

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

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### Summary

The Community Safety Board is required to provide Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee (OSC) with an overview of the activities undertaken locally in the last twelve-months to address its strategic priorities (as outlined within the 2016/17 Partnership Plan).

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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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The strategic priorities endorsed by the Board for 2016/17 were:
  - Prevent Crime, Re-offending and ASB  
[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]

## 2 Current Performance

- 2.1 The level of recorded crime in Gateshead increased by 39% between April and February 2017 (an additional 4,495 crimes when compared to previous year). Similar to last year, the largest increases have been experienced in violence (up 56%; +1,670 crimes) – of which the vast majority were violence against the

person without injury (+1,335 crimes); while incidents of most serious violence have remained steady (92 crimes in total).

- 2.2 Incidents of shoplifting (up 58%; +678), criminal damage (up 24%; +601) and hate-related crime (up 45%; 59) have also seen significant increases; while vehicle, acquisitive and robbery-related crimes have increased marginally over the same period. Although increases have been recorded in most crime categories, there has been a reduction in burglary-related offences (down 11%; -127 crimes) and is the reduction throughout the whole of Northumbria.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The volume of anti-social behaviour reported to Northumbria Police has fallen by 6% (down 423 incidents). Reported incidents of youth-related ASB across the Borough have fallen by 8%, while there has been an 17% downturn in reported incidents of alcohol-related ASB (-102 incidents).
- 2.5 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 97%, on par with the Force average for this measure. In addition, 66% of people agreed that the police and council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area.
- 2.6 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 – January 2017, there were 631 deliberate secondary fires attended, 165 more than at the same time in 2015/16. This represents an 35% increase in fires attended.

### **3 Strategic Priorities – Update**

- 3.1 This section provides a snapshot of Community Safety activity that has taken place within Gateshead in recent months to support delivery of the strategic priorities for 2016/17:

#### **Prevent Crime, Re-offending and ASB**

##### **3.2 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)**

PSPOs were implemented as part of Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Three PSPOs – one covering the entire Borough (which has replaced the Designated Public Protection Orders), one covering Town Centre and one covering the Metro Centre Retail Park went live in early January 2017 and (following a series of public awareness campaigns) started to be enforced from 1 March 2017. Initial evidence suggests that the PSPOs have resulted in some reductions in complaints and problems being raised and a formal evaluation will take place in the near future.

### 3.3 Neighbourhood Tasking and Co-ordination

The new Tasking and Coordination model framework has been in existence for eight months and continued to work well with key partners still in attendance and multi-agency issues being discussed. The meeting is now chaired by the Chief Inspector (Partnerships) and all three Neighborhood Inspectors attend so that more strategic issues can be discussed and good practice from all three Policing areas can be shared.

Some key successes of the Neighbourhood Tasking and Co-ordination meetings in recent months have included:

- A proactive response to reduce the complaints in relation to motorcycle disorder
- A coordinated approach to problem solving through problem orientated policing (POP) plans
- Establishing a different way of communicating with new audiences – through operation WAYS (we asked, you said) and community safety events
- Enhanced working relationships and joined up work with key partners – such as Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Phoenix Project.
- More community engagement work to inform the public about key issues.

### 3.4 Cardiff Model Data

The Cardiff Model is a nationally-recognised approach to sharing information between Accident and Emergency and Community Safety in relation to alcohol-related violence. Information has been collected in Gateshead since 2012 and has been identified an area of best practice by Balance, the regional Alcohol Office. We routinely share data with Licensing Team as well as neighbouring authorities to recognise patterns and trends. Data has been used to 'frequent flyers' into services and to help better respond to assessing risk of violence such as domestic abuse.

### 3.5 Phoenix Project

The Phoenix Project is a programme run by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service that works with young people who have committed low levels of ASB (including setting fires) and/or are at risk of committing it. The first session worked with 9 individuals and provided a range of support to: change attitude and behaviour, instill confidence and self-esteem, discipline and self-discipline, team working and social skills as well as teaching young people the dangers of fire, fire setting and hoax calls. Positive outcomes were achieved by attendees – including 2 enrolling to become cadets. Due to the success of the project, we are planning a further session for later in the year.

