

**SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS  
2012/13 AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2013/14**

**REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE POLICY LEAD FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report attaches for Members' information, some of the Safer Sunderland Partnership's (SSP) key achievements in delivering the Safer Sunderland Strategy during the last year 2012/13. The report also highlights the key strategic priorities for the SSP for the year ahead 2013/14.

**2. CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 The SSP has progressed much of the improvement activity that was set out in its 2012/13 delivery plan. Examples of some of these key achievements are summarised in **Appendix 1**. It can be seen that recorded crime and anti-social behaviour continue to fall; 96% of residents feel safe living in their local area; high risk victims are being supported to reduce the repeat victimisation and the offending of those causing the most harm to local communities is also reducing.

- 2.2 In December 2012, the SSP Board considered the statutory partnership strategic intelligence assessment which is used to inform the strategic priorities for the year ahead. The assessment has show little change in the key priorities for the partnership and no significant long term trends appearing that the SSP is not aware of. However, there have been considerable changes to the delivery landscape and the environment in which the SSP operates. There are a number of issues that will impact on/continue to impact on the SSP over the next year, including the Police and Crime Commissioner and the economic climate. Within this context, the SSP has therefore agreed to focus on 2 key strategic priorities for 2013/14:

- 1. Reduce crime and disorder and improve feelings of safety**
- 2. Prevent and reduce harm to our most vulnerable people and places**

Underneath this, the Board agreed to focus upon eight issues/work areas within these two headline priorities for 2013/2014 and beyond which are as follows:

- § Substance misuse (drug and alcohol-related crime and disorder)
- § Domestic violence (including other violent crime)

- § Anti-social behaviour (people and places)
- § Safety and feelings of safety for high risk victims and vulnerable groups
- § Re-offending
- § Community cohesion
- § Organised crime
- § Safeguarding.

2.3 These priorities are closely aligned to the emerging priorities in the draft Northumbria Police and Crime Plan which is currently under development by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 The partnership's strategic intelligence assessment has highlighted that the current community safety work areas remain relevant to Sunderland and the partnership's continued crime reduction performance is testament to this. However there are some emerging areas that require an increased focus for example around links between crime and disorder with cohesion, safeguarding, organised crime, the Community Resilience Plan, Strengthening Families agenda and the emerging priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3.2 The SSP Board believes that its reductions and key achievements are sustainable and whilst identifying issues including the economy, public sector finance reductions and welfare reform pose potential risks to local crime rates, there is currently no evidence support any increases in crime, however, the partnership will monitor carefully this in the coming year.

3.3 Given the reductions in public sector resources, the Board has agreed the need for prioritisation on the highest impact issues. Key actions against all of the work areas will be delivered, but the Board acknowledges the need to prioritise actions against each area over the 3 year delivery plan. Staff resource and partner staff resource will be applied to critical development. The 3 year delivery plan will need to focus certain areas for development activity/improvement activity in a scheduled way over a longer time frame.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 That the Committee notes the information contained in Appendix 1 and agrees to accept a report on key achievements in delivering the strategic priorities at the end of 2013/14.

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# **APPENDIX 1**

## **REVIEW OF 2012/13: SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP KEY INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a high level summary of the Safer Sunderland Partnership's (SSP) achievements and activity in delivering its improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2012/13.

Total recorded crime in Sunderland has continued to fall in 2012/13. For the period April to December 2012, total crime reduced by 19% which equates to 2,588 fewer victims when compared to the same period in 2011. This is on the back of a 54% reduction in recorded crime in Sunderland from 2002/03 to 2011/12 which equates to 20,577 fewer victims in the last 9 years.

Sunderland's recorded crime rate has been below the national average since 2005/06 and the SSP has consistently shown high performance against its family group of 15 similar Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) nationally.

In 2011/12, 95% of Sunderland residents said they felt safe living in their local area. This is currently 96% as of December 2012.

