



Gateshead Community Safety Board

**Community Safety
Partnership Plan**

2020-23

Our purpose in Community Safety is simple.

**“We work together to help
make Gateshead a safe place
for everyone...”**

The Community Safety Board strives to make Gateshead a place with **strong, resilient and connected communities** where people can lead active and healthy lives in a **safe and thriving environment**.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2020-23

The Community Safety Board has committed to prioritising the following strategic areas for 2020-23 to ensure that Gateshead remains one of the safest boroughs in the country:

Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

Serious Violence and Knife Crime

Domestic Abuse (including Violence Against Women and Girls)

Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Anti-Social Behaviour (Youth, Adult and Place)

Locality-based Problem Solving

Community Cohesion and Resilience

Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

Preventing Violence Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism

The Board must have effective and robust governance arrangements in place – and have strong and accountable leadership working towards a common purpose:

Governance, Leadership and Accountability

Effective Strategic and Operational Structures

High Challenge, High Support and Inspiring Change

Although the Board has chosen to focus on these key priority areas for 2020-2023 – we remain flexible enough to be able to respond to new and emerging community safety issues. We will continue to identify potential threats/risks through our annual statutory Community Safety Strategic Assessment and will respond accordingly to ensure Gateshead continues to be a place with strong, resilient and connected communities.

Drivers of Crime and Community Safety:

We recognise to make a positive difference and discernible impact – our approach must also target key drivers and influences of crime and community safety problems (as set out in the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy). This includes addressing harms caused by drugs and alcohol, supporting those with mental health problems and taking action to remove the potential opportunities (and profits) linked with criminal activity and exploitation.

FOREWORD

We are pleased to introduce the Partnership Plan for Gateshead for 2020-23 which sets out the strategic areas that we have prioritised to tackle over the next three-years. Gateshead is a safe place to work, live and visit. The Borough continues to experience relatively low rates of crime and disorder (when compared to national, regional and local averages) and, in the last 12 months alone, we have seen a further 5% reduction. This is encouraging – and is testament to the strong and progressive partnership working that exists within Gateshead to keep people safe.

The Community Safety Board, which is the multi-agency partnership responsible for tackling crime and disorder within Gateshead, is committed to tackling issues that cause the greatest level of harm in our society. By working together, we are confident we can tackle these and ensure Gateshead remains a place with strong, resilient and connected communities where people can lead active and healthy lives in a safe and thriving environment.

We know issues of crime, community safety and harm reduction are often very complex and require an integrated whole system response. Our partnership is dedicated to safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable persons and communities providing excellent specialist services. We are also keen for the Community Safety Board to advocate more of a public-health approach to identify, address and prevent the underlying risk factors, which increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or perpetrator. To help manage future demand on the partnership, it is imperative to shift our efforts towards primary prevention; and focus on preventing crime and disorder issues before they occur. However, you can be assured we are still making best use of the various tools and powers available across the partnership – and where relevant will take swift and robust action to deter crime.

We recognise we can only achieve our vision with your help. With your involvement, we will be more able to protect you and your property and hopefully make your neighbourhood an even safer place. We are fully committed to informing and consulting with you about issues affecting your neighbourhood and will continue to work alongside communities to promote and encourage ways to improve cohesion and drive out extremism within the Borough.

At the time of writing this plan, the Community Safety landscape has changed somewhat – caused by the worldwide pandemic around COVID-19 virus. It has however, brought to the fore the need for a strong, safe and resilient community spirit and highlights the importance of protecting vulnerable groups and individuals from harm. We would like to acknowledge all of the hard work and efforts of partner agencies and Council services who on a daily basis contribute significantly to keeping Gateshead safe – and we look forward to replicating further successes throughout 2020-23.

Councillor Angela Douglas
Chair – Community Safety Board

Superintendent Karl Wilson
Vice Chair – Community Safety Board

GATESHEAD COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD

The Community Safety Board brings together partner agencies involved in crime prevention and community safety within Gateshead. We have a common purpose to "make Gateshead a safe place for everyone" and strive to ensure the Borough remains a place with strong, resilient and connected communities where people can lead active and healthy lives.

In the Gateshead, the Board is made up of the following organisations:

- Gateshead Council
- National Probation Service
- Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company
- Northumbria Police
- The Gateshead Housing Company
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Connected Voice (Community and Voluntary Sector)

We collaborate with other partnership forums including Gateshead's Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adult' Board and the Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership and regularly engage with voluntary and community organisations, the business sector and our residents. In addition, we work closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (and Violence Reduction Unit) and, where possible, we have aligned our strategic priorities with those identified in the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan.

To ensure we continue to successfully address issues of crime and anti-social behaviour, the Community Safety Board has a statutory duty to:

- Conduct an annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment to help collate data and analyse the crime patterns of the Borough
- Listen to the views and concerns of residents on crime and community safety issues that matter to them (including through an annual public consultation process).
- Monitor performance and delivery against our agreed objectives
- Ensure partners are working together to ensure we are collectively addressing those issues, which cause the greatest level of harm to communities.

The annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment is a snapshot of crime and community safety supported by factual data from across the partnership and feedback from residents. We have used this evidence-base to help us to identify the strategic themes and priorities that we will focus on throughout 2020-23. The Partnership Plan sets out the various actions and interventions that the Board are committed to delivering during this strategic period to ensure Gateshead continues to become even safer and stronger.

Many of our priorities do not change substantially from year to year as they tend to follow long term trends and patterns and – whilst our strategic priorities have been established for a three-year period – we recognise that we may, however, need to re-focus our priorities in response to new or changing trends in crime and ASB, the impact of previous interventions, emerging external national or local factors, and learning gained through delivery of existing priorities. We will review and determine if our priorities are still correct through the annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment process and amend these, if necessary.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DEMAND

On an average day in Gateshead, there are...