### 3.6 Platform Outreach Project (POP)

Platform (under 18s drug and alcohol service in Gateshead), in partnership with Community Safety, established POP Project to help combat the youth disorder across the Borough, especially that caused by substances. The project, which will be run as a trial until the end of March 2017, has targeted hotspot locations within the Borough and provided 70+ young people with advice and support on substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and sexual exploitation.

### 3.7 Youth ASB

The past six months have seen two main areas of youth ASB – in Leam Lane and Carr Hill. Substantive multi agency work has taken place over the last six months which has seen a reduction in ASB, including: additional Police and Fire patrols (including covert operations and mounted section patrols), residents meetings, dispersal notices as well as leaflet drops to affected residents and businesses.

### 3.8 Closure Order

We were successful in obtaining the first Closure Order for the Borough on a property where the tenant has continually sold drugs. The Order was obtained within days of a search warrant being executed which provided reassurance and protection to many scared local residents who had suffered disturbance, harassment and intimidation by visitors to this address. Substantial evidence has meant Gateshead Housing Company has been able to use the Absolute Grounds of Possession Power and as a result the tenant will lose their home and be evicted from the property.

### 3.9 ASB Complaints Log

A more proactive way of assessing ASB has been established and is working well to identify potential areas of concern earlier, with the intention of reducing their impact on the community. Daily scrutiny of police incidents enables the community safety team to build up a picture of what's going on in the area. This information is then shared on a weekly basis with neighbourhood policing teams who assess the areas over a period of time and if necessary, take action.

### 3.10 ASB Volunteers

New online training has been agreed for the next round of Anti-Social Behaviour volunteers, who offer a befriending type service to victims of Anti-Social Behaviour. Volunteers are given a 2 week period to complete the training before attending an induction where they will receive further information on the service, be introduced to key partners and be allocated their first case. The new training is currently being trialed with 3 volunteers prior to being rolled out.

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

### 3.11 Hate Crime Reporting – ARCH

Hate-related incidents reported to ARCH have continued to increase during 2016/17. There have been 350 incidents reported between April 2016 and February 2017. This is an increase of 34% when compared to same period last year, an additional 89 incidents. The majority of incidents reported continued to be racist incidents, accounting for 7 in 10 incidents reported during the period.

### 3.12 Hate Crime Strategy

In April 2016, Community Safety, in conjunction with partners, refreshed the local Hate Crime Strategy which includes actions linked with improving our local response to reporting hate crimes, management of cases and preventing issues through education. Some of the activity in recent months has included:

- *Show Racism the Red Card* – delivered 4 training sessions 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. Due to the success of these sessions, a further 8 sessions have been commissioned over the next 12 months

- *GemArts* – delivered a tailored art-based project in primary schools, creating an animation piece that explored heritage, history and culture of Traveler communities as well delivering Indian art, dance and culture sessions as an alternative way to challenge negative stereotypes relating to different faith communities.
- *Newcastle Community Voluntary Service* – in collaboration with Gateshead and Newcastle Council are developing a set of online resources that will enable community based workers and volunteers, across both local authority areas, to be able to confidently challenge extreme language, behaviour and attitudes to support community tension/cohesion, violent extremism and hate crime agendas. The project also includes a short qualitative study with local communities as well as training programme that will be delivered by the voluntary and community sector to raise awareness of hate crime and extremism.
- *Transgender Awareness* – Community Safety have commissioned four training sessions which will be facilitated by 'Be', a Transgender Support, Development and Campaigning Organisation. The sessions will raise awareness of the Transgender community and the issues they encounter. The first session took place in March 2017 and feedback has been positive

### 3.13 Domestic Abuse

The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service provides specialist support to individuals assessed as being at high risk of homicide or serious harm. In the first three-months of 2016/17, there were 961 separate referrals received relating to 468 individuals, 7.5% fewer than the same period in the previous year, and is in line with similar reductions experienced by the Police. The engagement rate for the period was 56% with a further 9% receiving initial advice but declining further support.

### 3.14 Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse

The Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) approach to tackling perpetrators of domestic abuse continues to take place and the evaluation of clients from Gateshead has shown that following engagement with the process there is clear reduction recidivism levels.

### 3.15 Domestic Homicide Reviews

Community Safety has co-ordinated two DHRs (Domestic Homicide Reviews) in 2016/17 following domestic-related murders that took place within the Borough. It is expected that the findings of these Reviews will be published in the next three to six-months and will highlight a range of recommendations that will help to minimise the potential for future deaths. In addition, the DHR Framework for Gateshead has been updated following changes to national guidance published by the Home Office.

