

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 2 September, 2013

Title: Initial proposals for the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019

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Service: Law and Governance and Strategic Services

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an outline of the process to be undertaken by the Safer North Tyneside Partnership in the production of its 2014-2019 Community Safety Strategy. This includes a description of the issues and information to be taken into account as part of the process.

1.1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider the initial proposals for the Community Safety Strategy and, where appropriate, make comments and/or recommendations on the proposals to the relevant Cabinet Member.

2. Information:

2.1 Policy Framework

The Community Safety Strategy forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. The Policy Framework aims to ensure that appropriate and effective consultation takes place with all Members of the Council and other stakeholders on the content major plans and strategies.

Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 June 2013, approved the initial proposals for the Community Safety Strategy 2014-19. The initial proposals for the Plan are now presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, so that it can examine the Cabinet's consultation proposals and timetable and make recommendations on these, where appropriate, to the relevant Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement has been invited to attend the meeting of the Committee.

At this stage the committee are invited to give particular consideration to the consultation proposals and timetable set out in Appendix 3.

The relevant Cabinet Member will consider any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, where it is considered appropriate, amend the consultation process and/or timetable accordingly.

2.2 Statutory Responsibility

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Police and Crime Act 2009 and the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011, places a duty on 'responsible authorities' to work together, with other agencies, to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community. The responsible authorities for North Tyneside are: North Tyneside Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, Northumbria Probation Trust and North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group.

It is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (known in this borough as Safer North Tyneside) to prepare an annual 'strategic assessment' of crime and disorder issues impacting on the local community and for this to shape how the Partnership responds to emerging issues. This process informs an annual review of the Partnership's Community Safety Strategy.

The current Community Safety Strategy covers the period April 2011 to March 2014. This means that the Partnership is now required to undergo a formal review process. Previously Community Safety Partnerships were required, statutorily, to review their strategy every 3 years. However, in 2011 this requirement was repealed. At a meeting of the Safer North Tyneside Board on 17 April 2013 the Partnership agreed that its next strategy should cover the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019.

2.3 The Strategic Assessment

The Partnership's Strategic Assessment is a critical part of this review process and includes:

1. An analysis of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder, substance misuse, reoffending and behaviour adversely affecting the environment in the area;
2. An analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous strategic assessment;
3. An analysis of why those changes have occurred;
4. The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending in the area;
5. The matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending in the area.

Attached at Appendix 1 is a summary of the 2013 Strategic Assessment.

2.4 The Community Safety Strategy

The Partnership's Strategy is required to set out:

1. A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse and reoffending in the area in the agreed period beginning April 2014;
2. The priorities identified in the strategic assessment prepared during the year prior to April 2014;
3. The steps Safer North Tyneside considers necessary to take to implement that strategy and meet those priorities;
4. How Safer North Tyneside should allocate and deploy their resources to implement that strategy and meet those priorities; and

5. The steps Safer North Tyneside shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities.

2.5 Community Safety Strategy Development Process

A first draft of the 2013 Strategic Assessment was presented to the Safer North Tyneside Board (Appendix 2) for consultation and comment in July, 2013. Work continued on the Assessment throughout the summer period. This work included incorporating the findings of the North Tyneside Residents' Survey and the Northumbria Safer Communities Survey.

To shape the priorities for the Community Safety Strategy, Safer North Tyneside's Policy and Performance Group reviewed the findings of the Strategic Assessment at its meeting in August.

A further version of the Strategic Assessment will be presented to the Policy and Performance Group in September. After reviewing the information presented, the Group will agree the priorities, and make recommendations to the Safer North Tyneside Board.

Once the proposed priorities are agreed by the Board, the Board will consult a wide range of stakeholders including the Mayor, Cabinet, Council Members and residents of the borough.

Senior Officers from the Partnership will develop the Strategy around the agreed priorities in December with a view to the Safer North Tyneside Policy and Performance Group, at its meeting on 18th December 2013, agreeing the draft Strategy for recommendation to the Safer North Tyneside Board.

