

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Community Safety Board – 6mth Progress Update

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### Summary

The Community Safety Board is required to attend the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (OSC) on a six-monthly basis to provide an overview of the activities that have been undertaken to address its strategic priorities (as set out in the statutory Partnership Plan for 2016/17).

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## 1 Background

- 1.1 The Community Safety Board is a standalone themed partnership that has the legal obligation to address the key crime, disorder and substance misuse (drug and alcohol) issues that are impacting upon the Borough. The Board also has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual intelligence-led Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan.

## 2 Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan

- 2.1 As a reminder, the Strategic Assessment is a detailed analysis of the key crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues within Gateshead in order to assist in setting future community safety priorities for the Board. The ninth Strategic Assessment was completed in December 2015 and identified three priorities for the Board to address over the next twelve-months.

## 3 Partnership Plan

- 3.1 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 12 months to set out the strategic priorities that will be delivered upon in the forthcoming year. The strategic priorities endorsed by the Board for 2016/17 were:

- Prevent Crime, Re-offending and ASB to Reduce Demand on Services  
[Burglary Dwelling; Violence, Criminal Damage, Anti-Social Behaviour, Deliberate Secondary Fires and Focusing on High Demand Locations]
- Protect and Support Vulnerable Victims and Persons  
[Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Operation Encompass, Sexual Exploitation, Drug-related Deaths, Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalisation and Hate Crime]
- Addressing Key and Emerging Threats  
[Novel Psychoactive Substances, Cyber-related Crime, Community Tensions and Cohesion, Serious and Organised Crime and Suicides]
- Cross-cutting Issues  
[FamiliesGateshead, Substance Misuse, Early Intervention/Prevention, Improving Community Confidence, Tackling Complex and Multiple Needs, Dual Diagnosis]

## **4 Current Performance**

- 4.1 The level of recorded crime in Gateshead increased by 49% between April and August 2016 (an additional 2,293 crimes when compared to the previous year). The largest increases have been experienced in violence against the person offences (up 87%; +971 crimes) and criminal damage (up 41%; +404 crimes).
- 4.2 Whilst increases have been recorded in most crime categories, there has been a reduction in burglary-related offences, with domestic burglaries falling by 13% (-25 crimes) and non-domestic burglaries falling by 30% (-111 crimes) – and are the highest reductions throughout the whole of Northumbria. Vehicle and acquisitive crimes have also fallen, down 9% (-35 crimes) and 7%; (-43 crimes respectively).
- 4.3 Gateshead remains one of the best performing Community Safety Partnerships within its Most Similar Family Group of 15 CSPs; while the rate of crime (per 1,000 residents) continues to be lower than the average for the Northumbria Force area. National surveys to measure feelings of safety within an area show Northumbria to be the second highest performing area in the country.
- 4.4 The volume of anti-social behaviour reported to Northumbria Police has fallen by 6% (down 211 incidents). Reported incidents of youth-related ASB across the Borough have fallen by 4%, while there has been a 18% downturn in reported incidents of alcohol-related ASB (-59 incidents).
- 4.5 New cases of anti-social behaviour that are opened by The Gateshead Housing Company have fallen by 14% in the first quarter of 2016/17 (397 cases compared to 459). The majority of incidents continue to be noise-related nuisance (27%) with domestic abuse (18%) and animal nuisance (11%) featuring highly. Legal action has been taken on 19 occasions and includes: 8 NOSPs (Notices of Seeking Possession), 4 Possession Orders and 3 evictions.
- 4.6 Perceptions of Gateshead residents remain positive: the proportion of residents surveyed as part of the Safer Communities Survey who state that they feel very or fairly safe in their area currently stands at 98%, on par with the Force average for this measure. In addition, 71% of people agreed that the police and council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. Although slightly lower than the force average of 73%, this has remained relatively steady over the last 12 months.
- 4.7 Between April and August 2016 the Private Sector Housing team received 473 complaints linked to anti-social behaviour or noise. Almost half of all complaints received were linked to either music and parties or barking dogs, with smaller proportions linked to general noise (e.g. footsteps), shouting and swearing and house alarms.
- 4.8 The latest data from the Youth Offending Team, which covers the period April – June 2016, shows that there has been a 77% reduction in the number of First Time Entrants to the justice system in Gateshead compared to the previous quarter. In total there have been 12 first time entrants during this period, with violence against the person and weapon offences the most common offence type for these individuals.

