

TITLE OF REPORT: Community Safety Priorities 2019/20 Update

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Summary

This report provides Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) with a brief overview of the key activities that have been co-ordinated and delivered by Gateshead Community Safety Board within the last six-months in order to address the strategic priorities outlined within the strategic Partnership Plan 2019/20). The report also highlights some of the potential emerging themes in relation to Community Safety and the gaps in current provision. Members are asked to identify thematic areas for further scrutiny at a future Committee meeting.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Community Safety Board is a standalone statutory partnership made up of six Responsible Authorities – namely: Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire Service, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group. The purpose of the Board is to 'work together to make Gateshead a safe place for everyone' and its core functions are:
- address crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour and behaviours which adversely affect the environment)
 - combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
 - reduce re-offending.
- 1.2 The Board has a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act to produce an annual intelligence-led Strategic Assessment (an assessment of need based on data) along with a Partnership Plan (which formally sets out the areas that will priorities and the activity that will be undertaken locally by the Board to reduce crime and disorder in the area).
- 1.3 As a reminder, the strategic themes that were agreed by the Community Safety Board in April 2019 for delivery in 2019/20 are:
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Restricting and Tackling Drug Supply
 - Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring
 - Preventing Violent Extremism
- 1.4 These are the areas in which the Board felt we can collectively make a bigger impact by working together; however, the Board also remains flexible enough to be able to respond proactively to any emerging risks and threats not linked to these priority areas.

2 Crime Performance

2.1 The table set out in Appendix 1 shows performance of crime and disorder within Gateshead from 1st April through to 30th September 2019.

2.2 In the first six-months of 2019/20, recorded crime in Gateshead has fallen 7% (787 fewer crimes) and remains comparable to the average reduction recorded across Northumbria (-6%). Gateshead continues to outperform local authority areas across South of Tyne and Wear and rate of crime per 1000 population is lower in Gateshead compared to our 15 Most Similar Family Group average.

2.3 Violent crime in Gateshead has decreased by 1% on last year (-30) with levels of Most Serious Violence falling by 36% (-32) and incidents of robbery have almost halved (down 47%, 35). Violence against the person offences still account for almost a third of all recorded crime in Gateshead during the period. Burglary dwelling-related offences have fallen by almost a fifth (-19%, 125 fewer crimes) and public order offences have reduced by 24% (-410).

2.4 Increases have been reported in the number of vehicle-related crimes (+16%, 105 more crimes), sexual-related offences (+27%, 80 more crimes), some theft and handling crime types as well as possession of weapons (+5%, 165 crimes).

3 Progress to date

3.1 Some of the key activities that have been undertaken this year to address the priorities of the Board include:

Domestic Abuse

- Commissioned a further 2 x Domestic Homicide Reviews; one of which, has been concluded (March 2019) and resulted in several high profile national, regional and local recommendations for agencies involved.
- Embedded a new streamlined operating model to help provide an improved response response to victims of domestic abuse – regardless of risk.
- Fundamentally reviewed our existing training provision for domestic abuse and commissioned a series of specialist sessions to help raise awareness of stalking, cyber-stalking and domestic abuse.
- Supported the delivery of the 'Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse' led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria.
- Worked with Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company to implement a new/innovative approach to working with domestic abuse perpetrators.
- Continue to develop project with Accident and Emergency to support victims of domestic abuse and to upskill health staff to spot the signs of abuse.
- Continue to hold MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) meetings to safeguarding high-risk victims of domestic abuse.

Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

- Co-ordinated the delivery of a new Hate Crime Strategy and Action Plan for Gateshead 2019-22 – which will focus on increasing awareness of reporting hate crime, increasing the uptake of referrals to victim support services and promoting hate crime education.
- Developed Hate Crime Victim Action Group to bring together individuals with lived experience of hate crime to seeks their views to help improve and

develop agencies and services understanding around barriers victims face when accessing practical and emotional support.

- Further expanded the local Hate Crime Champions Network to include 30 students across Whickham School and Gateshead College acting as a point of contacts for students who may want advice, information or signposting to support around hate crime.
- Reviewed current Safe Reporting Centres across Gateshead and provided refresher hate and mate crime training to these organisations to improve the accuracy of hate crime reporting at these locations.
- Co-ordinated a successful Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2019 which saw a 'Walk of Solidarity' and an 'Experts by Experience' Event.
- Continued to review our Online Hate Crime Reporting and Referral Forms on Gateshead Council website (which replaced ARCH earlier in the year).