- 166 separate incidents reported to the Police
- 58 crimes recorded by the Police
- 1.5 cases subject to legal and formal action by The Gateshead Housing Company
- Three ASB cases opened by The Gateshead Housing Company
- Four high-risk domestic abuse referrals to the Council Domestic Abuse Service
- 15 fly tips reported

On an average week in Gateshead, there are...

- 21 medium-risk domestic abuse victims referred to the Council Domestic Abuse Service
- 20 burglaries to homes and 22 incidents of car crime
- Seven hate crimes taking place
- 37 incidents of rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour
- 19 deliberate secondary fires attended by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- 18 presentations to Accident and Emergency suffering assault-related injuries
- 7 cases subject to legal and formal action by The Gateshead Housing Company
- 22 ASB cases opened by The Gateshead Housing Company

On an average month in Gateshead, there are...

- 379 incidents of domestic violence reported to Police
- 119 reports of youth-related disorder
- 10 deliberate primary fires taking place
- Two deaths because of drug misuse
- 95 ASB cases are opened by The Gateshead Housing Company
- 81 complaints to the Private Sector Housing Team
- 15 Customer Assessment Tools completed by The Gateshead Housing Company
- 91 deliberate fires attended by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- 730 violence against the person offences reported to police
- 77 reports linked to neighbour disputes

Last year in Gateshead, there were...

- 56 crimes for every 1,000 residents
- Just under 6,000 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to Police
- 9,500+ victims of crime identified
- 5,400+ offenders (1800+ linked to two or more crimes)
- 1,805 people in treatment
- 520 people in treatment for alcohol
- 374 Customer Assessment Tools completed by The Gateshead Housing Company

KEY REFLECTIONS 2019-20

ASB Tools and Powers

Continued to make best use of ASB Tools and Powers to help enforce, prevent and deter ASB from taking place in Gateshead.

Operational Planning Group

Strengthened our local Tasking and Co-ordination through introducing a weekly multi-agency Operational Planning Group.

Outreach Work

Developed a series of Outreach Projects in conjunction with NE Youth and Platform to target hotspot areas for youth-related ASB.

Drug-related deaths

We continue to robustly review all drug-related deaths to help safeguard and protect vulnerable persons.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Commissioned 3 x Domestic Homicide Reviews to identify lessons learned and improve our service to victims of domestic abuse.

Training and Development

Commissioned a series of training sessions to improve frontline staff awareness and understanding of community safety issues.

Community Safety Strategies

Working with our partners, we have reviewed and refreshed strategies, policies and action plans relating to community safety.

Funding

Successfully secured national and local funding to increase provisions and support domestic abuse and hate crime agendas.

Preventing Extremism

Continued to raise awareness of preventing radicalisation with 300+ frontline staff briefed/trained in the last 12 months.

Domestic Abuse Service

Our in-house Domestic Abuse Service continues to provide much needed support to those experiencing domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse Perpetrators

Commissioned and implemented a tailored Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme to help stop and prevent abuse.

County Lines and Exploitation

Commissioned training to increase awareness and knowledge of county lines to help staff spot the signs and be able to respond.

Hate Crime Champions

Trained Workplace and Student Hate Crime Champions to champion hate crime and be a SPOC within the workplace/school.

CONTEST

Northumbria-wide and Gateshead CONTEST Boards were established to ensure we are aware of the risks relating to Counter Terrorism.

Hate Crime Awareness

Successfully rolled out a programme of activities and events during Hate Crime Awareness Week to raise awareness and promote hate crime.

Public Spaces Protection Orders

Implemented several PSPOs within the Borough to provide agencies with additional powers to address ASB in public spaces.

ASB Volunteers Project

Our ASB Volunteers Project has continued to provide bespoke one-to-one support, advice and guidance to victims of ASB.

Supporting Offenders

Integrated Offender Management continues to identify and tackle individuals causing the most harm within local communities.

Violence Reduction Unit

We have worked alongside the new Violence Reduction Unit for Northumbria to support interventions to prevent violence.

Knife Angel

Co-ordinated bringing the 'Knife Angel' to Gateshead providing a poignant visual reminder about the dangers of knives and weapons.

Operation Benelli

Continued to address vehicle-related crime and disorder through targeted disruption operations.



STRATEGIC THEMES 2020-23

Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Community Cohesion and Resilience

Governance, Leadership and Accountability

(*including Drivers of Crime and Community Safety)



Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

Priority Area:

Serious Violence and Knife Crime

What is our aim?

- Serious violence and knife crime cause less harm to individuals and communities.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Fewer people harmed by serious violence
- Less crime involving weapons
- Earlier intervention to help stop violence
- Community free of the fear of violence and confident to report crimes
- Better understanding and insight into the drivers and influencers of violent behaviour
- Stronger preventative approach to violence through better use of data
- Development of a whole system collaborative public health approach to violence

Why is it a priority?

- Tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone. It requires a coordinated multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors.
- Serious violence, or threat of violence, has a hugely detrimental influence on individuals, communities and the Borough as a whole. It can undermine how safe people feel and can negatively impact on mental health and wellbeing.
- Serious violence takes many forms and happens in different contexts including alcohol-related violence, domestic abuse and organised crime (e.g. drug-related violence, sexual violence and exploitation).
- Offences of violence with injury are estimated to have the highest cost impact – to both individuals and to services (e.g. associated costs of health, welfare and criminal justice).
- If serious violence is not appropriately addressed, it can deter individuals from actively engaging in and connecting with leisure, social and community activities – impacting on and exacerbating inequalities.
- Rates of serious violence, knife and gun crime has increased nationally – and there is a greater spotlight on agencies to work in partnership, using a public health approach, to address the associated harms.
- Northumbria has been identified nationally as suffering from higher rate of violent crime – and has been allocated additional funding to establish a dedicated Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) covering the Force area.
- Serious violence will likely become a statutory function that is imposed on Community Safety Board (as part of the upcoming Serious Violence Bill).