Safer North Tyneside Board, at its meeting on 15th January 2014, will consider the recommendations of the Policy and Performance Group and agree a draft Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019 for recommendation to the Council.

As part of the consultation programme the draft Community Safety Strategy will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6th January 2014, prior to its referral to Cabinet on 10th February, 2014 and Council on 13th March 2014.

2.6 Consultation/community engagement

A great deal of consultation has been carried out with local communities on crime, disorder and substance misuse issues including North Tyneside Council's annual Residents' Survey and Northumbria Police's quarterly Safer Communities Survey. This process ensures the gathering of information, and an increase in our understanding of community safety issues and how they affect differing local communities and community groups.

The Police, Council and other Safer North Tyneside partners engage with local communities through a number of local meetings and meetings held with other groups such as young people and faith groups. This assists in ensuring the development of the strategy is reflective of the community safety issues and priorities of a wide range of groups and interests.

Please see Appendix 3 for detail of the consultation on the priorities for the Community Safety Strategy 2011-14.

3. Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Strategic Assessment Summary 2013

Appendix 2: Safer North Tyneside Board

Appendix 3: Timetable for consultation

4. Background information:

The following information has been used in the compilation of this report and is available for inspection at the offices of the author.

- a. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- b. Statutory Instrument 1830 - The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.
- c. Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011



***Draft Strategic Assessment
Summary 2013***

Crime in North Tyneside

Total Recorded Crime

- The 2012/13 figure of 7291 was 6.5% (506) less than 2011/12 (7797)
- This was also 6% (467) lower than the 0.5% reduction target of 7758
- North Tyneside was first (best performing in rate per 1000 population) in its most similar family group (36.236 vs. group average of 69.775) and second in the Northumbria area (which had a rate of 47.573 and was first in its family group of eight force areas).
- North Tyneside remained the safest metropolitan borough in England, for the fourth consecutive year.
- The most prevalent of the 12 main Home Office crime types were Other Theft, Criminal Damage and Violence Against the Person. The decreases in these high-volume offence types accounted for a considerable part of the overall fall in crime compared to last year.
- The greatest volume increase was in Theft From Motor Vehicles. This increased by 33%. However, this is not an issue peculiar to North Tyneside, which remained best-performing in its group of most similar areas and second in Northumbria (in fact, best performing when looking at Quarter 4 alone).

Comparisons with other areas

- Comparisons between community safety partnerships (CSPs) and police force areas are made by the Home Office using Most Similar Groups (MSGs). These groups provide a benchmark for comparison of crime rates and other indicators with similar areas elsewhere in England & Wales. They also help to identify similar areas which are performing well, to promote the sharing of good practice.
- Areas with very similar geographical, demographic and socio-economic profiles have been shown to have reasonably comparable levels of crime. Variations in crime rates between areas that are otherwise similar in character are likely to be due to other factors, such as efficiency of policing and partnership working practices. CSPs are generally compared with 14 other similar areas and police forces with seven.
- North Tyneside was best performing in its Most Similar Group of 15 areas in 2012/13 (36.236 offences per 1000 population vs. MSG average of 69.775).
- North Tyneside was also a close second to Northumberland in the Northumbria Police Force Area of six CSPs. The force had an average of 47.573 and was the best performing in its family of eight force areas.
- North Tyneside was in best-performing position for the fourth consecutive year.
- The rate of crime decreased by 3 per 1000 population (-8%) compared to 2011/12 and by 6 per 1000 (-15%) over the three-year period.

