

**Meeting: Housing Sub Committee**

**Date: 22 February 2016**

**Title: Safer North Tyneside Partnership Report**

---

**Author: Councillor Carole Burdis, Chair, Safer North Tyneside Board**

**Service: Resilience, Security Services and Community Safety**

**Wards affected: All**

---

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give an executive summary of the work of the Safer North Tyneside (SNT) partnership over the last 12 months and to set out a new way of working for the Partnership going forward.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the end of year report for 2015 and to agree, in principle, the way forward as detailed in the report. This will be subject to further scrutiny through the Authority's governance structure.

**3. End of Year Report**

- 3.1 Over the last 12 months, the SNT Partnership has overseen several projects:

**Taxi Marshall Scheme**

- 3.2 The SNT Board agreed to fund two taxi marshals to help alleviate problems with the taxi rank in Tynemouth. Complaints from residents were around a small number of anti social behaviour issues and noise pollution due to passengers not using the head of the rank. The Marshals were funded from 21<sup>st</sup> August through until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. The marshals were successful in combating some of the problems while a longer term solution was sought with residents. The SNT Board are not in a position to extend the scheme due to a lack of available funding and the residents are considering proposals to improve use of the rank overall.

## Successful Funding Bid for North Tyneside's Young Mayor

- 3.3 The Young Cabinet developed a bid for a grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Victims Fund 2015/16 to fund an Anti Bullying Campaign. The bid was successful and they received £16,649 to fund:-
- Awareness Campaign, including posters, leaflets and a DVD.
  - Volunteer expenses to support Helping Hands project.
  - Development of Anti Bullying Standards Awards for schools/colleges
  - Anti Bullying Celebration Event.

The Young Mayor will be providing the Safer North Tyneside Board with a progress report at the April meeting.

### 3.4 Performance

Definition			2014/15 Target	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Q3 Milestone	2015/16 Q3 Actual
Relation to target							
On	Near	Off					
			744	976	968	726	885
			864	812	808	606	634
			34%*	31%	34%*	34%*	34%
			=<14%	11%	=< Force average	12%	8%
			1588	1604	1596	1197	1520
			380	346	344	258	415
			85%	90%	No longer available <sup>#</sup>		
			40%	55%			

\* The target of 34% repeat Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases was chosen as it is the midway point between the Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) recommended range for North Tyneside of 28% to 40%.

\*\* The target for this measure is to be equal to or better than the Northumbria average.

# Changes in the structure and recording practices of the Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company means that these legacy indicators are no longer considered.

- All volume reduction targets are markedly off track. For those relating to recorded crime, this is due to a robust recording practice implemented by Northumbria Police that has led to increases in all categories in all areas of the force. For deliberate fires, seasonality effects are prominent causal factors in fluctuation. Combined with this is the issue of comparing performance to the same period in the previous year, minus an often arbitrarily applied reduction target.
- Safer North Tyneside has agreed that in future a more intelligent performance structure will be adopted. This is based on comparisons with our local and statistical partners. Using this method will correct seasonal variations and give a more accurate representation of exceptions to our performance, both positive and negative. In order to reflect the importance of public perceptions, more performance measures based on these will also be included.
- When the problematic categories highlighted in the table are considered by this method, it becomes apparent that our performance is better than our peer average and often in the best-performing position for any given group:
  - Violence with Injury:  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 6 areas in Northumbria  
1<sup>st</sup> of 15 areas in our Home Office Most Similar Group (MSG)
  - Serious Acquisitive Crime:  
1<sup>st</sup> of 6 in Northumbria  
1<sup>st</sup> of 15 in our MSG
  - Criminal Damage:  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 6 in Northumbria  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 15 in our MSG
  - Deliberate Fires:  
1<sup>st</sup> of five areas in Tyne and Wear
- We remain the safest metropolitan borough in England

### **3.5 Agencies against Racist Crime and Harassment (ARCH)**

ARCH is a national approach to reporting and recording hate crimes. Due to funding for ARCH coming to an end in March 2015, Newcastle City Council had provided the system free of charge for one year while they worked on a bid for Lottery Funding that would enable them to roll out ARCH across the region free of charge to all Local Authorities. We were informed in October 2015 that the bid would no longer be progressed and as of April 2016 North Tyneside would be charged for the system at £5530 per annum. This is not sustainable and so alternatives were sought.

The Community Safety Team have been reviewing options available to ensure that resident's and visitors to North Tyneside will still have a reporting mechanism in place. The benefits of having a reporting system will be to provide information about what constitutes a hate crime, provide sign posting to victims and provide the Council and the SNT Partnership with valuable intelligence about supporting victims.