What is the local context telling us?

- A third of all reported crime taking place in Gateshead is classified as violence against the person – with year-on-year increases noted over the last three years.

- In 2019/20, there were more than 6,500 violent crimes reported in Gateshead, 200 were classified as most serious violence (including GBH and above) and, during the same time period, there were almost 100 robberies and 160+ weapon-related offences.
- According to local Accident and Emergency records, Gateshead experienced increases in the number of attendances relating to assault (with many of these not being reported). Reports of domestic violence has also increased year-on-year within the Borough.
- We know serious violence has strong links with local drug markets and related harm and exploitation from county lines – which is a growing trend nationally and locally.
- A substantial proportion of violence-related offences are linked in some way to alcohol consumption and drug misuse and is seen as a key driver of serious violent crime.

Who's affected?

- There are a higher number of male victims of serious violence in 21-29 old year range with the number of victims declining progressively in older age groups. Similarly, young men are also responsible for committing serious violence.
- Violent crime shares similar risk factors with other crime types and anti-social behaviour with a strong correlation with poorer life outcomes/inequalities (such as low educational attainment, poor health and unemployment).
- Evidence shows groups who are more at risk of being drawn into violent crime are often characterised by childhood disadvantage, live in high crime/deprived neighbourhoods and exhibit signs of vulnerability (such as lack of support networks, social isolation and tendencies towards low self-esteem and self-harm).

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Support the development of the multi-agency Serious Violence Reduction Strategy that has been produced by the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit.
- Better understand the extent of serious violence in Gateshead (and the impact on local communities) to help identify bespoke solutions.
- Make better use of data to help inform and drive the interventions offered to reduce violence. This will include delivery of *universal interventions* (designed to deliver a range of positive impacts ranging from behavioural outcomes to educational attainment and health) through to *targeted programmes* (aimed at individuals who have already committed violence or groups who have been identified as high-risk).
- Working alongside VRU, using diversionary activities, we will offer alternatives to young people at risk of being drawn into serious organised crime that may include violence. This will include working with third sector organisations.
- Tackle negative perceptions of serious violence and knife crime within our Borough by working alongside community groups to share, educate and raise awareness of the work that is being carried out.
- Ensure licensed premises are safe and complement violence reduction initiatives.
- Address perpetrators of violence through robust and timely enforcement action and offering support, where necessary, to help drive down violent crime within the Borough.
- Victims of serious violence and knife crime will be offered appropriate support, guidance and advice to help overcome their experiences and trauma.
- Work alongside health to improve data sharing/records to provide further information about demographic characteristics of people who attend/present at health settings due to assault, the injuries sustained and the violent incident itself, all of which can inform preventative action.



Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

Priority Area

Domestic Abuse

What is our aim?

- Gateshead residents can live safely without the threat, fear or experience of domestic violence and abuse (including stalking and harassment and harmful practices)

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Domestic abuse is not tolerated by our communities (and businesses)
- Victims to be believed and not blamed, treated with dignity and respect, and supported to feel safe within their community, knowing offenders are being worked with to change their behaviour and/or brought to justice.
- Services, communities and businesses recognise domestic abuse is 'everyone's business' and overcome barriers to progress.
- Increased prevention and early intervention to stop domestic abuse from taking place.
- Changing attitudes/behaviours so victims are protected, and cycle of offending is broken.
- High-quality trauma-informed service pathways that are co-ordinated and accessible for victims and children affected by domestic abuse.
- Stronger criminal/civil justice responses to perpetrators, alongside sustained proactive interventions and preventative programmes.
- Robust partnership working to enable consistent and positive outcomes for victims.

Why this is a priority?

- Despite under-reporting, we have seen an unprecedented increase in reported incidents of domestic violence and abuse and sexual violence (including stalking and harassment and other harmful practices) in Gateshead in recent years.
- Worrying evidence of abuse taking place within our younger generations particularly growing issues around Adolescent to Parent Violence.
- There are long-standing societal/cultural norms that perpetuate acceptance of abusive and controlling behaviour affecting women and girls.
- There are cycles of repeat offending and repeat victimisation and only a small fraction of perpetrators are convicted.
- Increased rates of domestic homicides nationally – many of which show a trend where the risk to a victim prior to the homicide is less visible or recognised.
- Opportunities across all sectors to increase awareness of the signs of domestic abuse and to provide support with confidence.
- Long-term impact of experiencing domestic abuse, whether directly or indirectly within a family situation, as an adult or as a child, can have a devastating effect on people's ability to cope throughout their life.
- Impact of COVID has highlighted the growing need for domestic abuse support.
- The Domestic Abuse Bill will be implemented placing additional requirements on partner agencies around domestic abuse agenda.

What is the local context telling us?

- Domestic abuse is a prolific crime and the last few years has seen increasing numbers of people come forward to report to services.
- There were almost 6,000 incidents which came to the attention of Northumbria Police in Gateshead in 2019/20 – with 40% of incidents involving children.
- Majority of domestic abuse incidents continue to be committed by an intimate partner towards female victims. Four in every ten cases are repeat victims; while two-thirds of referrals relate to those aged 24-44 years.
- We have a very strong and progressive Domestic Abuse Service within Gateshead. There were almost 1,900 individuals referred into the service last year and efforts were made to provide tailored safety planning, advice and interventions to prevent risk of harm.
- We have seen a marked rise in the number stalking and harassment and coercive control offences recorded in Gateshead (up 24%) and volume of Adolescent to Parent Violence has also increased. Evidence of other harmful practices (i.e. honour-based violence and forced marriage) remains scarce – with nine reported offences in 2019/20.
- Referrals during COVID pandemic have risen with clients reporting increase in intensity and volume of abuse from perpetrators.