### **2.0 REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN IN 2012-13**

The following sections include examples of progress made against delivering the improvement actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2012/13. Overall reductions in recorded crime (by crime type) up to December 2012 are set out in Annex A at the end of this report.

#### **2.1 Reducing alcohol misuse and the harm it causes, including alcohol related crime**

- § The Mobile Treatment Unit pilot began in June 2012 and has been independently evaluated by Balance (North East Alcohol Office). Over the 3.5 month pilot period, it reduced pressures on the North East Ambulance Service and A&E by saving 66 ambulance call-outs and 44 A&E attendances on Friday and Saturday nights, primarily due to alcohol-related injuries. The net cost-savings are estimated to be between £4,500 and £5,500<sup>1</sup> over the 3.5 months. The pilot has also freed up approx 40 hours (or 1 hour 40 mins per shift) of Police and Street Pastors time dealing with alcohol-related injuries in the city centre. Work on a business case is underway and due for completion in early 2013/14.
- § The SSP has supported Balance's research into proxy sales of alcohol and their work on tackling the availability, accessibility and affordability of alcohol. The SSP, the HWBB, ANEC and other key partnerships in the city have supported Balance's campaign for a minimum unit price (MUP) of alcohol of at least 50p by responding to the Government's consultation on the national alcohol strategy.

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<sup>1</sup>It costs £625 per shift to run the unit, and the total savings per shift are £747, giving a net saving of £122 per shift. Note: the £625 costs per shift cover the hire of the St. John Ambulance unit and four paramedics for the evening. The other partner contributions are mainstreamed or volunteers

- § There is joint working taking place with police and council licensing officers to investigate the option around implementing a Late Night Levy or Early Morning Restriction Order (powers became available in October 2012).
- § As part of Operation Gryphon if a young person is identified as having possible alcohol problems then necessary referrals are now made e.g. to the Youth Drug and Alcohol Project - YDAP.
- § In terms of the recording of alcohol-related deaths, Serious Untoward Incident (SUI) reporting measures are now in place for all deaths occurring while a client is in drug or alcohol treatment services.
- § Hypotheses have been identified and a high level summary problem profile has been completed on U18 female drinkers
- § Following targeted work, the positive outcomes of enforcement work around underage sales have been promoted to the public.

## **2.2 Reducing drug misuse and the harm it causes, including drug related crime**

- § The drug and alcohol treatment system has been re-designed and the re-commissioning is underway. There is a strong focus on outcomes around recovery and reducing re-offending.
- § The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) unit works with drug misusing offenders. The 3-month early estimates data is showing short-term positive impacts on their proven re-offending<sup>2</sup> (January 2011-December 2011). The cohort of 344 adult drug misusing offenders were committing an average of 50 offences each in their full offending history before being involved in the scheme. During the 3 month follow-up period since being on the scheme, early estimates show they have been committing an average of 0.85 offences per offender (or 2.35 offences per re-offender). Proven re-offending include a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning. However, this data needs to be considered with caution as longer term 12 month follow-up periods are needed to provide a better indication on longer term reductions in proven re-offending rates.
- § Care Navigation meetings are now held weekly with representation from all provider agencies as well as probation, prison service, YOS and housing. The meetings focus on the top 30 heavy service users from the hospital team and the 30 top high crime causing offenders. Two care navigators ensure that each client's multi agency care plan is actioned appropriately by treatment providers.
- § A self assessment tool has been developed for providers to track individuals through treatment, showing the interventions offered, the levels of engagement in treatment and waiting times. This has led to further developments to ensure that service users are engaged into treatment.

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<sup>2</sup> Proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine between April 2010 and March 2011. Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up. Following this one year period, a further six month waiting period is allowed for cases to progress through the courts. The early estimates provide data for the 3-month follow up period.