Preventing Violent Extremism

- A series of informal awareness raising sessions, and formal WRAP training, continues to take place and has included bespoke sessions for Councillors, Adult Social Care and Early Help. Commissioned training from a specialist provider for schools and Education Safeguarding Leads.
- Ran a further series of Channel HYDRA training sessions with North-East Counter Terrorism Unit which scenarios a real-life Prevent referral testing our approach and ability to address the case.
- Held a workshop/development session to review and revise our internal referral pathways relating to Prevent. This included completion of the Home Office Prevent Duty Local Authority Self-Assessment Toolkit and developing an action plan to tackle the identified gaps.
- The 2019 CTLP has recently been produced and this shows that Gateshead has the second lowest number of Prevent referrals from across the Northumbria area. This remains a concern and highlights the importance of Prevent training being mandatory for frontline employees.
- Gateshead currently has 1 x open case at Channel Panel (*confidential).
- Drawing on best practice from Manchester and Kirklees, we have started to refresh the Channel Panels arrangements within Gateshead to ensure our local policies, procedures and processes remain fit for purpose.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Crime

- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) agreed by Cabinet to reduce anti-social behaviour across the Borough.
- Had agreement from key partners and services to undertake a multi-agency review of anti-social behaviour (carried out by external independent body) to ensure victims are receiving the best possible service.
- Successful in securing funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria to establish a Youth Outreach pilot and commissioned NE Youth, a voluntary sector organisation, to run the project covering an area in the East of Gateshead.
- Continue to make best use of ASB legislation to ensure that we are taking swift action when dealing with perpetrators and problem premises.
- Operational Tasking and Problem Solving continues to take place across the Borough to ensure a consistent multi-agency approach to tackling crime and ASB in hotspot localities, persistent offenders and vulnerable victims.

Restricting Supply – Drug Misuse

- Drug-related deaths continue to rise across Gateshead. We have reviewed the way the partnership responds to drug-related deaths within the Borough leading to a much timelier review process and action-focused outcomes.
- Operation Salvator, the biggest drug disruption operation to have ever taken place in Gateshead, took place in April 2019, which led to numerous arrests and drug seizures.
- The development of a local drug profile for Gateshead and Newcastle which will identify trends and patterns in terms of use, distribution methods and availability.
- Established a Workshop to discuss across partner agencies around tackling the harms caused by substance misuse which has resulted in a refreshed local action plan for Gateshead.
- Carried out several briefing sessions with partner agencies to ensure timely information is shared with Northumbria Police about drug supply to support intelligence gathering and enforcement actions.
- Continue to support the disruption of Serious and Organised Crime activity through actions around Operational Sentinel.

4 Further Activity

4.1 Key actions that will be progressed in the next six-months:

- Carry out a systems-thinking review of how we tackle anti-social behaviour to ensure we have the right approach.
- Re-establish the Strategic Domestic Abuse Executive Forum and create local Action Plan (linked to elements identified within Domestic Abuse Bill).
- Pilot a new daily approach in relation to the functioning of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) process.
- Complete Domestic Homicide Reviews and to implement recommendations and key learning points.
- Continue to develop bespoke projects and initiatives to drive out hate crime and to combat any increased community tensions/cohesion.
- Strengthen our links with other thematic partnerships – including Health and Wellbeing and Safeguarding Boards.
- Consider the role and remit of Gateshead Community Safety Board partners in the newly created Violence Reduction Unit in Northumbria.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme and to seek additional funding to continue with the project from March 2020.

5 Recommendation

5.1 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 Committee meeting.

Appendix 1

Crime Performance

1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019



Crime Performance
Apr-Sept19

Gateshead	2019-20	2018-19	Change compared to 2018/19 average	
Total crime	10,130	10,917	- 787	- 7%
Violence against the person	3,260	3,290	- 30	- 1%
Violence against the person - With injury	864	891	- 27	- 3%
Most serious violence against the person	56	88	- 32	- 36%
Less serious violence against the person	808	803	+ 5	+ 1%
Violence against the person - Without injury	2,396	2,399	- 3	- 0%
Robbery	39	74	- 35	- 47%
Sexual offences	378	298	+ 80	+ 27%
Vehicle crime	746	641	+ 105	+ 16%
Vehicle interference	85	75	+ 10	+ 13%
TFMV	454	449	+ 5	+ 1%
TWOC	207	117	+ 90	+ 77%
Criminal damage	1,476	1,626	- 150	- 9%
Burglary	545	670	- 125	- 19%
Burglary dwelling	350	493	- 143	- 29%
Burglary OTD	195	177	+ 18	+ 10%
Theft and handling	2,042	2,223	- 181	- 8%
Shoplifting	892	871	+ 21	+ 2%
Theft from the person	79	59	+ 20	+ 34%
Theft of a pedal cycle	99	80	+ 19	+ 24%
Other theft and handling	972	1,213	- 241	- 20%
Drug crime	206	217	- 11	- 5%
Fraud and forgery	24	30	- 6	- 20%
Public disorder	1,273	1,683	- 410	- 24%
Miscellaneous crime	141	165	- 24	- 15%
Possessions of weapons	3,320	3,155	+ 165	+ 5%