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Re-establish Gateshead Domestic Abuse Sub-Group to strengthen strategic oversight of domestic abuse activity to help facilitate effective partnership working, make best use of resources, and to ensure effective multi-agency support and response pathways.
- Develop a Gateshead Strategic Framework for responding to Domestic Abuse (which will include comprehensive consultation and engagement with victims) focusing on:
 - Providing services and support for victims – developing a co-ordinated approach to protecting victims, families and children who experience domestic abuse, ensuring we have appropriate services, interventions and referral processes in place.
 - Improved access to and location of services – data/insight from victims tell us that services need to be more flexible to accommodate differing needs, providing simpler pathways into services that maintains a focus on the victim's experience.
 - Intervening earlier in the cycle of domestic abuse – creating an environment for early disclosure through greater promotion of the work we do to protect/support victims along with positive media campaigns and training for frontline practitioners.
 - Better communication and signposting – we need to ensure local services are visible enough to facilitate access and this applies to both victims and referrers.
 - Challenging perpetrators to change behaviour – we need to improve prevention by focusing the spotlight on perpetrators of domestic abuse to change their behaviour, including timely disruption, intervening early and raising awareness through training.
- Ensure we are providing flexible/tailored response to the needs generated by COVID.
- Continue to roll out, embed and strengthen existing projects designed to enhance safety and wellbeing of children (e.g. Operation Encompass and Safe and Together Model)
- Embed learning and recommendations from local/national Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Pilot and evaluate new operational models to ensure timelier support (e.g. daily MARAC).
- Explore opportunities to strengthen our response to housing/accommodation needs.
- Develop local campaigns and raise awareness of the different aspects of domestic abuse and the signs to spot to help challenge and change attitudes and increase reporting.
- Multi-agency working to secure new resources for a sustained and improved service.
- Comply with legal requirements set out in the DA Bill (due to come into effect in 2020).



Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Priority Area

Anti-Social Behaviour

What is our aim?

- Anti-social behaviour causes less harm to individuals and communities

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Anti-social behaviour is addressed appropriately and consistently by all partner agencies and services – making best use of available enforcement tools and powers.
- Significant harms caused by ASB to our most vulnerable residents is reduced.
- Communities and persons affected by ASB will have confidence to report incidents.
- Ability to intervene early to stop and prevent cases of anti-social behaviour escalating.
- Victims will be offered timely and flexible support to overcome their experiences.
- ASB committed by priority and repeat perpetrators is tackled effectively.
- Public-space ASB within known harm/hotspot locations (e.g. Town Centre) is minimised.
- Improved outreach and diversionary offer to deter young people from causing ASB.
- Successes are communicated to key partners and communities to help increase feelings of safety and improve perceptions of ASB.
- Neighbours and residents will have greater understanding and recognition of the impact their actions can have on others.

Why is it a priority?

- Anti-social behaviour can be described as behaviour/actions which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress and, if left unchecked, it can have a serious adverse effect on individuals, communities and the environment.
- Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own homes and neighbourhoods.
- ASB is something that ruins people's lives, making day to day existence a real misery and leaving them feeling helpless, desperate and with reduced quality of life/wellbeing.
- If victims are subjected to persistent ASB, it can have a devastating impact, particularly if it is deliberately targeted against them, if they are already vulnerable, or if they cannot resolve the issue.
- Persons committing ASB often have their own vulnerabilities such as substance misuse or mental health issues – and we are experiencing increased volumes of cases involving victims and perpetrators presenting with multiple and complex needs.
- Victims of anti-social behaviour can become frightened of leaving their home and even feel unsafe when in their homes – meaning they are less likely to engage in community activity; thus, creating a more fragmented and less cohesive community.
- ASB is often a precursor for other issues including criminal damage, violence, hate crime and exploitation of vulnerable person (e.g. cuckooing).
- ASB continues to be one of the highest reported issues within the Borough and is often cited as a priority area for our residents.

- There is disparity in our current ASB offer – with different service standards, delivery models and approaches taken to resolve problems and support victims (depending upon tenure type) and limited capability to address ASB committed in public spaces.

What is the local context telling us?

- The latest Strategic Assessment identified that all Police-recorded ASB increased for the first time in several years – rising by 6% - with increases also noted in youth-related ASB (up 2%). However, we recognise that many ASB issues continue to go unreported and therefore do not reflect the true level of disorder experienced in the Borough; albeit, the increases remain on par with the levels found across Northumbria.
- The number of new ASB cases opened by The Gateshead Housing Company increased by more than a quarter (up 28%) while cases involving Private and Rented Sector Housing dropped by more than a fifth (-21%). Noise disturbance is the most common anti-social behaviour reported. Environmental offences such as fly-tipping have risen year-on-year – while deliberate secondary fires and arsons have fallen by around 10%.
- Strong seasonal trend in relation to ASB incidents with significantly more recorded in the summer months (particularly youth and alcohol-related disorder).
- Despite our Safer Communities Survey suggesting people feel safe living in Gateshead; more than a fifth have a perception that their area has got worse in terms of ASB issues in the last 12 months. The top three priorities for residents are: youth-disorder, people using or dealing drugs and lower-level ASB issues (such as littering and motorcycles)

