

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Council Plan – Year End Assessment of Delivery and Performance 2015/16
28 June 2016

Portfolio	Communities
Portfolio Member:	Communities and Volunteering – Councillor Gary Haley; Councillor Linda Green
Lead Officer	Anneliese Hutchinson
Support Officer	Adam Lindridge

This committee undertakes scrutiny in relation to:

- The safety of communities and people in the Borough, including the functions of the crime and disorder committee as set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and associated regulations;

Our Achievements

- Gateshead is the first local authority in the North East to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).
- Worked with The Gateshead Housing Company and the Volunteering team to recruit and train 12 volunteers to support victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- Worked with GemArts and The Gateshead Housing Company to deliver an arts project focusing on increasing awareness and understanding the impact of hate crime.
- Commissioned a number of tailored training sessions to better equip practitioners to tackle the growing popularity of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), as well as sessions on domestic violence and Prevent.
- The Gateshead Youth Offending Team attained the Restorative Justice Quality Mark, one of only 20 organisations nationally to receive this award.
- Enhanced the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), with the introduction of a serial victim's programme, which identifies and supports serial victims of domestic abuse.
- Revised the hate crime plan for Gateshead.

Key Actions over the next 6 months

- Further develop the Substance Misuse Strategy for Gateshead.
- Work to develop a generic "tenure blind" ASB policy for Gateshead.
- Work with colleagues from Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance and Northumbria Police to address the increasing number of graffiti reports.
- Establish a task and finish group to tackle burglary and violent crime across the Borough.
- Develop a domestic abuse strategy and implement the findings of the Council-wide review of domestic abuse.
- Work with Barnardo's to deliver a RESPECT accredited domestic abuse perpetrator scheme in Gateshead.

Future Actions - Areas for Improvement

- Work with partners to address the rise in recorded crime across the Borough. Figures for 2015/16 show an increase of 37% (+3,431 crimes) in recorded crime across Gateshead, compared to the Northumbria figure of +29%.

Section 2 – Delivery of the Council Plan

Strategic Outcome Indicators - Summary of Performance

CS01 – Reducing anti-social behaviour

No specific target was set for this measure in 2015/16. However, the data shows that performance has improved as there has been a reduction of 8% in the number of incidents reported (-731 incidents). There were 8,074 incidents reported to Northumbria Police during 2015/16 compared to 8,805 during 2014/15.

CS02 – Reduction in the proportion of proven re-offending of adult offenders

Following legislative changes resulting in the formation of the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS) no target was set for this measure; therefore no data is available for 2015/16. Data relating to young offenders, however, shows that in the 12 months to June 2015 there were 67 first time entrants to the Youth Offending Team, equating to a rate of 388 per 100,000 population and a 23% year on year reduction.

CS03a – Domestic abuse - % of referrals who have engaged with the IDVA service

The target for this measure has been achieved. The engagement rate for 2015/16 stands at 60% for those the service has been able to contact, exceeding the target of 50%. In addition, referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service, which deals with all high risk clients of domestic and sexual abuse, have continued to increase during 2015/16. There were 1,414 referrals received, compared to 1,022 in the previous 12 months. This represents an increase of 38% (+392 referrals).

CS03b – Increase the number of referrals to ARCH

Referrals to the ARCH hate crime reporting system have increased in the last 12 months, and the target of 202 reports has been exceeded. There were 282 reports made to ARCH during 2015/16, an increase of 19% (+45 incidents) when compared to the previous year.

Section 3 – Delivery of the Council Plan Progress made against the outcomes and targeted action
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Our Achievements

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

In order to address the priority of Tackling Crime and ASB we have:

- Implemented two operations to address burglary dwelling problems and support vulnerable residents in Gateshead.
 - Operation Sentinel was implemented in the South of the Borough in the summer of 2015, and aimed to better protect vulnerable residents from burglary dwelling offences. Sentinel involved police officers and council staff visiting individual properties that are identified as high risk, offering crime prevention advice to minimise the potential of a burglary occurring.
 - Operation Forager was implemented in Central Gateshead in November 2015 in collaboration with academics from University College London, and aimed to reduce the number of repeat and near repeat victims of burglary dwelling. Following a report of a burglary, officers visited the burgled property and as many houses as possible within the immediate vicinity, addressing any vulnerabilities and offering crime prevention advice. The purpose of visiting the neighbouring properties was to inform residents of the incident, to reassure them and to ensure neighbouring households receive practical crime prevention advice, and follows research suggesting perpetrators often return to areas previously targeted.
- In collaboration with the Neighbourhood Policing Team we supported two schemes where residents and community groups rolled out Volunteer Speed Watch initiatives within their local area to combat speeding vehicles. Speeding and dangerous driving is often cited as an issue for residents surveyed as part of the Safer Communities Survey, and it is hoped that this initiative will lead to the development of new schemes across the Borough. The impact of these on the community has been positive with members of the public seeing a visible presence targeting road safety.
- Implemented a framework for partners relating to the new ASB tools and powers. The tools and powers were revised as part of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and include injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Dispersal powers, Community Protection Notices, Public Spaces Protection Orders and Closure Notices. To help partners understand and use the new tools and powers available, a range of guidance documents have also been produced. A training event is planned for June 2016 which will focus on the tools and powers available and give an overview of the roles and responsibilities of key agencies.
- Established a number of task and finish groups to tackle a range of issues including the anti-social use of motorcycles and youth-related ASB. This

