

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillor P Dillon (Chair)

Councillors T Graham, B Coates, S Dickie, A Wheeler

CSS.8/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P Craig and J McClurey.

CSS.9/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2015 were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the Community Safety Board held on 3 July and 28 August 2015 were noted for information.

CSS.10/15 COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD – UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the Community Safety Board in order to address its strategic priorities, as set out in the statutory Partnership Plan for 2015/16.

As a reminder, the Partnership Plan brings together the analytical findings from the Strategic Assessment, along with the key activities undertaken by the Board in the previous twelve months to set out the strategic priorities that will be delivered in the forthcoming year.

The strategic priorities endorsed by the Board for 2015/16 were:-

- **Tackling Crime and ASB**
tackling adult-related ASB; acquisitive and violent Crime; environmental issues; fear of Crime; embed ASB tools and powers
- **Addressing Re-offending**
Impact of transforming rehabilitation; older offenders; prevention and early intervention through FamiliesGateshead; youth crime
- **Protecting Vulnerable Groups**
Multi-agency safeguarding hub; Operation Encompass; domestic and sexual abuse; hate crime; victim's first hub; sexual exploitation
- **Addressing the Drivers of Crime and Disorder**
Drug-related deaths; Novel Psychoactive Substances ('Legal Highs'); alcohol-related crime and disorder; recovery (Treatment); welfare reform

Between April and August 2015, the level of recorded crime experienced within Gateshead increased by 22% (with an extra 833 crimes reported to Northumbria Police). Particular increases have been noted in violent crime (up 38%; 311 crimes), domestic related burglaries (up 34%; 51 crimes), criminal damage (up 38%; 272 crimes) and serious acquisitive crime (up 20%; +99 crimes)

Although the number of crimes is increasing, Gateshead remains one of the best performing Community Safety Partnerships within its most similar family groups of 15 CSPs; whilst the rate of crime per 1,000 residents continues to be lower than the average for the Northumbria Force area.

The volume of anti-social behaviour reported to Northumbria Police has fallen by 13% (down 680 incidents). Reported incidents of youth related ASB across the Borough have fallen by 11%, while there has been a 38% downturn in reported incidents of alcohol-related ASB (-224 incidents)

The Committee also received the progress and/or actions that have been implemented in the last six months and future work streams that are currently being developed to address any emerging themes/trends.

The Probation Service is currently subject to significant reforms (as a result of national Transforming Rehabilitation agenda) which is having a fundamental impact on future service delivery around the reduction in offending behaviour in Gateshead. As a reminder for members, Probation Services within Gateshead now comprise of: Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and National Probation Service (NPS).

Despite the changes, there remains an ongoing commitment to risk assessment and management of offenders throughout Gateshead and both the CRC/NPA continue to work closely in partnership to protect the public from harm – and from a public perspective, there should be very little change – with partnership activities continuing to operate effectively. This includes:

Integrated Offender Management continues to identify and proactively target our most prolific offenders using a co-ordinated multi-agency approach.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to nominate individuals that are causing concern in local communities' relation to crime and disorder.

Strong links continue to be maintained with local Prison Services – and work continues to be developed in relation to the 'Through the Gate' model.

Work continues to take place with 'non-statutory' offenders that are leaving custody to address their offending behaviour.

Young offenders are routinely discussed with IOM to support the transition process from youth to adult services – and enables Probation to be fully up to speed on the case prior to hand over.

- RESOLVED -
- i) that the progress made in relation to each of the four strategic priorities of the Community Safety Board be noted.
 - ii) that the Committee continue to receive six monthly Community Safety updates

- iii) the Committee agreed to receive further details in relation to work undertaken as part of the MATAC process (to address perpetrators of domestic abuse) as well as the emerging trends of drug-related deaths and Novel Psychoactive Substances within Gateshead.

CSS.11/15 PREVENT – EVIDENCE GATHERING

The Committee received a presentation from M Broadhead of Northumbria Police Special Branch on the PREVENT agenda.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

**CSS.12/15 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – TOOLS AND POWERS USED
WITHIN GATESHEAD**

The Committee received a presentation on the national context, local context and next steps available to officers in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in Gateshead.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.