- § The YOS Family Interventions Programme (FIP) has been augmented to work intensively with 10-15 families identified with substance misuse issues via adult services.
- § The SSP is taking part in a piece of research work with the National Treatment Agency to better link outcomes from treatment for adults who are substance misusing parents with outcomes from Child Protection plans. A PID is currently being developed by the NTA, Children's Services and Substance Misuse Commissioning Team

### **2.3 Tackling domestic violence and other violent crime**

- § In 2011/12, the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service supported 274 victims. In 2012/13 (up to 09.01.13) Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) provided safety plans for 317 high risk domestic violence victims and 507 children. Repeat victimisation for this group is currently 22% (09.01.13) which is an improvement on a high of 34% in May 2010.
- § Sunderland MARAC has been assessed with no serious risks identified and MARAC training for front line practitioners has been ongoing. Work around domestic violence has been initiated with GPs to spot the signs of domestic violence and increase confidence in referring to MARAC.
- § The SSP has supported pupils at Farrington Community Sports College to develop a film called "I have the right: against abuse in teenage relationship". The film launched to an audience of 120 people where it received excellent feedback (100% said it was effective at raising issues around abuse in teenage relationships and 100% said that having seen the film they would be more likely to seek advice or support if they came across an issue of abuse in a teenage relationship). The pupils involved have been nominated for the 'young achievers' award. Work is continuing on developing a learning resource pack and teaching aids to accompany the film which will be suitable for school and non-school/other youth settings.
- § Domestic Violence Single Points of Contacts (SPOCs) have been established within the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- § A Health Needs Assessment Scoping Group has been set up to ensure a coordinated approach in getting a clearer picture of domestic violence in the City and to provide recommendations.
- § Marketing and communications activity has continued to raise awareness of domestic violence and the help available. The SSP added value to the 'walking on eggshells' forcewide campaign and international 'white ribbon' day through a joint campaign between the Safer Sunderland Partnership, SAFC and Safer South Tyneside.

### **2.4 Tackling anti-social behaviour**

- § A range of initiatives, including joint police and council resources have contributed to a 24% reduction in recorded ASB, which is 6,088 fewer incidents in 2011/12 and these reductions have continued in 2012/13. ASB has fallen by 9% from April to mid-January 2013 (1,380 fewer incidents). Youth related ASB also reduced with 728 fewer incidents (13% fall) over the same period. Fewer

residents perceive adults/young people being drunk/rowdy as a problem which is a significant improvement compared to 2011/12.

- § An exercise was carried out to identify the social return on investment of the XL Youth Villages. This has shown a social return on investment of £3.50 for every £1 invested and a 33% fall in reported youth related ASB on the days and times the XL youth village model operated (2010/11 - 2011/12). The new XL youth village model has been rolled out to areas of greatest need resulting in more face to face youth work, more sessions, more weeks of the year, more flexibility for each locality, year round delivery, more choice for young people and more support to partners and to community engagement. As well as reductions in ASB, this year has seen an increase in the number of young people engaging in the activities.
- § LMAPS continue to deliver a key response to anti-social behaviour (as well as other crime types) on a 5 weekly meeting cycle across 5 areas. A review has been carried out to identify ways to further streamline and improve the SSP's problem solving approach at a neighbourhood level. The risk assessment matrix (RAM) review is underway. A database on all high risk victims has been developed and is shared with partners and discussed at LMAPS meetings. The Home Security and Sanctuary Scheme continues to support high risk victims of ASB.
- § Marketing and communications activity has continued around raising awareness of anti-social behaviour, how to report it and the help available. This has involved holding road shows across the city, features in Community News, and attendance at the area and city debates.
- § Operation Gryphon has been reviewed to ensure frontline staff are aware of the escalation process for dealing with youth ASB and a corporate and consistent approach is taken by all agencies.
- § ASB intelligence and tasking meetings now ensure youth provision is deployed in areas of greatest need. Youth related ASB continues to fall. However, following a slight increase in the North, Operation Educate commenced (June 2012 until March 2013) and built on the success of Operation Horizon which was recently rolled out in Washington. This focused on identifying ASB hot spots, targeting identified offenders and addressing root causes. Operation Gershwin was also implemented in the North of the city to deliver a partnership approach with Trading Standards and Gentoo. It targeted adults who purchased or supplied alcohol to those under 18. Operation Lantern commenced in Washington and ran for 12 months until Dec 2012. The approach saw a new structure developed across Washington aimed at improving relationships between agencies and communities.
- § TWFRS worked together with Gibber Theatre Group to deliver ASB messages to over 1000 pupils aged 12-14 with the primary aim of reducing the number of ASB fires. The evaluation has shown a reduction of these fires city wide.
- § Operation Impose was introduced in Washington in September 2012 to tackle an increase in crime and ASB in the Sulgrave flats area. A decrease in recorded crime and incidents has been seen and joint working will continue to be a long term priority for all agencies.

