuse

### **(2) Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities**

- Anti-Social Behaviour (Youth, Adult and Place-based ASB)
- Locality-based Tasking and Problem-Solving

### **(3) Community Cohesion and Resilience**

- Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring
- Preventing Violence Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism

## 2 Crime Performance

2.1 The table set out in below shows crime and disorder performance in Gateshead from 1st April through to 30 September 2022.

Offence Type	Current (Apr-Sep22)	Previous (Apr-Sep21)	Change (Vol)	Change (%)
All Crime	9,832	9,131	+701	+7%
Violence against the person - Without injury	2,443	2,440	+3	+0%
Violence against the person - With injury	1,185	1,053	+132	+13%
Violence - Other	68	60	+8	+13%
Sexual offences	316	322	-6	-2%
Theft and handling	1,750	1,386	+364	+26%
Criminal damage	1,343	1,456	-113	-8%
Public disorder	1,019	1,214	-195	-16%
Vehicle crime	828	400	+428	+107%
Burglary	533	445	+88	+20%
Drug crime	170	195	-25	-13%
Other	177	160	+17	+11%
Adult-related ASB	1891	2795	-904	-32%
Youth-related ASB	561	556	5	0.9%
Total ASB	2452	3351	-899	-26%
Deliberate Secondary Fires	467	421	-46	+10%

Source: Local Authority LALO Report provided by Northumbria Police Corporate Development Department (Apr-Sept22)

2.2 Recorded crime in Gateshead has increased by 7% (+701 additional reported crimes) which is slightly higher than 6% increase in crime experienced across Northumbria. Violent offences continue to account for the highest proportion of crime committed in Gateshead and increased on last year. Theft and handling, vehicle-related crime and burglaries have also increased compared to last year – with reductions reported in drug-related crime, sexual offences, and offences of criminal damage. There has fall in the number of deliberate secondary fires reported; while reports of ASB has reduced by more than a quarter on the same period last year. Three-quarters of all reported ASB is committed by adults.

## 3 Progress to date

3.1 A snapshot of some of the key activities that have been undertaken by partners to address the priorities of the Board during the first six-months of 2022/23:

### Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

#### Serious and Organised Crime

- Continue to support disruption of Serious and Organised Crime activity through the delivery of multi-agency Operational Sentinel interventions.
- Attendance at Northumbria Serious and Organised Crime Governance Board to share best practice and intelligence to disrupt identified networks.
- Support high visibility targeted patrols, problem solving and enforcement tactics within specific harm hotspot areas within Gateshead.

## **Serious Violence**

- Continued to support the activity of Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit taking an evidence-led approach to commissioning interventions to prevent violence.
- Exploring the potential implications of the new Serious Violence Legal Duty that will sit with Community Safety Board from early next year.
- Delivered a series of activities throughout the summer to prevent violence and anti-social behaviour within hotspot areas (including the commissioning of youth outreach, diversionary activities, and peer-led research).

## **Domestic Abuse**

- Gateshead Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has been re-established to progress key areas of statutory work required as part of the Domestic Abuse Act (including the commissioning of specialist support in Safe Accommodation for victim-survivors and children affected by Domestic Abuse).
- Commissioned 3 x Domestic Homicide Reviews and supported a Northumbria-wide Learning Event to facilitate sharing of findings, learning, recommendations from DHRs and identify opportunities for joint projects, funding, campaigns, and strategic collaboration across Northumbria.
- Continue to offer an in-house Domestic Abuse Service in Gateshead providing specialist support to safeguard victim-survivors and their children through the delivery of a Behaviour Change Programme to break cycle of domestic abuse.

## **Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities**

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (Youth, Adult and Place-based ASB)**

- Commissioned a comprehensive multi-agency systems-thinking review of anti-social behaviour to identify how we can achieve better outcomes for victims, for those connected with ASB, and for professionals working in the system. A further update will be brought to Committee in January 2023.
- Working in conjunction with Northumbria Police and Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner – we have developed a regional framework to standardize our approach to Community Trigger (which allows victims to request a review of an ASB case). There have been 6 Community Triggers activated in Gateshead and has identified recommendations to improve our ASB processes.
- Safer Streets Funding has been secured to help deliver interventions designed to improve perceptions of safety within transport hubs, parks, and open spaces across the Borough. This includes £210k funding to support the development of a multi-agency co-located hub in Birtley to work alongside local communities to tackle crime and ASB issues affecting their area.

### **Locality-based Tasking and Problem-Solving Arrangements**

- Operational Planning and Tasking Group continues to operate effectively with strong representation from statutory partners and Council services to providing a response to threat, harm and risk issues affecting local communities and places.
- Planned a range of activity associated with seasonal trends and responded to specific crime patterns (such as thefts, motorbike disorder, deliberate fires etc).
- Developed, in conjunction with Children's Services, a Contextual Safeguarding pilot within the Birtley area to explore a different way of providing interventions to safeguard young people. This has included mapping communities, schools and peer groups and applying a safeguarding lens to issues that would normally be viewed as nuisance teenage behaviour with intervention limited to sanctions.

## **Community Cohesion and Resilience**

### **Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring**

- Delivered activity to raise public awareness of hate crime reporting, increase referrals to victim support services and promoting hate crime education.
- Started to review and refresh the local Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan for Gateshead which will be launched during national awareness week.
- Continue to support the Gateshead Hate Crime Champions Network includes schools and colleges within Gateshead as well as public transport providers and private sector organisations.
- Ongoing relationship development with key community groups in Gateshead to increase confidence in Police and Council's approach to hate crime (including involvement in asylum and migration multi-agency partnership work).

### **Preventing Violence Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism**

- Refreshed the local Prevent Risk Assessment for 2022/23 to assess the current threat level and identify actions to reduce the risk of vulnerability to radicalization within Gateshead.
- Raised awareness of different ideologies, groups and risks linked with counter terrorist narratives with Council staff through the roll out of tailored training to raise profile of Prevent, referral routes and to upskill frontline practitioners.
- Continued to deliver interventions/support to individuals at risk of radicalization through the statutory Channel Panel process.
- Ran a further Channel HYDRA session which provides a simulated scenario of a real-life Prevent referral to test local approaches and ability to address the case.

## **4 Recommendations**

### **4.1 Members are asked to:**

- (i) Comment on the activities undertaken 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 may want to scrutinise in detail at a future Committee meeting.

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Gateshead Community Safety Board – Partnership Plan 2020-23**