4.9 Gateshead Youth Offending Team also uses a live tracker, where 125 young people who have been sentenced between April 2015 and March 2016 are tracked over an 18 month period to monitor their offending behaviour. The data shows that 89 young people (71% of the cohort) have not yet re-offended. The 36 individuals who went on to re-offend committed a total of 89 offences.

4.10 Data provided by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service suggests that the number of deliberate secondary fires attended in Gateshead has increased. During the period April – July 2016 there were 275 deliberate secondary fires attended, 20 more than at the same time in 2015. This represents an 8% increase in fires attended. Data on all hotspots will be used by Tasking and as part of the Bonfire Night campaign to target specific localities.

## **5 Strategic Priorities – Update**

5.1 This section provides an update of Community Safety activity within Gateshead. It sets out progress and/or actions that have been implemented in the last six-months and highlights future workstreams that are currently being developed to address any emerging themes/trends.

### **Prevent Crime, Re-offending and ASB to Reduce Demand on Services**

#### **5.2 Public Space Protection Orders**

PSPOs were implemented as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and were intended to give councils additional powers to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in public spaces which could have a detrimental effect on the local community's quality of life. We are currently consulting on three PSPOs – one covering the entire Borough (which will replace the Designated Public Protection Order), one covering Town Centre and the final one covering Metro Centre Retail Park. It is recognised that to be successful, the orders must be appropriately enforced. Police Officers, PCSOs and Council officers will be able to enforce the restrictions and requirements, as well as other designated groups. It is envisaged the orders will be implemented from November 2016, subject to consultation responses.

#### **5.3 ASB Tools and Powers**

It was recognised the new ASB tools (Closure Orders, Community Protection Notices and Injunctions) were being underutilised by Council services and partner agencies. Community Safety was keen to provide ASB Panel members with training so they better understood the benefit of each tool. Subsequently, a training session was held for members of the Panel in August, which has resulted in a marked increase in the number of Closures and CPNs used.

#### **5.4 Neighbourhood Tasking and Co-ordination**

Following a mini-review of the Neighbourhood Tasking model, a new approach has been adopted. There is now one monthly Tasking meeting for the whole of Gateshead, instead of ten. The new way of working means it is more effective, less resource intensive for partners and avoids duplication of effort. There have been four meetings since the implementation of the new structure, which have been extremely productive. Some of the issues tackled have included:

- Addressing issues of youth disorder, secondary fires and criminal damage in Saltwell Park;

- Working with partners to divert young people from causing a nuisance in Fewster Square, and
- Identifying and tackling offenders committing crime or anti-social behaviour on Pelaw Metro Station.

#### 5.5 Task and Finish Group: Offenders

Following an in-depth review of areas where there was a higher concentration of violent offences, a multi-agency task and finish group was established to help tackle the issue. Respective partners were asked to review their processes in relation to the top 20 offenders and victims in order to help identify if there were any missed opportunities to intervene and minimise violent incidents. This exercise showed a gap in the management of repeat offenders and quite often they 'slipped' between agencies. To help address this issue longer term, it was agreed to re-establish the Integrated Offender Management model to ensure a joined up approach to addressing offending behaviour.