## **2.5 Improving the safety and feelings of safety of high risk victims and vulnerable groups**

- § The majority (96%) of residents in Sunderland feel safe living in their local area, but the percentage that thinks Sunderland as a whole is safe is below the force average. Research is underway to explore the reasons for this. Three quarters of Sunderland residents are confident that the police and council are dealing with the crime and ASB issues that matter most locally, and this is in-line with the force average.
- § The Home Security and Sanctuary Scheme provides support and reassurance to high risk victims. This smaller service has supported over 50 high risk victims (including one safe room) since August 2012. Additional fire safety packages to support the HSSS referrals have been aligned to this work. For medium and standard risk victims, a paid community safety telecare package has been developed and will be piloted by the Washington Neighbourhood Police Team from February for those identified as vulnerable who need additional peace of mind/reassurance, including victims of domestic violence, hate crime, ASB, distraction burglary.
- § Through multi-agency referrals and identifying those most at risk of fire, TWFRS have carried out 8,000 home security checks. Where extra measures have been identified, Prevention and Education staff and partners have intervened and supplied safety measures such as sensory smoke alarms for the hearing impaired and alcohol misusers.
- § The SSP marketing and communications plan co-ordinates partners' activity to add value to joint communications, including campaigns around doorstep crime, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related problems in the night-time economy. Links have also been made with safeguarding and YOS to avoid duplication of activity. The SSP plan is making more efficient and effective use of mainstream communications methods. Work has continued to raise residents' awareness of how to report ASB, domestic violence and all forms of hate crime. The March edition of the Community News which will reflect good work in relation to a range of SSP priorities, but especially ASB and promoting reporting lines.
- § Positive media coverage has been achieved through a variety of press releases promoting successful partnership activity including: Community payback; the mobile treatment unit; domestic violence; the 'I have the right against abuse in teenage relationships' campaign; bogus callers; and various operations to tackle ASB, alcohol-related ASB and underage sales. Feedback postcards continue to be produced and distributed to residents for issues that have been jointly tackled such as motorcycle disorder in Thorney Close and youth-related ASB in Grindon
- § Partners continue to respond to key issues raised in the safer communities survey. The survey not only provides valuable data for monitoring and priority setting, but provides operational information to allow service recovery work to take place for any issues residents feel are a priority but which they don't think are being tackled effectively. It has also resulted in a reduced burden on the public; less duplication of effort amongst partners; a single reliable data source which encourages partnership response rather than single agency responses to local problems.

- § ARCH hate crime reporting began a roll-out to schools in September 2012 and is being backed up with staff training and briefings. Up to December, 111 people had been trained from 56 Sunderland schools.
- § Work is underway to improve the collection, analysis and escalation routes for Sunderland's tension monitoring information. Monthly meetings with the Assistant Chief Executive consider any key issues and subsequent actions

