

17 January 2017**TITLE OF REPORT: Draft Community Safety Board Strategic Priorities
for 2017/18****REPORT OF: Paul Dowling
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Summary

This report provides Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee with an overview of the draft strategic priorities that are proposed by the Community Safety Board for 2017/18. The report forms part of the statutory consultation process to ensure that the Board is appropriately prioritising its future activity based on local needs prior to the production of the formal Partnership Plan, which set out how we will deliver against the priorities in 2017/18.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an overview of the draft strategic priorities proposed by the local Community Safety Board for 2017/18.

2 Background / Context

2.1 The Community Safety Board has a statutory duty to produce an intelligence-led Strategic Assessment on an annual basis to help set local Community Safety Priorities.

2.2 As a reminder, the themes identified from last year's assessment were:

- Prevent crime, re-offending and ASB
- Protect and support vulnerable victims and persons
- Addressing key and emerging threats

Underneath each of these themes sat a number of key priorities, ranging from criminal damage to cyber-related crime. In addition there were also cross cutting themes, such as FamiliesGateshead and tackling complex and multiple needs, which were linked to each of the three themes listed above.

2.3 The process of producing the Strategic Assessment has always been a labour intensive exercise, taking months to complete and resulting in the production of what is often an unwieldy document. In the last five years, following changes to organisational structures and reductions in resources, the partnership element of the assessment process has weakened slightly. In order to reinvigorate the process to capture partners' views more effectively, Community Safety Board members agreed that a new innovative process should be trialled.

3 Management of Risk Management in Law Enforcement

- 3.1 The Management of Risk Management in Law Enforcement, or MoRiLE, is a new process that uses a range of elements to define harm and risk, and measures this against partners' capacity and capability to respond to an issue. MoRiLE is, therefore, an interactive and collaborative approach to producing the Strategic Assessment.
- 3.2 The MoRiLE process to develop the Strategic Assessment was a joint process with colleagues from Safe Newcastle. There are a number of shared characteristics between Gateshead and Newcastle, and carrying out this process with Safe Newcastle will make joint working between the two areas easier in future, where appropriate or necessary.
- 3.3 Gateshead is one of the first Community Safety Partnerships in England and Wales to use this process. It has been used to help police forces across the country develop their own Strategic Assessments, but it is not currently widely used within Community Safety Partnerships. By adopting this process at such an early stage, Gateshead's experiences of using MoRiLE can be fed into the national project team which will help shape its future development.
- 3.4 Community Safety Board members met in November 2016 to identify their top priorities. This was followed by a practitioner event, during which a range of practitioners from a number of internal Council services and partner agencies came together to offer their views on community safety-related themes. The aims of these two sessions were to:
- Ensure the strategic and operational issues of the Community Safety Partnership were aligned
 - Identify any issues that had been overlooked, and disregard those issues that were not appropriate for the Community Safety Partnership
 - Maximise partner input in the Strategic Assessment process
 - Help partners develop a greater understanding of the breadth of work undertaken by the Community Safety Board

Although the issues discussed at the practitioner event were at a lower level, the practitioners did identify similar issues to the Board members

4 Proposed Strategic Priorities

- 4.1 In order to determine the draft strategic priorities, the results from the Community Safety Board meeting and from the practitioner event have been collated and considered alongside performance data. This performance data considers the volume of incidents in the last 12 months, the frequency, trend and a forecast for the next 12 months. Based on this information the following draft strategic priorities have been identified:
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse
 - Anti-Social Behaviour (including hate crime)
 - Substance Misuse
 - Public Confidence (including Community Tensions)

4.2 The rationale for identifying these priorities:

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

- Reports of domestic abuse continue to increase
- Increase in the number of reports of sexual offences
- Sexual exploitation remains a key priority for several partners, including the Local Safeguarding Children and Adults' Boards
- Domestic abuse and its prominence continues to be a priority both locally and nationally, particularly for the Police and Crime Commissioner

Anti-Social Behaviour (including hate crime)

- Increase in deliberate fires
- Increase in the number of hate-related incidents reported to Police. National trends also indicate that hate crime is on the increase
- Continued reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour, although there still remain hotspot areas and seasonal issues
- Reports of youth-related disorder have increased slightly, and the trend appears to be for large groups of youths to congregate

Substance Misuse

- Further increases in the number of drug-related deaths reported in 2016 compared to 2015
- 13% of recorded crime in the last 12 months linked to alcohol, similar to proportions found in previous year
- Slight increase in the proportion of recorded crime linked to drugs

Public Confidence (including Community Tensions)

- Crime is increasing and resources continue to be stretched
- Public expectation of the services partners can provide remains high
- International and national events could negatively impact on our communities and lead to increased tensions

5 Next Steps

5.1 As part of its statutory duty, the Community Safety Board is required to consult with the public on the draft strategic priorities to ensure that the issues identified are based on local residents' needs and includes consultation with:

- Partners and Council services represented on the Community Safety Board and its sub-groups;
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee;
- Members of Communities Portfolio;
- Portfolio Holder for Community Safety;
- Local Councillors and residents; and
- Members signed up to the Council's ViewPoint

5.2 An online consultation will be made available via the Gateshead Council Consultation Portal and the link will be shared with OSC Members when the consultation is released in late January 2017.

5.3 The consultation will be available until March 2017, after which the results will be analysed and fed into the final Partnership Plan which will be presented to the Community Safety Board for approval in April 2017, and at a future Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee for scrutiny.

6 Proposals

6.1 The Committee is asked to consider the following proposals:

- (i) Discuss and comment on the content of the report
- (ii) Participate in and promote the online consultation
- (iii) Agree to receive the Partnership Plan at a future meeting
- (iv) Agree to receive regular updates with regard to the action taken to address the strategic priorities

7 Recommendations

7.1 The Committee are asked to consider and agree the report proposals set out in Section 6.1 above.

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