resulted in a zero tolerance approach, in light of reduced resources available, to respond to complaints of motorcycle and youth-related ASB. The Neighbourhood Policing Team are immediately alerted to any incidents with the Inspector then tasking Police to visit the area and assess the problem within 24 hours of it being referred.

- Became the first local authority in the North East to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The PSPO was introduced following a number of complaints from residents about off-road motorcycles in the Kibblesworth area and gives police and local authority officers the power to remove people from the area and fine those who are in breach of the PSPO. Funding has been also granted by The Gateshead Housing Company and Gateshead Council to install kissing gates on the pathway affected by the anti-social use of motorcycles to prevent them passing through. Since its implementation there have been no further reports of motorcycle disorder received.
- Community Safety and The Gateshead Housing Company continue to work with the Volunteering Team in relation to the ASB Volunteering Project. To date, there are 12 volunteers that are currently undertaking a 10-week training course, provided by Adult Services in conjunction with partners such as The Gateshead Housing Company and Northumbria Police, and will be expected to start working with victims from the end of May 2016. The training has been very well received and further publicity in Council News and Council Info has resulted in an additional 10 individuals wishing to take part, taking the total to 22. A referral process is being developed to ensure that we can appropriately 'match' suitable volunteers and victims and a range of literature and information is being produced. The Police and Crime Commissioner announced that a further £5k funding will be provided to Community Safety to sustain and develop this area of work in 2016/17.
- Reviewed the Safer Neighbourhoods Framework and made improvements to meetings and structures. This includes reviewing the frequency of meetings, attendance and the role and remit of the groups. Tasking has become more intelligence led and will address common themes amongst partners. There will now be one monthly Tasking meeting for the whole of the borough where complex issues are discussed which require intervention from more than one partner for action.
- Community Safety commissioned two problem solving training days for partners. The training, delivered by a Home Office accredited trainer, gave an introduction to the problem solving process used to tackle crime and ASB. The training has ensured that delegates are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to understand and apply the problem solving models in order to develop safer communities.
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service began their annual Lighter Nights campaign in March 2016. The lighter nights are the busiest time in the service's calendar and the campaign aims to reduce the number of ASB (secondary) fires across the Borough. As a result of work undertaken the number of ASB (secondary) fires has fallen for the last year and it is hoped that this will continue

for this year. Planning by partners for Bonfire Night and the days prior to this were carried out with uplifts implemented for any large items or piles that could be used for fires.

Protecting Vulnerable Groups

To protect vulnerable groups in Gateshead we have:

- Further enhanced the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) following a successful Home Office Innovation Fund bid. The MASH now includes a greater focus on the identification and support offered to serial victims of domestic abuse who have been linked to two or more perpetrators. The MASH provides a regular opportunity for partner agencies and Council services to come together and discuss vulnerable residents in Gateshead to ensure that appropriate, co-ordinated, proportionate and timely interventions can be implemented to safeguard and protect individuals. It provides a platform to devise referral pathways, mechanisms for sharing information and a shared understanding of partner roles and responsibilities.
- Continued to develop the Operation Encompass initiative which was established in April 2015 to share information with schools in order that they can support children who are affected following a domestic abuse incident. Latest data (to March 2016) shows that:
 - 636 separate domestic abuse incidents were reported, with a total of 1,417 children involved
 - The average age of the child involved is nine years
 - 219 incidents were open to Children's Services
 - There were 158 repeat incidents recorded
 - 75 incidents were both repeat incidents and open to Children's Services
 - 75% of incidents involved households where two or more children reside
- The Hate Crime Plan for Gateshead has been revised and a new action plan produced. A range of partners, residents and community groups have been consulted on the strategy, which focuses on 10 commitments to local people, including: help victims feel safer; holding perpetrators to account; listening to the community; and helping create a safer future.
- More than 250 individuals have taken part in domestic violence training delivered by multi-agency partners, covering a range of topics including: Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness; Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference; Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage; Domestic Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) relationships; Children and young people living with domestic violence; and Responding to Domestic Abuse.
- Referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service have continued to increase during 2015/16. There were more than 1,300 referrals, and the engagement rate for the period stands at 60% for those the service has been able to contact.