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Undertake a strategic review of how the Community Safety Board address ASB functions within Gateshead to ensure that we are applying solid effective ASB case management principles, starting at the point of contact and continuing throughout the management of a case, taking action that is appropriate and proportionate to the harm caused..
- Refresh and promote Gateshead's ASB Strategy and Graded Response Policies.
- Continue to provide a co-ordinated ASB response through weekly Operational Tasking and problem solving arrangements.
- Make best use of data and evidence to help target ASB interventions and resources to address issues within high harm and hotspot locations.
- Support the development of a Prevention Programme to work with those young people on the cusp of offending and committing ASB.
- Work with third sector organisations to seek funding and resources to increase the level of outreach and engagement capacity within the Borough.
- Raise community awareness of how to report ASB (including online reporting).
- Deliver awareness and promotional campaigns at peak times of year
- Provide additional training, advice and guidance to staff in relation to legal tools/powers.
- Consider environmental improvements that may help reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour taking place.
- Review support offered to vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB and increase referrals to ASB Volunteer Network.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Public Spaces Protection Orders.
- Promotion of Neighbourhood Watch initiatives to help communities better respond and be aware of crime prevention issues effecting their area.
- Report appropriate convictions through social media, press releases and Council News to increase awareness of consequences of ASB.



Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Priority Area

Locality-based Problem Solving

What is our aim?

- A problem-solving ethos is embedded within our work and is used to proactively protect, safeguard and support local communities around crime, disorder and community safety issues affecting Gateshead.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Improved partnership response to community safety problems facing our community.
- Intelligence-led approaches and evidence-driven interventions are implemented.
- Better understanding of what activities work in Gateshead to drive down crime and ASB.
- Communities actively involved in, supporting and promoting crime prevention advice and activities within their neighbourhoods.
- Targeted approaches to reducing crime and disorder based on intelligence and data.
- Reduced demand on existing services and partner agencies.
- Residents have positive perceptions and improved feelings of safety.

Why is it a priority?

- We know effective problem solving is at the cornerstone of community safety work and allows agencies to focus on addressing and tackling the underlying causes of crime.
- Problem solving helps to ensure that fewer crimes occur, and that the problem does not reappear – which ultimately reduces the level of daily demand on services and partners.
- In recent years, partner and services have had fewer resources at their disposal, and we are required more than ever to be targeted in our approaches – focusing our efforts on addressing problems causing the greatest level of threat, harm and risk to communities.
- We know issues of crime, community safety and harm reduction are often very complex and require a multi-agency response. A co-ordinated response is essential to ensure victims, perpetrators and communities are supported.
- Problem solving places a high value on identifying responses of an early intervention and preventative nature that are not necessarily dependant on criminal justice system but that engage partner agencies, the community and private sector.
- Prevention through problem solving reduces costs of crime, both economic and social, and can achieve a significant return on investment in terms of savings in justice, welfare, and health care.
- Helps to identify the root causes of a problem and develop tailored solutions to improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities for our communities.
- The approach has been successful in addressing a wide range of crime and anti-social behaviour problems that traditional policing methods alone have not been able to.
- The use of data and intelligence allows us to constantly evaluate the effectiveness of our activities and allows identify bespoke solutions to problems. This should involve local

- communities, who are often best placed to be able to identify solutions that would work in their neighbourhood areas.
- There is now a greater spotlight on agencies to work in partnership, using a public health approach, to address associated harms around crime and disorder issues.

What is the local context telling us?

- Our latest Partnership Strategic Assessment has shown that certain neighbourhoods and communities within Gateshead continue to suffer from disproportionately higher levels of crime, disorder and community safety issues compared to others – often mirroring deprivation and inequality.
- By focusing our efforts on tackling issues with the greatest threat, harm and risk – we can reduce demand into our services and allow us to target our resources to addressing vulnerability, deter offending and prevent victimisation.
- Our Safer Communities Survey suggests that Gateshead residents feel safe; but feel that issues of crime and ASB in local neighbourhoods have increased the last 12 months; with only half of those surveyed thinking the Police and Council worked together to address issues in their local area. We need to do more in relation to promoting and raising the profile of the work carried out in Gateshead to keep people safe.
- We have very strong and well-established problem-solving approaches and are leading the way in relation to the creation and development of our Weekly Operational Tasking Group designed to improve collaborative working and ensure joined up approaches.
- The development of the Thrive agenda, alongside the creation of several Community Hubs established across the Borough to co-ordinate support efforts response to COVID has placed a greater spotlight on locality-based working.

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Continue to review, monitor and improve our Operational Tasking Group processes to ensure resources are deployed effectively and based on local need.
- Using data and intelligence from the Strategic Assessment and Violence Reduction Unit Insight Report – we have identified several priority areas/hotspot locations (based on a range of community safety issues) and will develop a tailored problem-solving plan to tackle crime and disorder within those areas.
- We will ensure we are using data, intelligence and anecdotal information to proactively plan for and respond to seasonal trends and patterns in crime and disorder.
- Alongside the Central Engagement Team – develop a Communications and Engagement Plan to promote the Partnership and the work carried out to keep communities safe.
- Explore partnership involvement in existing Threat, Harm and Risk and Tasking meetings to help ensure a broader range of community safety issues are explored.
- Improve our use of data and intelligence – by drawing on public health datasets and intelligence to help better understand the wider determinants impacting on localities.
- Commission a series of Problem Profiles (based on areas identified for the Community Hubs) to help identify the extent of community safety issues in neighbourhood areas to help support future focus/resourcing aspects.



Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Priority Area

Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

What is our aim?

- Communities embracing equality and celebrating difference, an increase in the levels of trust and confidence in services and a reduction in harm to individuals and communities.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Trust and confidence in local services is increased so that individuals and communities feel confident to engage and report hate crime.
- The significant harm caused by hate crime and divisive narratives is reduced.
- Improved community cohesion and greater tolerance, awareness and understanding.
- Hate incidents are addressed appropriately and consistently – making best use of all available tools and powers.
- Hate incidents committed by repeat perpetrators are reduced.
- Greater awareness of how to report hate crime and the support available for victims.
- Communities and individuals better understand the impact of hate and feel confident to be able to challenge hateful narratives.