Cost of crime

- Sexual offences were ranked first. Despite there being only 109 offences during 2012/13, they had a high cost per offence (£36,952) and a very high multiplier (13.6) due to the tendency of this crime to be hidden and underreported.
- Offences that fall under violence against the person cost nearly £17M, with “other wounding” costing the bulk of this. Although the highest single cost per offence, homicide has a multiplier of one due to a near 100% detection rate. However, a single homicide has serious human and societal as well as financial costs.
- The relatively low-level offence of criminal damage was ranked highly in terms of cost due to its high volume.
- The crimes that comprise serious acquisitive crime had a combined cost of almost £8M. This was £37K more than in 2011/12 due to increases in robbery and theft from vehicles.
- The net change in the offences listed indicates a social and economic cost that was £8.6M more than in 2011/12 and £678K more than in 2010/11.

Victims in North Tyneside

- 4494 victimisation episodes involved individuals living in North Tyneside There were 3924 identifiable individual victims; 3447 (88%) were victimised once, while 477 (12%) were repeat victims:

Violence with Injury

- There were 646 recorded offences, a decrease of 7% (-46) compared to 2011/12 (692).
- This was 6% (46) lower than the -0.5% target of 689.
- North Tyneside was first (best performing in rate per 1000 population) in its most similar family group (36.236 vs. group average of 69.775) and second in the Northumbria area (which had a rate of 47.573 and was first in its family group of eight force areas).
- North Tyneside was first in its most similar family group (3.211 vs. group average of 6.750 and third in the Northumbria area (which had a rate of 5.749 and was first in its family group of eight force areas).

Domestic Violence

An examination of the available demographics of known victims of domestic VAP showed that 90% (276) were female and 10% (30) were male. Although the only significant age grouping of male victims was 40-44 (8; 27%), a distinct pattern of most -victimised age groups of females emerged. Prima facia evidence indicates that younger women are most victimised, but could also indicate that they are more likely to report domestic violence than older age-groups

- Perpetrators of domestic VAP were predominantly men, with an age profile similar to that of victims.

- An analysis of relationships between offenders and victims showed that intimate or ex-intimate partners accounted for 96% of cases (137 intimate and 44 ex-intimate). There were also 15 familial relationships (4%).

Serious Acquisitive Crime

- This is a composite measure including domestic burglary, vehicle theft and robbery
- There were 952 recorded offences, an increase of 10% (+83) compared to 2011/12 (869).
- This was also 10% (86) higher than the -0.5% target of 866.
- North Tyneside was best performing in its MSG (4.731 vs. an average rate of 12.531) and second in Northumbria (which had a rate of 6.498 and was first in its force MSG)
- Although there was a slight increase in robbery (+3 offences, from 47 to 50), there was a similar decrease in domestic burglary (-3 offences, from 339 to 336) and a larger fall in theft of vehicles (-27 offences, from 151 to 124).
- The major issue continued to be theft from vehicles. This increased by 33% (+110 offences, from 332 to 442). However, this is not an issue peculiar to North Tyneside, which remained best-performing in its MSG and second in Northumbria (in fact, best performing when looking at Quarter 4 alone).

Criminal Damage/Vandalism

- The 1495 recorded Criminal Damage offences accounted for 21% of all crime in the Borough.
- There was a 5% reduction in Criminal Damage compared to 2011/12 (75 fewer offences).
- The year-end figure was also 5% (73) below that required to meet the -0.5% target (1568).
- North Tyneside was second-best performing in its MSG (7.490 vs. an average rate of 11.190) and second in Northumbria (which had a rate of 9.737 and was third in its force MSG)

Deliberate Fires attended by TWFRS

- 588 fires were attended during 2012/13, which was 213 fewer (27% less) than in 2011/12. 336 were assessed as being started deliberately (57% of all fires). This proportion was considerably lower than the 70% generally seen over the previous three years. The volume compared to 2011/12 decreased by 40% (-224 incidents). The proportion of primary and secondary deliberate fires remained at around 20%/80%.
- As the target for 2011/12 was a 2% reduction in deliberate fires, the year-end figure shows that it has been comfortably met.