- The policies and procedures for the IDVA service have been reviewed to ensure victims of domestic violence receive the best possible level of service. The guidance outlines the support available to all service users and clarifies the role of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers.
- The Community Safety Team has contributed to initial scoping for a practitioner standard for individuals working with families and individuals affected by domestic abuse. The project is being led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Took part in a community event aimed at raising awareness of domestic abuse to coincide with the National White Ribbon Campaign. In the region of 100 individuals attended the event at Caedmon Hall, hearing about the support available to victims and the action being taken to tackle perpetrators.
- The IDVA service have begun delivery of the Freedom programme to clients, this examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of women victims and survivors. The programme aims to help women who have experience domestic violence to make sense of and understand what has happened to them.
- Almost 200 professionals from a range of Gateshead organisations have received training to raise awareness about the Prevent agenda and to identify and act upon concerns around radicalisation.
- GemArts, in partnership with Community Safety and The Gateshead Housing Company, delivered an arts project, “We Stand Together”, which focused on increasing awareness and understanding of the impact of hate crime. Students from Joseph Swan Academy produced a poster campaign and Heworth Grange Comprehensive produced a piece of animation, both of which portray clear messages about hate crime. The work was launched during National Hate Crime Awareness Week and the project has been nominated for four awards, one of which, the Tpas Northern Regional Awards, it recently won. The Community Safety Team has awarded further funding to GemArts to deliver another project which will use arts activity to explore topics with young people focused on themes of anti-discrimination and equality.
- A new Community Tensions Framework and virtual network have been established with partners to share information and intelligence on possible tensions and/or incidents that occur within the Borough and ensure a co-ordinated response can be implemented where appropriate.

Addressing the Drivers of Crime and Disorder

Under the priority of Addressing the Drivers of Crime and Disorder we have:

- Evaluated the A&E (Cardiff Model) project at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Partners have met to discuss how to further develop the project in Gateshead. A new A&E champion has been appointed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the

data collection form used by staff has been evaluated. In addition, regular training and feedback sessions have been arranged with staff at the hospital.

- In order to tackle the growing popularity of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) a number of tailored training sessions have been delivered to a range of professionals including: frontline staff; Deputy Head Teachers, Pastoral Leads and Social Workers. In addition, NPS Champions have been established in treatment services for both young people and adults, while partners have developed a virtual network to enable the sharing of intelligence and good practice. A handout has also been created for staff and parents. This handout provides information and advice about NPS including, what NPS are, what their effects are, and where to go to get help or treatment.
- Gateshead was identified as a pilot site for a national Health as a Licensing Objective (HALO) project in conjunction with Public Health England. In order to test the practicality of introducing health as a licensing objective, Public Health England have developed an analytical support package to help public health teams with their existing role as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act which will test the effectiveness of health as a licensing objective. Community Safety have supported Public Health in identifying those areas in the Borough where there are concerns about licensing activity, for example those with higher levels of alcohol-related disorder, higher rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions or higher levels of child poverty.
- New legislation came into force in 2015 that enables Naloxone to be supplied to individuals by drug services without prescription, as a parenteral drug (similar to adrenaline) for saving a life in an emergency. The injection can be used in the community; either in the home or other non-medical setting by appropriate individuals for the complete or partial reversal of respiratory depression induced by opioids. Gateshead Evolve have begun to roll out take home Naloxone to service users and training sessions have been held for all partner organisations.
- The Drug Related Death Panel (DRD) continues to investigate any cases where individuals have died as a result of a drug overdose. As a result key lessons are shared amongst professionals to try and minimise further harm and deaths. The DRD Annual Report has been produced for 2015 and will link into the delivery of the subsequent Action Plan (as per lessons learnt / recommendations outlined within the DRD Annual Report).
- The DRD Panel has also started to investigate suicides from 2016 and will be exploring cases in greater detail to identify any lessons learnt.
- Following a number of drug-related deaths in supported accommodation, and in recognition of the links between homelessness, housing issues and drug-related deaths, Housing Services have implemented a Drugs Management policy for supported accommodation premises. The policy provides staff in supported accommodation with guidance to effectively deal with drug-related incidents and details what action should be considered to prevent the loss of accommodation. There is clear evidence to show the importance of stable housing in tackling

addiction and to sustain recovery, which is why it is important to try and prevent the loss of accommodation.

