

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 JUNE 2015

PRESENT: Councillor P Dillon (Chair)
Councillors T Graham, B Coates, S Dickie

CSS01/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P Craig and A Wheeler

CSS02/15 CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Committee and the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair, as approved by the Council for the current municipal year, were reported.

CSS03/15 ROLE AND REMIT

The terms of reference for the Committee, as detailed in the Council's constitution were reported.

RESOLVED - That the Committee's remit and terms of reference be noted

CSS04/15 END OF YEAR ASSESSMENT OF DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

The Committee received an overview of the key activities that have been undertaken by Gateshead Council services and partner agencies between October 2014 and March 2015 to address the Community Safety's Board's strategic priorities, as set out in the Partnership Plan for 2014/15.

Over the next six months partners will carry out a range of activities linked to community safety issues, including:

- Revising the ASB framework and refreshing the current graded response approach.
- Developing an ASB toolkit for practitioners.
- Working with partners to develop the joint Substance Misuse Action Plan for Gateshead.
- Working with young people to provide opportunities for personal and social development in relation to healthy and respectful relationships.

RESOLVED -

- i) that the information be noted.
- ii) that further updates be received by Committee on a regular basis.
- iii) that the information be submitted to Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval

CSS05/15

5 YEAR TARGET SETTING 2015/16 – 2019/20

The Committee received a report which forms part of the Council's performance management framework and sets out the Strategic Outcome Indicators (SIOs) targets for a five year period – commencing 2015/16 – for consideration by the Communities and Place – Community Safety Sub Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

Information available to date on the performance of each SOI target for the period 2014/15 was presented to Committee and where possible, newly available baseline information, clarification or national definitions and six monthly performance has been taken into consideration. There remains a small number of SOIs where target information is not yet published. Where target definitions have been changed or varied and no baseline is currently set, that performance reporting will continue in the interim period until a suitable baseline is established.

Committee were advised that:-

CS01 – (ASB) – the period 2014/15 saw the indicator measuring the reduction in ASB as a baseline year. No targets have been provided for the period 2015/16-2019/20.

CS02 0 (Re-offending rate for adults) – the period 2014/15 saw the indicator measuring the reduction in adult reoffending as a baseline year. Performance data for this period is released later in the year and meaningful target setting is not yet able to take place.

RESOLVED - i) that the information be noted.
 ii) that the information be submitted to Cabinet for approval

CSS06/15

OSC SCOPING REPORT – PREVENT

The Committee have agreed that the focus of its review in 2015'16 will be the newly introduced Duty to Prevent individuals being drawn into extremism, an element of the UK Government Counter-Terrorism strategy (CONTEST).

The CONTEST agenda, sits under the remit of the CONTEST Board with support from the Prevent, Protect and Prepare multi-agency group. This Group focuses on addressing issues associated with counter-terrorism and was established in 2011. The CONTEST Board also has links to the Community Safety, Safeguarding Adults and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

A range of partners are engaged in this area of work including; Gateshead Council; Northumbria Police – Central Area Command and Special Branch; The Gateshead Housing Company; National Probation Service; Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company; Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group; Queen Elizabeth Gateshead Foundation Trust; Gateshead College; and intu.

During recent years the partnership has delivered a range of activity to address shared priorities including; training for front line staff to raise awareness of the Prevent agenda; work with Counter Terrorism Security to reduce risk to local sites; briefing sessions to school staff on radicalisation; establishing a Community

Tensions Framework to identify and manage potential issues within and between communities; and, establishing links to Resilience and Emergency Planning processes.

This review will consider the requirements of the Prevent Duty and explore how our existing approaches can be used to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism – and will draw upon examples of best practice to assess any current and future challenges.

The review will focus particularly on:

- The arrangements the Council and its partners have in place to meet the Duty and to assess whether they meet the best practice
- The national guidance, its implications for the future of the service and our capacity to respond
- Whether there are service gaps, areas of duplication or opportunities to work more effectively and efficiently

The review will look at the areas through three evidence gathering sessions that will focus on:

- Setting the scene (June 2015)
- The Process of Radicalisation (October 2015)
- Partner Agencies (January 2016)

It is proposed that whilst the review is led by Gateshead Council, it will incorporate input from partner organisations to ensure a holistic approach. The review will take place over 12 months and will involve research and presentations from officers and partners.

The OSC work will result in:

- Ensuring that clear arrangements are in place for delivering the Prevent Duty within the Council and partner agencies.
- Enhancing effective and efficient working, avoiding duplication and identifying service gaps.
- Providing clear direction on national guidance and our capacity to respond.

RESOLVED - i) that the information be noted.

CSS07/15 REVISED APPROACH TO TACKLING COMMUNITY TENSIONS IN GATESHEAD

The Committee received a report and presentation providing an overview of the revised process that has been implemented within Gateshead to improve how the Partnership captures, monitors and acts upon issues that have the potential to cause increased tensions within local communities

As a result of recent high profile incidents abroad and incidents which have occurred in Gateshead over the last few months, the Community Safety Board has produced a Community Tensions Framework and has also included the creation of a centralised Community Tensions Hub and Virtual Co-ordinating Group.

All tensions regardless of risk will also be collated and fed into the Hate Crime and Tensions Monitoring Group on a monthly basis for the identification of any broader emerging/trends. This will allow an analysis of any cumulative impact to be considered and reports will be submitted on a bi-monthly basis to the Crime, ASB and Confidence Sub-Group which is directly accountable to the Community Safety Board.

The first Co-ordinating Group Meeting took place on 22 April 2015 to gather the views of service and partners in relation to the Framework as well as exploring potential opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the Framework. All services were represented and could clearly see the benefits of a single co-ordination function in relation to Community Tensions.

Throughout the last few months, the Framework has been piloted using existing issues/tensions to ensure that the revised approach is fit for purpose and meets services and partner needs.

Further meetings of the Co-ordinating Group will take place on a monthly basis to evaluate longer-lasting consequences/legacies associated with tensions through further community cohesion and/or wider engagement activity (e.g. undertaking early intervention and preventative work linked with challenging stereotypes). This will also include consideration to what activity can be undertaken to address perceptions and feelings of safety within local communities.

RESOLVED - i) that the information be noted
 ii) agree to receive further updates on Community Tensions