Why is it a priority?

- Those harmed by incidents where people are targeted because of personal attributes relating to disability, ethnicity/race, religion/faith, sexual orientation or transgender identity tell us it has a significant effect on their quality of life and wellbeing.
- The effects of hate crime are wide-ranging. Evidence shows people harmed by crime influenced by hate are often more emotionally impacted than persons harmed by other types of crime. The psychological effect of trauma may include withdrawal from society, leading to lack of participation in opportunities, employment and cultural life, leading to increased isolation, increasing the likelihood of further victimisation.
- We know incidents of hate crime remain significantly under reported in our community – and it varies significantly between different strands. Recent figures in England suggest one in two racist hate crimes are reported to the Police; this drops to one in four for homophobic crimes, one in 10 for religiously motivated hate crimes, and one in 19 for disability hate crimes.
- Gateshead has experienced increases in the number of reported hate incidents, anti-Semitic and Islamophobic incidents. This is a long-term rising trend, although some of this increase is associated with improved recording practices.
- Rise in the number of hate crimes nationally over the last five years – with significant spikes in hate crime (particularly anti-Muslim) following high-profile national events and incidents (such as EU Referendum and terrorist attacks).
- National Counter-Extremism Strategy describes hate crimes as a key harm of extremism – and links to other priorities outlined within the Partnership Plan.

- We know hate crime is mitigated by strong locally co-ordinated community messaging that is quick and responsive.
- Hate crime is a priority for the Police and Crime Commissioner

What is the local context telling us?

- In 2019/20 Gateshead, there were 299 racist, 106 religiously motivated, 47 homophobic, 64 disability and 13 transphobic hate-related incidents and crimes reported to the Police or Council. There has been an upward trend in the volumes of recorded hate incidents and crimes for several years.
- There are hotspot locations for hate crime offences recorded in Central Gateshead. Most incidents are verbal with few violence-related offences motivated by hate. Racist or religiously motivated, homophobic and transphobic hate crimes/incidents are most likely to occur on the street and be committed by a stranger; while disability hate crimes are more likely to occur in a dwelling, and to be perpetrated by someone known to the victim; although we also tend to see increased hate crime in public transport.

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Continue to co-ordinate multi-agency activity to reduce harms caused by hate incidents across the Borough in partnership with the police and other key partners.
- Offer, encourage and promote support mechanisms available for victims of hate crime – via VictimsFirst Northumbria, Central Engagement Team and Community Safety – to help increase the uptake of victim support services
- Develop focus groups with victims to ascertain their experiences and identify areas for improvement within our current provision.
- Commission work to raise the profile of hate crime and where to report incidents as well as communicating the successes of our work.
- Increase awareness and understanding of hate crime, drawing upon personal stories, to help promote reporting methods with victims and witnesses.
- Promote the work of Strategic Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group to partners and the public to increase awareness.
- Roll out a series of hate crime awareness training to services and organisations (include public and private sector, schools and voluntary sector).
- Address behaviour of repeat hate incident perpetrators (through ASB Tools and Powers).
- Explore options to use restorative practice where appropriate to reduce harm.
- Review and enhance Safe Reporting Centres including providing refresher training, and promoting these as a way of supporting victims to report hate crime
- Work with education providers to ensure hate crime (including bullying) is consistently addressed using best hate incident practice and develop preventative educational programmes for hate incident perpetrators.
- Tackle the barriers to reporting hate crime by working with under reported groups and responding to what the community is telling us (e.g. hate crime on public transport).
- Deliver targeted awareness campaigns during Hate Crime Awareness Week.
- Further promote and develop the role of the Hate Crime Champion.
- Review and refresh the Tension Monitoring approach to ensure tensions are captured.



Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Priority Area

Preventing Violent Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism

What is our aim?

- Individuals, institutions and communities are resilient to all forms of terrorism and extremism, harm is reduced, and people have higher levels of trust and confidence.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Violent extremism is better understood within Gateshead, and frontline staff, partners and communities are better equipped to challenge and report concerns.
- Individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and extremism are identified at an early stage and supported through Channel Panels to reduce risk
- Individuals at risk of re-engaging in terrorism-related activities are supported to reduce risk (and rehabilitate?).
- Partner agencies and services are better able to manage risks (including those posed by extremist speakers, events and groups)
- Improved compliance with the statutory Prevent Duty is achieved
- Communities are aware of, and resilient to, the challenges posed by international, national and local incidents, and the risk of harm caused to individuals and communities is reduced.

Why is it a priority?

- Prevent is a statutory duty and requires specified authorities to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.
- The multi-agency Channel Duty requires vulnerable individuals to be supported early to help divert them away from radicalisation through effective interventions/support plans.
- Terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to national security – and we have seen increases in the number of arrests and counter terrorism investigations.
- The number of referrals for Prevent has increased significantly in Gateshead.
- Terrorist attacks not only cause loss of life and economic damage, but they also fuel community tensions, damage public confidence and community cohesion.
- There are direct links with community tensions and cohesion, hate crime and other priorities outlined within the Partnership Plan.
- We know unless ideologies are challenged and prevented, the cycle of radicalisation will continue with significant resource implications across partners and a significant impact on communities.
- The latest Counter Terrorism Local Profile demonstrates the need for Prevent, Channel and Contest arrangements to be a priority. The North East experiences a significantly higher proportion of far-right threats; and proportion of individuals receiving Channel support linked with right-wing extremism has increased steadily (reaching 45% in 2019).
- More people received Channel support last year than in the two previous years.

- The political and economic landscape globally and in the UK (e.g. linked to Brexit and austerity) may potentially lead to an increase in community tensions and increase risks of getting drawn into terrorism.
- National changes to the way in which Channel Panels operate is expected in 2020/21.