## 2.6 Reducing re-offending

- § All 9 national pathways out of re-offending are being addressed through a variety of sub-groups. For example:
  - Offender accommodation issues have now been fully integrated into the hostel strategy for the city. Scrutiny Committee has completed a policy review into re-offending and has highlighted a number of key recommendations around improving the accommodation needs of offenders. Actions include: continuing to strengthen the Gateway project; working more closely with the private rented sector; and improving accommodation outcomes for women offenders.
  - Pathways to education, training and employment are being strengthened through the set up of a new bi-monthly case review process to enable treatment providers, probation and job-centre plus to share complex cases for resolution and identify good practice.
  - The Community Justice Liaison and Diversion Service (CJLD) funded by the 'Big Diversion Project' is now working out of Gillbridge Police Station assessing offenders in relation to mental health and advising magistrates
  - In terms of finance, benefit and debt, support has been identified via the council Welfare Rights Team to ensure vulnerable offenders receive swift access to specialist intervention. A training programme for frontline practitioners working directly with offenders will be delivered in the spring to deliver tier 1 basic information and advice to service users.
  - Cyrenians 'Women Outside Walls' project is now established with the aim of diverting women from custody and reducing rates of re-offending.
- § Association of North East Councils (ANEC) and NOMS have funded a year long project to improve the transitions/relationships between the 7 North East prisons and the Local Authorities. Mapping of services available to offenders is currently underway from a Sunderland perspective.
- § The North East has the highest re-offending rates due to number of factors including; entrenched offenders with longer criminal histories, a low immediate custody rate (which means offenders are more likely to be in the community than in prison<sup>3</sup>) and a high level of sanctioned detections (i.e. high levels of police activity) which all contribute towards a higher predicted rate of reoffending that is beyond that experienced in other parts of England and Wales. Despite this, partnership working with Northumbria Probation Trust in Sunderland has managed to maintain a level of actual reoffending below the predicted rate for the last three measurement periods since January-December 2011.
- § The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team has worked with 196 problem offenders and their offending had reduced by 56% (based on 24 months of data

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<sup>3</sup> Newcastle Crown Court imprisons around 10% less on indictment than the other Crown Courts)

to Aug 2011). The 3-month early estimates of proven reoffending by adult and juvenile PPOs (April 2011-March 2012)<sup>4</sup> are showing that from a cohort of 37 offenders, they were committing an average of 98.3 offences each in their full offending history before being involved in the IOM scheme. During IOM and the 3 month follow-up period, they are committing an average of 1.19 offences per offender (or 2.2 offences per re-offender). Proven re-offences include a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning. However, this 3 month data should be considered with caution as the 12 month follow-up period, when available, will provide a better indication on longer term reductions in proven re-offending rates.

- § IOM is also working with non-statutory offenders and early indications are that this is showing excellent reductions in their offending. A cohort of 24 non-statutory offenders was worked with from March-Sept 2012 and 6 months prior to their engagement in IOM they had 121 positive arrests and 117 convictions. 8 of the 24 offenders have been worked with for 0-1 months and their arrests and convictions have dropped by 96%; 7 of the 24 have been worked with for 2-4 months and their arrests and convictions have dropped by 80% and 9 of the 24 have been worked with for 5+ months and their arrests and convictions have dropped by 76%. However, approx 18 months of data needs to be gathered to get a truer reflection of the impact on their offending longer term, but this early data is promising in terms of an impact on their re-offending.
- § Last year, adult offenders completed 38,895 hours and young offenders completed 5,900 hours of community payback in Sunderland. Community payback continues to be promoted and has assisted in work being taken forward for the Britain in Bloom award. 59% of Sunderland residents have heard of community payback and 23% have seen offenders carrying out unpaid work in their local area. These results have been significantly higher than for the force average for the last year.
- § Transitions work (from children and young people's to adults services) is currently underway to identify a small cohort of IOM offenders who have previously received support from YOS with the intention of mapping their journey through services to identify any gaps in support and changes in offending patterns.
- § By March 2011, local YOS data had shown that the number of young people entering the criminal justice system (CJS) for the first time has reduced by 49% from the previous year. Since April 2011 the Liaison and Diversion Project (LDP) within Sunderland YOS has helped make considerable reductions in the numbers of first time entrants which have now stabilised. The LDP is improving awareness, communication, information and support so that the most vulnerable children get speedy access to services they need. The health aspect of the scheme is being enhanced as part of the national pathfinder model. Under the arrest diversion work, a small pot of additional monies has been secured to help support data collection and performance management. A scoping exercise is also being undertaken to identify the level and numbers of young people with Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN) which will inform how to better screen young people within police custody.

