

VIOLENT CRIME DELIVERY PLAN 2009/2010

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP5: Safer City.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services; CIO4: Improving Partnership Working To Deliver 'One City'.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on developments in relation to tackling violent crime and consider the progress being made by the Safer Sunderland Partnership in meeting the Violent Crime Delivery Plan 2009-2010.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In February 2008, the Home Office published its national Violent Crime Action Plan called 'Saving lives, reducing harm, protecting the public: an action plan for tackling violence 2008-2011'. This was updated in August 2009. The plan placed a greater focus on prevention and reduction of serious violent crime and placed a number of new requirements on the Safer Sunderland Partnership. These included:

- Consideration should be given to including relevant improvement targets in Local Area Agreements (LAA) in those areas which face particular challenges in terms of serious violence;
- CDRPs should develop a problem profile for violence which provides a clear picture of the local priorities, by the end of 2008;
- CDRPs should access and, where appropriate, implement existing good practice with respect to serious violence;
- CDRPs should develop a local action plan for violence which addresses identified local priorities, by the end of 2008;
- CDRPs should be able to demonstrate to Government Offices for the Regions that they are taking action to reduce the incidence of serious sexual offences, to improve their investigation and prosecution, and to provide effective victim care and support to minimise harm;
- CDRPs should consider establishing a dedicated strategic group for violence. Where appropriate this should be accompanied by an additional tactical group and the appointment of a dedicated violent crime lead.

- 2.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership has been monitoring progress across all of the requirements; all of which have been fulfilled. A brief summary of key developments is set out below:-

- 2.3 The LAA reflected violent crime as a high priority with two specific LAA indicators covering assault with injury and a specific indicator in relation to reduction of repeat victimisation of MARAC cases. This has placed delivery of elements of the National Violent Crime Action Plan and domestic violence within in a higher profile delivery context to support achievement in an accelerated manner.
- 2.4 In light of the new strategy, the Safer Sunderland Partnership reviewed its structures and replaced the existing Domestic Violence Board with a Violent Crime Delivery Group (VCDG). However, recognising the volume and important focus of domestic violence in the city, a Domestic Violence Partnership supports the VCDG in delivery of the domestic violence aspects of the delivery plan. Current additional working groups include a Sexual Exploitation Working Group and the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Operations Group. A tactical group has not been implemented at this stage as these issues in relation to violent crime are addressed in a range of other delivery groups / partnerships such as the Safeguarding Board, Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups, the Alcohol Delivery Group, Police TCG meetings and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements etc.
- 2.5 The Domestic Violence Co-ordinator post within the Safer Communities Team has been re-profiled to become a Safer Communities Officer (Violent Crime Reduction) post to reflect the widening agenda in relation to serious violent crime and to reflect the Government's forthcoming 'Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy' due for publication in late autumn 2009. These changes to the post do not represent a reduction in focus on domestic violence as training duties delivered by the previous post are being commissioned with the voluntary sector. The new staffing and structures also should be viewed in the context of wider Safer Sunderland Partnership delivery on violent crime which is undertaken by other staff and delivery groups such as those covering the priorities on Alcohol, Anti Social Behaviour, Marketing and Reducing Re-offending.
- 2.6 The violent crime problem profile was completed on time and will be refreshed in the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment which will be presented to the Board in December 2009. The violent crime problem profile informed the drafting of the delivery plan which is attached as a separate document (Appendix 1). The plan is currently being refreshed to reflect the recently drafted Sunderland Area Command 'Tackling Violence Plan'. The new Chair of the VCDG, Chief Inspector Sean McKenna, will update the key Police actions by the end of November 2009.
- 2.7 Progress to date has been significant with a range of key actions already delivered including:
- The successful accreditation and launch of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court.
 - The development and launch of an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser service, with funding secured for 2009-10.
 - The introduction of fortnightly case conferencing of the highest risk victims of domestic violence with a positive first year independent review by CAADA.

- The delivery of a wide range of training events on forced marriage and honour based violence.
- A successful bid to Home Office for training and pilot prevention work in schools.
- Securing mainstream resources for taxi marshals
- Significant campaign and marketing work.

2.8 Performance in the current year is showing positive reductions in all categories of violent crime (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Reductions in violent crime categories April-August 2009				
Measure	(Apr08 – Aug 08)	(Apr09 – Aug 09)	Volume Change	% Change
Violent Crime	2150	1904	-246	11% reduction
Assault with Less Serious Injury (NI20)	1073	918	-155	14% reduction
Most serious violence against the person (NI15)	97	81	-16	16% reduction
Most Serious Violence (Excl GBH without intent)	43	23	-20	47% reduction
Other Wounding	1127	976	-151	13% reduction

Source 1Quanta

3.0 Impact

- 3.1 The revised delivery arrangements have placed the Partnership in a good position to maintain its strong focus on violent crime and to continue to deliver against both the National Violent Crime Action Plan requirements and the forthcoming Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (due for publication November 2009) and local issues identified through the new Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Committee note the progress being made by the Safer Sunderland Partnership in relation to delivering violent crime prevention and reduction and support the Violent Crime Delivery Plan 2009-2010.