What is the local context telling us?

- Experienced a significant increase in the number of Prevent referrals in Gateshead – and we currently have a small number of vulnerable persons being discussed in Channel.
- Referrals are spread across the Borough – with no hotspots or localities of concerns.
- Almost all our referrals relate to far-right extremism.
- Formal Prevent training continues to be provided but uptake could be improved.

Who's affected?

- There is no single route to terrorism - or a simple profile of those who become involved.
- The decision of an individual to become involved in extremist activities is a complex interplay: exposure to an ideology, exposure to people who persuasively articulate that ideology and then relate it to an individual's life circumstances; and vulnerabilities in people which make them susceptible.
- In 2018/19 (as in previous years) the majority of individuals referred to Channel and who consented to receive support were aged 20 years or under and male. We have seen an increase in the number of women arrested nationally in the last 12 months;
- We know the internet is a key resource in facilitating the radicalisation process. During COVID lockdown, the risks of online radicalisation increased, due to people spending increased time at home and online. Young people are found to be at an increased risk as digital content is attractive and persuasive and can be quickly and widely shared.

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Undertake an annual Prevent and Channel Self-Assessment to identify gaps, barriers and actions to help ensure compliance with statutory legislation.
- Deliver the tasks outlined within the Gateshead Prevent Action Plan (whilst remaining flexible and responsive in tackling specific risks and emerging threats)
- Strive to mainstream Prevent work across Council and partners to help improve our collective response to those being drawn into radicalisation
- Monitor levels of risk, vulnerabilities, and threat – and contribute towards the findings and recommendations within the Northumbria Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
- Re-invigorate the Prevent Delivery Group and Gateshead CONTEST Board.
- Continue to raise awareness of diverse ideologies, groups and risks (amongst staff and communities) to strengthen their capabilities, increase their confidence to challenge ideologies and counter terrorist narratives.
- Strengthen engagement within the local Channel Panel and hold development sessions and HYDRA to support its ongoing effectiveness and development.
- Consider and implement the changes to Channel Panel based on national directive (including opportunities for a Regionalisation Model for Prevent).
- We will support individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorist-related activities through the multi-agency Channel programme
- Engage with and increase number of referrals from communities and the third sector.
- Improve communications of Prevent work and its impact locally.
- Embed the new Channel Panel Guidance (due to be published in November 2020).



Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Priority Area

Challenging and Countering Extremism

What is our aim?

- A cohesive borough where extremist narratives are challenged and people are protected from the harms of extremism

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Services and partnerships understand the nature of extremism occurring in Gateshead and work together effectively to reduce the risk and harm of extremism.
- Empowered individuals, community groups and communities recognise extremist narratives and are confident and able to challenge these narratives
- Diverse community groups work collaboratively and visibly together to challenge and counter all extremist narratives.
- Partners stand against all forms of extremism, building cohesion and resilience.
- No divisive or extremist narratives are shared or purported within the Borough.

Why is it a priority?

- Extremism causes widespread and significant harm to individuals and communities and can be seen in the rise of hate, intolerance and violent incidents.
- Hateful extremism has a significant impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of those targeted – and the damaging impact is magnified further (as these extreme views become mainstreamed and normalised).
- Extremists seek to create and exploit divisions between communities – which can lead to segregation, social isolation and exclusion – directly affecting quality of life for marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- Community tensions and divisions can lead to wider instability that can impact on our Borough as a whole.
- Countering extremism is distinct but complementary to the Prevent work that is a key priority for the Board.
- Counter extremism is becoming an increasingly difficult problem – and is increasing. There are observable spikes in extremist narratives shared in response to significant international, national or local events.
- Findings from the Commission for Countering Extremism 2019 reported that 52% of respondents had witnessed some form of extremism – of which, 45% had seen in online, and 39% had seen it in their local area.

What is the local context telling us?

- There are also growing, and emerging risks seen in reports of hate stickering by Far Right groups, increased reports of hate crime narratives and incidents and sporadic incidents linked with local issues and conspiracy groups.

- Our neighbouring localities have seen rises in such issues over the last 12-18 months – and receive specific Home Office funding to address these concerns. Extremism does not stop at the border; we need to ensure we are mindful of and working with other local authorities in Northumbria to ensure a consistent approach.
- We have seen year-on-year increases in the reports of hate crime since 2012/13.
- Nationally, the Community Security Trust has seen a threefold increase in reports of anti-Semitic incidents since 2007 – which needs to be considered for Gateshead.

Who's affected?

- Extremism, and the manifestation of extremism in hate incidents and the impact on cohesion, affects individuals, groups and our communities.
- We have seen a rise in young people drawn into sharing and purporting extremist views – mainly through online and social media presence.
- 83% of respondents to the Counter Extremism Commission Call for Evidence were concerned that extremism is causing harm to our wider society and democracy – and that over three quarters of those working to counter extremism face some degree of abuse for the work that they do.
- Where extremism manifests in hate incidents this has significant impact on the individuals and communities targeted.

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- We will build community and individual knowledge of, and trust and confidence in, work being undertaken and planned to counter extremism within Gateshead.
- We will seek to increase reporting of extremist incidents, including incidents of extremist stickering and graffiti.
- We will ensure mechanisms are in place to respond to these incidents appropriately to reduce risk and harm.
- We will review and refresh our Community Tensions Framework to help ensure we have effective partnership processes to respond to these tensions (including how we capture, monitor and respond to issues effectively).
- Develop increased dialogues and effective communication with communities so we can work together to reduce divisions which may be exploited by extremists.
- Work will be undertaken to empower individuals and community groups with the knowledge and skills to identify extremist narratives and content and to be able to challenge it.
- Explore opportunities to challenge extremism in the online space and raising awareness of options to respond to hate and extremism where this occurs.
- Facilitate network building across diverse community groups and services
- Commission and support collaborative projects and events that build cohesion and offer positive alternatives to extremism.
- Continue to develop work to reduce the harm caused by hate incidents
- Reach out and communicate widely the successes of work to counter extremism and provide reassurance around hate crime.
- Forge stronger links with regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinator to learn from and implement best practice.