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<sup>4</sup> Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up. Following this one year period, a further six month waiting period is allowed for cases to progress through the courts. The early estimates however provide data for the 3 month follow-up period.

- § The Sunderland local re-offending rate has reported a decline in performance with an increase of 37% in the number of young people re-offending. However this increase in the re-offending rate should not be considered in isolation as the overall number of young offenders continues to reduce year on year leaving a reduced but more challenging cohort of offenders. This cohort tends to commit a higher number of re-offences and subsequently increase the proportion of offenders re-offending. Ten families are now being worked with in FIP Plus. Interventions include 1-1 parenting, the Phoenix project for the parents and their young people, CAMHS and 1-1/small group work to reduce/prevent the young peoples' offending. A delegation from the Treasury, the Policy Office in Whitehall and the National Troubled Families Team visited the FIP and commended the work that was being done with the City's most challenging families
- § The YOS is piloting Compliance and Engagement panels to promote better engagement with young people. This will be evaluated to measure if the numbers of breaches of orders being taken to Court.

## **2.7 Partnership improvement and development**

- § The SSP rationalised its 6 delivery plans into a single plan which is focused on added value improvement activity. The performance management framework was revised to support this.
- § The SSP produced its statutory PSIA in November and the priorities for the year ahead were considered by the Board in December. Consideration has been given to the PCC's headline priorities within the draft Police and Crime Plan to ensure priorities are aligned.
- § The SSP Information Sharing Protocol has been updated and training and awareness raising has been carried out with key officers.
- § The six CSPs in Northumbria jointly produced induction materials to support the Police and Crime Commissioner taking office. This included identifying strategic priorities in each area, key achievements, how CSPs have effectively allocated their resources together with links to a range of useful documents.
- § The SSP is contributing to a sub-regional strategy to tackle child sexual exploitation
- § The SSP has contributed to the development of the refreshed Sunderland Strategy.
- § Substance misuse and domestic violence has been incorporated into the identification criteria of the family focus programme

## ANNEX A: Recorded crime April-December 2012

<b>Table 1: Sunderland Crime April 2012 to December 2012</b>			
Actual vs. Previous YTD			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	Variance
Total crime	10887	13475	-2588(-19%)
Violent crime	2058	2608	-550 (-21%)
• Violence against the person	1835	2344	-509(-22%)
• Violence against the person - With injury	969	1165	-196 (-17%)
• Most serious violence against the person	38	53	-15(-28%)
• Less serious violence against the person	931	1112	-181 (-16%)
• Violence against the person - Without injury	866	1179	-313(-27%)
• Robbery	76	83	-7(-8%)
• Sexual offences	147	181	-34 (-19%)
Vehicle crime	906	1152	-246 (-21%)
• Vehicle interference	69	64	+5 (+8%)
• Theft From Motor Vehicle	634	842	-208 (-25%)
• TWOC	203	246	-43 (-17%)
Burglary	1290	1479	-189 (-13%)
• Burglary dwelling	475	635	-160 (-25%)
• Burglary OTD	815	844	-29(-3%)
Criminal damage	2514	2899	-385(-13%)
Drug Crime	741	852	-111 (-13%)
Other Crime	3378	4485	-1107(-25%)
Shoplifting	1360	1633	-273 (-17%)
Theft from the person	63	82	-19 (-23%)
Serious acquisitive crime	1388	1806	-418 (-23%)
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	68	77	-9 (-12%)