Addressing Re-offending

To address re-offending:

- We have supported the launch of the Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) initiative across the Northumbria Force area. The initiative targets serial perpetrators of domestic abuse and encourages behaviour change through either education or enforcement routes. To date almost 100 perpetrators have been discussed at the meetings with outcomes such as accessing education programmes, deployment of proximity alarms and enforcement activity.
- The Gateshead Youth Offending Team has attained the Restorative Justice Quality Mark. They were the first organisation in the North East of England to receive this prestigious award. The Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM), backed by the Ministry of Justice, demonstrates that Gateshead Youth Offending Team is delivering good quality, safe and sustainable restorative services that meet the six Restorative Service Standards. Only 20 organisations nationally from sectors that include criminal justice, education and care have received the RSQM.
- The ASB Panel has also strengthened links with the Youth Offending Team who offer a programme called YCEP (Youth Crime Education Programme) to young people at danger of becoming involved in crime. As part of the graded response, any young people coming to the attention of the authorities are offered this intervention to try and reduce their risk of becoming involved in more serious criminality and subsequent legal sanctions.
- The Gateshead Youth Offending Team has worked with 142 young people through its Prevention programme in the 12 months to March 2016. During this time, only one of those young people has gone on to offend.

Additional Achievements

- The Police and Crime Commissioner has continued to fund the quarterly Safer Communities Survey. Feelings of safety and perceptions of residents in Gateshead remain positive. The latest results show that 97% of Gateshead residents feel very or fairly safe living in their neighbourhood; while three quarters of residents agree that the police and council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. Both of these results are on par with the Northumbria Force average for these measures.
- Continued to support the Troubled Families agenda, known in Gateshead as FamiliesGateshead.
- Successfully completed the OSC Review into the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda. As a result, a number of key recommendations and actions have been

identified to better improve our approach to safeguarding vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Key Actions over the Next 6 Months

- The Substance Misuse Strategy has been completed in draft form and circulated to partners for consultation. Following the consultation, further work on the strategy will be undertaken.
- In recognition of the many services within Gateshead Council that tackle ASB, partners are working to develop a generic “tenure blind” ASB policy for Gateshead. The policy will specify what is meant by ASB and what is not, how ASB can be dealt with, the support that is available for victims of ASB. In addition, the policy will provide greater direction to the work of the Neighbourhood Tasking Group.
- Explore the possibility of implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the Town Centre area.
- Continue to support the Health As a Licensing Objective (HALO) project.
- Implement a borough wide PSPO which will prohibit drinking alcohol in a public place.
- Complete the review of the Safer Neighbourhoods process. This will involve review the Neighbourhood Tasking meets as well as the ASB Panel. It is anticipated this will be complete by July 2016.
- Work with colleagues from Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance and the Police to address the increasing number of graffiti reports received. Hotspot locations will be assessed and potential offenders identified. It is hoped that the Community Rehabilitation Company will also support the process by removing graffiti as part of Community Payback arrangements.
- Develop a new Domestic Abuse strategy to deliver further improvement in the partnership response to eliminating domestic violence and abuse and implement the findings of the Council-wide review of domestic abuse services.
- Broaden Operation Encompass to take into account provision for under-fives, and explore the potential for wider notification around Police incidents.
- Recruit community contacts from partner agencies to support victims of hate crime to report incidents.
- Commission ASB training events for partners to provide guidance on the tools and powers detailed within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- Establish a task and finish group to tackle burglary and violent crime across the Borough and continue with the work undertaken by the Youth ASB Task and Finish group.
- Implement a drug-related death action plan for 2016/17, taking into account the learning points from 2015/16. Key actions will include: reviewing the information sharing processes; being responsive to emerging drug trends and issues within the community; evaluating the Take Home Naloxone pilot; and, establishing a near miss referral pathway to ensure those who overdose receive appropriate support.
- Continue to develop the ASB Volunteering Project, following the announcement that a further £5k funding will be provided to Community Safety by the Police and Crime Commissioner to sustain and develop this area of work in 2016/17.
- The ASB Crime and Confidence Group will be implementing recommendations from the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, which looks at the drivers of crime such as drugs and alcohol, and how preventative measures to reduce incidents can be undertaken. A key strand in the report promotes communications and how information is shared amongst partners. Data and the use of analysis will also be looked at as a result of this.
- In order to ensure there is a domestic abuse perpetrator education programme operating in Gateshead the Community Safety Team will work in partnership with Barnardo's to deliver a RESPECT accredited scheme in Gateshead. This will allow perpetrators of domestic abuse to recognise and address their abusive behaviour, eliminating the risk of abuse towards past, current and future intimate partners, and also eliminating the impact of such abuse on children.
- Work with the Community Rehabilitation Company to develop and implement a fully integrated Offender Management framework across Gateshead.