#### 5.6 Summer Activity

Work has been ongoing throughout the summer to address:

- *Motorcycle Disorder* – this includes identification of perpetrators and taking enforcement action where necessary, new signage, regular press releases and the production of a multi-agency leaflet which was distributed to hot spot areas.
- *Youth ASB* - Following a partner review of youth ASB, a proactive approach to addressing the issue was adopted by the Community Safety Team and Northumbria Police. Incidents are now responded to almost immediately after being reported. Anecdotal information suggests that the number of youth ASB incidents is decreasing and only exists in small pockets across the borough.

#### 5.7 ASB Volunteers

There are currently a number of ASB volunteers involved in the ASB Volunteer Project, each have their own caseload supporting and providing information to individuals. A second round of recruitment for additional volunteers is underway and training for this will run over 10 weeks starting November 2016. The training will cover information around the role, health and safety, safeguarding processes and counselling skills as well as other areas.

### **Protect and Support Vulnerable Victims and Persons**

#### 5.8 Hate Crime Reporting – ARCH

Hate-related incidents reported to ARCH have continued to increase during 2016/17. There have been 150 incidents reported between April and August 2016. This is an increase of 42% when compared to April – August 2015, an additional 44 incidents. The majority of incidents reported are racist incidents, accounting for 7 in 10 of the incidents reported in Gateshead during the period.

#### 5.9 Hate Crime

Community Safety, in conjunction with partner agencies, has refreshed the local Hate Crime Strategy which includes actions linked with:

- *Reporting Hate Crime* – to ensure people understand what hate crime is; how to report it and how it will be dealt with; and improving the means for

reporting incidents by making them more accessible, easy to use and having more reporting options available.

- *Case Management* – to improve our case management process so we can be sure all reported incidents are dealt with as effectively and consistently as possible, making the best possible use of the resources available. To ensure we make the best use of appropriate interventions to intervene in a timely manner to stop behaviour escalating.
- *Prevention through Education* – to communicate effective and consistent messages to help prevent incidents occurring and to deliver targeted education and training programmes to specific groups most at risk of victimisation and offending.

5.10 To support delivery of the Gateshead Hate Crime Strategy and action plan, the Community Safety commissioned two projects:

- *Show Racism the Red Card* – delivered four training sessions to front line to 60 professionals in the community and voluntary service to provide them with an increased understanding of how to recognise racism, feel more confident in challenging racism and gain a better understanding of how to report hate crime.
- *GemArts* – delivered Travelers' Tales Schools Project, a 6 week arts project with Traveler young people from 3 primary schools, creating an animation piece that explored heritage, history and culture of Traveler communities. In addition, they have delivered Indian art, dance and culture sessions in schools where there issues around negative stereotypes relating to different faith communities. A local artist worked alongside 30 pupils to create a visual arts piece that explored Hinduism. The arts work was embedded into a project around Hinduism and India, enabling young people to understand and develop greater cultural awareness and knowledge of India and faith communities.

5.11 Domestic Abuse

The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service provide specialist support to individuals assessed as being at high risk of homicide or serious harm. During 2015/16 the service received a total of 1344 referrals, up from 1022 the previous year, an increase of 32%. The engagement rate for the period was 59%. During the first quarter of 2016/17 there were 315 referrals to the IDVA Service, 13.5% lower than the previous year – but in line with similar reductions experienced by the Police in the number of high risk victims identified. The engagement rate for the period was 57% with a further 5% receiving initial advice but declining further support.

5.12 Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse

The Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) approach to tackling perpetrators of domestic abuse has been evaluated by Northumbria University. The report highlights a number of initial successes including:

- implementation of a bespoke Recency, Frequency, and Gravity model;
- development of a toolkit for use in addressing behaviour of perpetrators;
- information sharing to proactively manage perpetrators.

The report also identifies a number of areas for further development, including: better links with Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference; increased publicity around successes; and, improved partner engagement.