Governance, Accountability and Leadership

Priority Area

Governance, Leadership and Accountability

Effective Strategic and Operational Structures
High Challenge, High Support and Inspiring Change

What is our aim?

- Effective and strong working arrangements where partners feel confident to deliver high challenge and high support to inspire change.
- Partnership structure appropriately reflects the strategic themes/priorities identified by the Community Safety Board.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Robust partnership working arrangements in place.
- Clear understanding of the current and future Community Safety landscape and how the work undertaken by the partnership fulfils our common purpose.
- Problems, barriers and challenges are resolved in a timely manner.
- Partners are actively contributing towards and leading the delivery of the strategic themes outlined within the Partnership Plan.
- Maintain compliance with legal and statutory obligations.
- Activities undertaken by partners and services are appropriately scrutinised, challenged and supported through discussions at the Community Safety Board.

Why is it a priority?

- The Community Safety Board structure has not been reviewed for a significant period.
- At the time of less resources – it is important to be more effective and streamlined to meet the growing and emerging issues around Community Safety.
- The changes to national, regional and local landscape provide an opportunity to review what we currently deliver and improve our response to Community Safety.
- The advent of Community Hubs with a greater emphasis towards locality-based working provides an opportunity to review the purpose and remit of Community Safety working.
- Changes to the internal structures of Gateshead in relation to Community Safety and the alignment with Health and Wellbeing directorate provides an opportunity to be joined-up with services to address inequalities agenda (e.g. poverty).

What is the local context telling us?

- The last development session identified areas of strength as well as themes to improve the Board arrangements. There remains a high level of commitment from partners to ensure the Community Safety functions are working effectively.

Our plan – what will we aim to do?

Over the next three years, we are committed to the following activity:

- Review and amend the existing Community Safety Board Terms of Reference.

- Appraise and, where necessary, re-structure the operational partnership arrangements of the Board to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- Explore the possibility of lay membership to help drive transparency and scrutiny.
- Undertake an audit of current Board membership, attendance and remit – and ensure Responsible Authorities are adequately contributing to the delivery of Partnership Plan.
- Hold a further development session for Board members within the next 12 months.
- Explore how the Board can support other partnerships and meetings.
- Review of all Community Safety functions and how they can be embedded more within a wider Public Health and Wellbeing offer.

HOW IS THE BOARD HELD TO ACCOUNT?

The Community Safety Board holds overall responsibility for the delivery and performance of community safety activity in Gateshead. Chief officers from the statutory organisations set the direction of the Partnership Plan and will hold agencies to account for delivery. The Board is scrutinised by Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee where local Councillors, elected by Gateshead residents, review the work of the partnership. Our activities require strong working links and relationships with other statutory Boards – we also provide updates to these partnership arenas.

- **our role** – we will combine our skills and resources, because working together as a team will bring about better outcomes for local people.
- **your role** – play your part and get involved to bring about powerful change in your neighbourhood and the Borough.
- **together** – we will act on the things that matter most to you to keep our communities safe and free from crime and disorder.

WHAT WILL WE MEASURE?

Tbc...for example:

- Number of crimes taking place in Gateshead (by crime type)
- Number of serious violence offences occurring in Gateshead
- Number of domestic abuse referrals to Gateshead Domestic Abuse Service
- Percentage of domestic abuse victims engaging with support services
- Number of ASB incidents reported to Police, TGHC and Private Sector Housing
- Number of Hate Crime incidents taking place in Gateshead
- Number of successful prosecutions of hate crime.
- Proportion of residents who state they feel safe
- Proportion of residents who state Council and Police work together
- Number of Prevent referrals in Gateshead
- Number of Channel Panel cases held

HELP AND SUPPORT...

Crime

- Report crime, anti-social behaviour or intelligence by calling Northumbria Police on 101; or 999 in an emergency; or via www.northumbria.police.uk

Environmental Issues

- Environmental crimes such as fly tipping, littering and dog fouling can be reported to Gateshead Council on 0191 433 7000 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm); or via www.fixmystreet.com

Hate Incidents

- Hate crime can be reported to Northumbria Police or to Gateshead Council on 0191 433 2648 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm); www.gateshead.gov.uk/hatecrime

Domestic Abuse

- If you are experiencing domestic abuse, stalking or harassment – and require advice, please contact: Gateshead Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0191 433 3333 or by email: domesticabuse@gateshead.gov.uk
- In an emergency, please contact 999.

Drugs and Alcohol

- For advice and support in relation to drug and alcohol related difficulties, there are two agencies that can help:
 - Platform – Young People (up to 18 years) – 0191 460 1354
 - Gateshead Recovery Partnership - 0191 594 7821

Anti-social Behaviour

- Complaints about anti-social behaviour:
 - If you want to report ASB by a neighbour that lives in a private or privately rented home, you can contact 0191 433 2350 or email privatesectorhousingcivic@gateshead.gov.uk
 - If you want to report ASB by a neighbour that lives in a council home, you can contact your local housing office, phone: 0191 433 5327 or email nrt@gatesheadhousing.co.uk

Preventing Extremism

- If you have a Prevent referral – please contact a member of the Community Safety team on: 0191 433 3000 or prevent@gateshead.gov.uk



CONTACT US:

Community Safety

Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, NE8 1HH
0191 433 3000
communitysafety@gateshead.gov.uk

April 2020