- 72 deliberate fires were primary, involving serious damage to property (21% of all deliberate fires). These included 36 fires damaging buildings (22 non-residential, 14 residential), 29 damaging vehicles (22 cars, 4 vans, 2 motorcycles and one caravan) and seven classed as “outdoor” (structures, woodland and crops). There were 11 fewer deliberate primary fires than in 2011/12 (-13%).
- 264 were secondary fires (also known as ASB fires; 79% of deliberate fires). The majority (211) were refuse fires, with 160 (61% of deliberate secondaries) involving loose refuse or rubbish tips and 35 (13%) involving wheelie bins. There were 213 fewer deliberate secondary fires than in 2011/12 (-45%).
- The link between deliberate secondary fires and ASB can be seen in the chart below, as the peaks and troughs are very similar. The exception is November, where deliberate secondary fires spike around bonfire night. Note that although 2012/13 was generally well below 2011/12, November is virtually identical.

Disorder and Community Concerns

Priority Issues from the Northumbria Safer Communities Survey

- Between April 2012 and March 2013, 1697 residents were surveyed in North Tyneside; of these, 553 stated there was a problem that they thought should be tackled as a priority. This equated to a third of residents surveyed in North Tyneside who highlighted an issue as a priority (33%).
- As with other areas in Northumbria, the issues that residents prioritised in North Tyneside were mostly quality of life issues rather than crimes. In common with other urban areas of Northumbria, *‘Young people being drunk, rowdy, or a nuisance’* remained the top priority in North Tyneside.
- Whilst there is little variation in priorities between sectors, *‘People using or dealing drugs’* and *‘Adults being drunk, rowdy, a nuisance’* appear to be more of a problem for residents of North Shields.

ASB as recorded by the Police

- There were 11661 recorded incidents of ASB in the Borough in 2012/13. There was a 9.7% decrease compared to last year (-1252 incidents).
- This was 9.2% (1187 incidents) below the 2011/12 target.
- The chart below shows the seasonal nature of ASB, with an increase during the spring months and a low in winter. Although this pattern repeats annually, it has done so with a lower level of incidents in each successive year.

- 1633 incidents were alcohol-related (14% of the Borough's ASB). There was a 28% decrease compared to 2011/12 (-628 incidents).
- 3471 incidents were youth-related (30% of the Borough's ASB). There was a 15% decrease compared to 2011/12 (-603 incidents).
- 241 incidents were both youth and alcohol-related (2% of the Borough's ASB). There was a 52% decrease compared to 2011/12 (-257 incidents).

North Tyneside Safer Estates ASB cases

- The Safer Estates team covered an average of 15425 managed properties and dealt with 1240 new ASB cases, which was 2% less than in 2011/12 and 8% less than in 2010/11.
- The largest proportion of cases was noise at 363, which was 14% higher than last year. However, environmental-based cases, which was last year's most prominent category, decreased by 48% to 362.
- There were also 605 nuisance cases and 273 personal cases.
- Although the number of actions taken against perpetrators increased two-fold to 3636, the vast majority of these were early actions, with only 52 enforcement actions deemed necessary.

Reducing Offending

Probation caseload in North Tyneside

During 2012/13, there were 638 offenders who commenced probation orders in North Tyneside, while 468 completed theirs. Demographics showed:

- 82% were male
- 18% were female
- 3% were from a BME background
- 25% of offenders were under 26 years old (a considerable decrease from last year's 38% and the 39% found in 2010/11)
- 125 different offence types were committed. The most common primary offences were theft from a shop (15%), common assault (7%), domestic burglary (5%), actual bodily harm (5%) drink driving (5%) and harassment (4%).

Youth Offending

- First time entrants have reduced by 31% in 2012/13 in comparison to the previous year.
- Continued reductions year on year underline the substantial progress that has been made in reducing the numbers of first time entrants. Since 2007/2008 there has been an 88% reduction in the total number of first time entrants to the youth justice system.