5.13 Domestic Violence Champions

In partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety is involved in an initiative which aims to improve community and business responses to domestic and sexual violence by delivering training to volunteer 'Champions' from a wide range of organisations. Two sessions have been delivered since April 2016 with in excess of 150+ attendees – and focused on raising awareness of civil/legal remedies, stalking, housing support and Female Genital Mutilation.

5.14 Domestic Abuse Training

Throughout the last six-months, representatives from a range of organisations have been involved in delivering a programme of training to professionals working in Gateshead around domestic abuse. The programme includes sessions on: domestic violence and abuse awareness; honour-based violence and forced marriage; multi-agency risk assessment conference; responding to domestic violence; and, young people living with domestic violence. During this period, over 260 individuals have accessed the training. To further enhance the programme a training needs analysis will be undertaken across the partners to identify any gaps or emerging themes.

5.15 Sexual Violence Training

SafeLives were commissioned to deliver bespoke training for Domestic Abuse practitioners around 'Responding to victims of sexual violence'. The session was opened up to partner organisations working routinely with those affected by domestic abuse and delivered to a group of 24 frontline professionals.

5.16 Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) Project

Community Safety is working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to roll out a Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) Project within Gateshead, which aims to offer specialist advice and support to victims immediately following a domestic abuse incident taking place. It will focus on peak demand times, usually Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening and night (between 8pm to 4am) and, where relevant, will deliver targeted activity within hotspot locations – and involves specialist domestic violence trained officers to accompany Police on patrols to incidents of domestic violence.

### **Addressing Key and Emerging Threats**

5.17 Drug-related Deaths

The Drug-related Death Panel continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss cases and explore possible learning outcomes from all drug-related deaths that occur within the Borough. There has been a significant increase in drug related deaths in Gateshead over the past 2 years. In 2015, there were 17 deaths, and between January and September 2016, there have already been a total of 18. An action plan has been produced outlining a number of recommendations to minimise and reduce the number of drug related deaths in the longer term.

5.18 Training

A number of training sessions have taken place since April 2016 in conjunction with the Adult and Young Peoples Substance Misuse Services (Evolve and Platform) to provide practitioners in Gateshead with information on drug and

alcohol awareness, overdose awareness as well as the emerging trend around New Psychoactive Substances (aka legal highs).

5.19 Substance Misuse Strategy

The joint drug and alcohol strategy for Gateshead is near completion and in draft format; this is the first combined strategy for several years and will focus on delivering activity based around three themes:

- reduce demand and prevention across the life course
- reduce supply protection and responsibility
- build recovery and health and wellbeing services

5.20 Darker Nights / Operation BOND

There is to be a borough-wide partnership operation 'Operation Bond' which will be led by the Central Neighbourhood Policing Team, to coincide with the darker nights – and will deliver crime prevention advice to vulnerable people through direct engagement, media campaigns and community messaging.

5.21 Diverting Offenders

There is limited provision in Gateshead available to offenders which would see them engaged in any sort of activity that would remove them from crime and ASB. Initial conversations are taking place with officers across the Council and external agencies which would look to fill this gap. This has included specific support for veterans, in conjunction with Community Rehabilitation Company and HMS Calliope. In addition, Fulfilling Lives Service User Consultation Group will be consulting with the street drinkers in the town centre in order to ascertain the reasons behind their offending and to identify measures that can put in place to minimise future issues/behaviour (and complements the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order outlined earlier).

5.22 **Bonfire Night**

Initial meetings have started to plan for Bonfire Night 2016. Various initiatives take place co-ordinated by the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service which include:

- targeting of hot spot areas as identified by historic and current fire data;
- identification of combustible materials which are discarded or in a dangerous position and reporting to be collected;
- Schools education programmes run for the duration of the period
- Targeted bonfire assemblies take place at all secondary schools in the Borough for year 7,8 and 9 children;
- fire safety specific media and social media campaigns run throughout the period and particularly during the bonfire period

**6 Recommendation**

6.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) Comment on the progress made 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 want to scrutinise in greater detail at a future meeting.