### 3.16 Domestic Abuse Training

Community Safety partners continue to be involved in the delivery 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.

3.17 Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) Project

A Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) Project has been rolled out in Gateshead, which offers specialist advice and support to victims immediately following a domestic abuse incident taking place. The service focuses on peak demand times, usually Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening and night (between 8pm to 4am) and, delivers targeted activity within hotspot locations. The project involves specialist domestic violence trained officers accompanying Police on patrols to domestic-related incidents.

3.18 Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Provision

Housing Services, in partnership with Community Safety, has received funding from the DCLG to enhance and strengthen provision of, and access to, specialist accommodation/support for domestic violence victims with complex needs across Northumbria. Funding will be used to increase our capacity of dispersed and resettlement accommodation across the region as well as providing dedicated outreach provision designed to support complex/chaotic clients (estimated 200+ outreach and 80+ refuge clients across Northumbria).

3.19 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

A lot of work has continued to be developed in relation to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, which includes activity to improve our response to serial victims of domestic abuse as well as Operation Encompass, which is designed to provide support children and young people who witness and/or experience domestic abuse.

3.20 Preventing Violent Extremism

A separate report is presented to OSC on the work that has been undertaken linked with Preventing Violence Extremism.

## **Addressing Key and Emerging Threats**

3.21 Drug-related Deaths

The Drug-related Death Panel meets on a quarterly 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, in 2016, 22 deaths and so far in 2017, we have seen 2 deaths. An action plan has been produced outlining recommendations to minimise deaths in the longer term. Some of the activity that has been progress recently includes:

- **Clinical audit of prescribing and shared care** – designed to interrogate prescribing practices of the 'Shared Care' arrangements to inform service development and future commissioning of substance misuse services.
- **Naloxone** – Gateshead Evolve have begun to roll out take home Naloxone to service users and training sessions have been held for partner agencies, family members and carers – with 450+ kits issued. To date, there have been 20 incidents where the kits have been used (meaning potentially 20 lives saved).

- **Changes to processes** – a number of changes have been made to internal processes including: staff training on re-engagement and closure of cases; enhanced assertive outreach; dedicated process for prison releases; closer working between partners and the Community Rehabilitation Company to ensure more robust management of offenders; and closer links with other treatment services to ensure smarter management of service users.
- **Overdose training** – training sessions were provided to professionals, family members and carers around the signs of overdose and what to do in the situation.
- **Hospital Liaison** – work is being carried out to strengthen the response and support provided to those individuals presenting at Accident and Emergency suffering from overdose.

### 3.22 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).

### 3.23 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).

## **Cross Cutting Issues**

### 3.24 Substance Misuse Strategy

The Substance Misuse Strategy Group has held a number of sessions in order to finalise the Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan. The final draft of the Strategy will be presented to the Community Safety Board for endorsement in April 2017.

### 3.25 Safer Clubbing Campaign

Colleagues in Gateshead have worked with Safe Newcastle on a campaign which gives advice to students and clubbing population about how to remain safe when using substances (alcohol and / or drugs). Whilst Gateshead don't have a prominent clubbing scene, we do have the student accommodation in Trinity Square which houses just under 1000 students, Gateshead College and a number of licensed premises. The campaign comprises of a harm reduction leaflet, which has been made available to all students, a poster which will be displayed in licensed premises and personalised wrist bands which will monitor body temperature. Training and awareness is also taking place with licensed premises through Pub Watch meetings



3.26 Joint Alcohol Meeting

A joint meeting took place with Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Board members to identify and agree on the key areas that both Boards will address relating to alcohol misuse.

3.27 Community Safety Board Development Session

Community Safety held a Development Session in October 2016 with Board members to help identify the potential priority areas and to consider current structures to ensure that it remained fit for purpose – with proposed changes to take effect from 1 April 2017 (including: frequency of meetings, attendance and greater accountability of partners).

3.28 Strategic Assessment

Community Safety have made some significant changes to the way in which the statutory Strategic Assessment is now completed – and is one of the first areas in the country to be use/develop the 'Management of Risk in Law Enforcement' (MoRiLE) approach.

**4 Recommendation**

4.1 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.

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