Discussions have taken place with Northumberland County Council who have implemented a Hate Crime App and have found that since this option has been available they have seen a large number of referrals being made. The Hate Crime App that was implemented by Northumberland was produced by C5 Consultancy at a cost of £7,000 and a £350 charge for amendments to the system. Following on from the discussions with Northumberland Council a meeting was held with ICT to discuss if a similar could be implemented within North Tyneside. ICT have confirmed that they will be able to develop a self reporting system for North Tyneside that will fit with the overarching ICT strategy for North Tyneside. Timescales for the new ICT developments overall are being discussed with Heads of Service over the coming weeks.

### **3.6 Community Trigger**

The Community Trigger is a process which allows the public to ask their local Community Safety Partnership to review responses to incidents of anti-social behaviour. Since this scheme was introduced in October 2014 North Tyneside Council have received 25 requests to evoke the trigger. In 23 of these requests, no further action was taken as evidence had shown that action had already been taken or was still ongoing.

A decision was made to take one trigger through to the Community Trigger Panel stage. In this case, although the evidence showed that action had been taken it also highlighted vulnerabilities with the victim and some complexities around the case. The outcome of the panel was that no further action could be taken but a safeguarding referral was submitted for the victim.

A further Community Trigger Panel Meeting was also held to look at a case where there was evidence of action being taken. Despite noise monitoring equipment not identifying a statutory noise nuisance, it was felt that due to the volume of complaints being made that this should be addressed by a multi agency panel. The outcome of the Panel was that noise monitoring equipment would be offered for a further period of time to try to capture evidence of excessive noise nuisance.

### **3.7 Prevent Funding**

The Home Office has allocated £10,000.00 to be used in the delivery of the statutory duties within the Prevent work stream which aims to stop people getting drawn towards violent extremism. This funding is currently being allocated to work within the community and voluntary sector which includes a local programme called 'Walking With' which aims to help asylum seekers and refugees integrate into local communities. The funding will also provide WRAP (Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent) training to community and voluntary sector workers.

### 3.8 Domestic Homicide Review Status

When someone has been killed as a result of domestic violence (domestic homicide) legislation stipulates that a review should be carried out. There have been three Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) to date in North Tyneside since legislation was introduced in 2011. The status of these three reviews is as follows:

- The DHR 1 report and executive summary have been published on the council's website.
- DHR 2 was passed as 'adequate' by the Home Office quality assurance board with some recommendations. The amended report has been shared with the DHR Panel for sign off. The Chair of the Panel will be contacting the family to discuss the amendments and to discuss any issue that they may have around the publication of the report.
- DHR 3 has now been signed off by the Safer North Tyneside Board and has been sent to the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel.

## 4 New Ways of Working

At the January meeting of the SNT Board, a new way of working was proposed. This involves refreshing the Community Safety Strategy, but retaining the four key themes; Crime, Disorder, Offending and Community Concerns and Confidence.

- 4.1 The SNT Board discussed a report with five recommendations to improve the efficiency and work of the Partnership. These recommendations are:
- *To revise the Community Safety Strategy to more clearly identify actions, coordination and support activities;*
  - *To disband the current Thematic Groups in favour of one 'Theme Management Group' which will gather senior officers together with an overall aim of collating information, identifying links and sharing information about current priorities, gaps and issues. This will largely replace the Policy and Performance Group;*
  - *To better use the reach of the partnership to make links to wider initiatives which count towards the actions identified and target resources, campaigns and public information in a more timely way. We will use the Strategic Assessment in a more targeted way to identify trends and troubleshoot issues more effectively.*
  - *To explore new ways of working with Adults and Children's Safeguarding Teams, Public Health, Domestic Violence, Hate Crime, Youth Offending, Troubled Families and Resilience to identify what links there are to ongoing work and SNT priorities.*
  - *To work more closely with community groups to consult on priorities, identify problems and solutions and promote what the SNT Partnership is doing.*
- 4.2 A workshop to include all relevant council services and partners whose work contributes to the Partnership's aims and objectives is the next step. This will take place before the end of the financial year so that an action plan can be drawn up. There will also be a Forward Plan for the SNT Board meetings so that members can receive reports in a timely way to provide some challenge and oversight.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the revised Strategy will need to go through the approval process within North Tyneside Council and this will be scheduled in once the workshop has taken place and the SNT Board have provisionally agreed their priorities.

## 5. Appendices

## **Appendix A - Draft Revised Community Safety Strategy**

### **6. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author:

- SNT Board Briefing Paper
- NT Community Safety Strategy 2014-19