- There has been an approximate 25% reduction in general offending by young people in the North Tyneside area in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.
- 79% of the offending population of young people are aged between 15 and 17 years. This is reflective of last year's figure of 81%. We have maintained a reduction in the number of 10 to 13 year olds offending (13% of the total), which is reflective of early intervention work that is taking place with projects such as Triage.

Substance Misuse

- It is estimated that there are more Opiate users than Crack users in North Tyneside.
- Furthermore, it is estimated that 50% of Opiate users are aged between 25-34 years of age, with 12% being aged between 15-24 years.
- In addition to this, estimates show that 72% of Crack users are aged between 15-24 years of age with 26% aged between 25-34 years of age.
- More Opiate users are known to treatment with more of those engaging in treatment (46% compared to 17% for Crack).
- The age range most likely to engage with treatment was 25-34 years for both Opiate and Crack users.

Challenges

Despite being a safer borough due to the diligent work of all partners, we have the challenge of maintaining continuous improvement in a difficult environment.

There are areas within the borough with crime and disorder problems that are relatively high when compared to the rest of the borough or even, in some respects, the rest of England. The most problematic areas generally coincide with the wider social problems of poor health and worklessness, most notably in the wards of Riverside, Chirton, Wallsend and Howdon.

In terms of reoffending, a small number of offenders are responsible for a disproportionately large number of offences. Although our reducing reoffending programmes have been dealing effectively with offenders on licence, those with sentences of less than 12 months will now be obliged to engage with the Probation Trust or other providers on a payment-by-results basis. A considerable proportion of our high-crime-causers are this type of offender. North Tyneside is the only partnership area in Northumbria not to receive direct funding to deal with these individuals.



Safer North Tyneside Board

Councillor Carol Gambling Chair	North Tyneside Council
District Manager Dave Escott Deputy Chair	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Chief Superintendent Steve Neill	Northumbria Police
Margaret Turner, Director of Offender Management (North Tyneside)/Public Protection	Northumbria Probation Trust
Dr Ruth Evans	North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group
Lisa Gardener, Chief Executive	VODA
Ian Conway, Head of North Tyneside Homes	North Tyneside Council (Chair, Safer North Tyneside Policy and Performance Group)
Elected Mayor, Norma Redfearn (Ex Officio Role)	North Tyneside Council

Safer North Tyneside Strategy 2014 - 2019

Consultation Proposals

Stage	Provisional Date	Method
Cabinet to consider initial proposals for the development of the Community Safety Strategy	10 June, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report
First draft Safer North Tyneside's Strategic assessment (including community intelligence) complete and considered by the Safer North Tyneside Board	17 July, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation
Second draft Safer North Tyneside Strategic Assessment complete and emerging priorities for the Strategy identified by Safer North Tyneside Policy and Performance Group	21 August, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation
Overview and Scrutiny Committee consulted on initial proposals for the Community Safety Strategy	2 September, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report
Safer North Tyneside's Strategic assessment finalised by Safer North Tyneside Policy and Performance Group and proposed priorities agreed for recommendation to the Safer North Tyneside Board.	18 th September, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation
Draft priorities for the Strategy agreed by Safer North Tyneside Board	16 th October, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation
Consultation with Council Members on draft priorities	November, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members Weekly Briefing • Members Briefings
Public consultation on draft priorities	November, 2013	<p>A mixture of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Group Work • Residents Panel • On-line
Consultation with Young Cabinet Member with	November, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation

responsibility for Community Safety		
Consultation with NTSP Executive on draft priorities	November, 2013	• Report
Draft strategy presented to Safer North Tyneside Policy and Performance Group	18 th December, 2013	• Report
Draft strategy (final proposals) to Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 th January, 2014	• Report
Draft strategy (final proposals) to Safer North Tyneside Board	15 th January, 2014	• Report
Draft strategy (final proposals) to Cabinet	10 th February, 2014	• Report
Community Safety Strategy (final proposals) to Council	13 th March, 2014	• Report