

**SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2013/14 AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2014/15 AND UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report highlights for Members' information, some of the Safer Sunderland Partnership's key achievements in delivering the Safer Sunderland Strategy during the last year 2013/14. The report also highlights the key strategic priorities for the partnership for the year ahead 2014/15. The report also covers the work of the Police and Crime Panel which is the statutory scrutiny mechanism in relation to the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

**2. CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 The Safer Sunderland Partnership has progressed much of the improvement activity that was set out in its 2013/14 delivery plan. 96% of residents report feeling 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 a key focus.
- 2.2 In December 2013, the Safer Sunderland Partnership Board considered the statutory partnership strategic intelligence assessment which is used to inform the strategic priorities for the year ahead. The assessment has shown little change in the crime and disorder issues for the partnership. However, there have continued to be considerable changes to the delivery landscape and the environment in which the Safer Sunderland Partnership operates with further reductions in public sector finance across the 5 statutory responsible authorities. Recorded crime has started to rise for the first time in a decade with a current increase this year of 3%. This rise in recorded crime is also being experienced in a significant number of police force areas. Whilst the rise is relatively small the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated that this may indicate the emerging effect of the economic climate on crime and disorder rates. Within this context, the partnership has therefore agreed to retain its 2 key strategic priorities for 2014/15:

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

<b>Current work area 2013-14</b>	<b>Agreed changes for 2014-15</b>
1. Substance misuse – drug and alcohol-related crime and disorder	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
2. Domestic violence (including other violent crime)	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
3. Anti-social behaviour (people and places)	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
4. Safety and feelings of safety for high risk victims/vulnerable groups	Change this to a cross cutting work area
5. Re-offending	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
6. Community cohesion	Close off
7. Organised crime	Remove
8. Safeguarding	Make this a cross-cutting issue

- 2.3 Members should note that for example where we have closed an area off or removed this is due to significant progress being made in terms of for example community cohesion where we have established information and intelligence improvements and regular monitoring processes.
- 2.4 These priorities are closely aligned to the priorities of the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan published by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.5 A detailed review of key work and performance is attached as **APPENDIX 1**.

### **3. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE**

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Panel has an overview and scrutiny role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel has 2 members from each of the six Local Authorities in Northumbria and 2 independent members. Sunderland's representatives are the Leader and Deputy Leader of the City Council and the Deputy Leader is vice chair of the Panel. The Panel meets every 8 weeks though can call additional meetings if required.
- 3.2 The Panel has a key role in the Commissioners budget and precept process and in addition are involved in ratification of key appointments which this year have included the formal appointment of the Commissioners Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.
- 3.3 The Panel receive regular reports on key decisions, progress reports and target performance from the Commissioner at its meetings.
- 3.4 The Panel can request additional reports as required.
- 3.5 The Panel are currently looking at ways to strengthen the connection to the 6 local Overview and Scrutiny arrangements and Community Safety Partnerships which would allow regular feed into the Panel of common issues that may be relevant to discuss with the Commissioner.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Partnership's strategic intelligence assessment has highlighted that the current community safety work areas remain relevant to Sunderland and the partnership's continued delivery in a difficult landscape is evidenced.
- 4.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership Board believes that its reductions and key achievements are sustainable and whilst identifying issues including the economy, public sector finance reductions and welfare reform as posing potential risks to local crime rates it is not possible at this stage to draw firm conclusions on rises in crime in the longer term. The Partnership however will monitor this situation on an ongoing basis. Given the reductions in public sector resources, the Board has agreed the need for continued prioritisation on the highest impact issues.
- 4.3 The Police and Crime Panel continue to develop its scrutiny role in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the information contained in the report and agrees to accept a report on key achievements in delivering the strategic priorities at the end of 2014/15.

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## APPENDIX 1

### KEY PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE LAST PSIA (2012/13 and 2013/14) – extracted from the 2013 Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Appendix 1 covers two key areas:

- A high level summary of key performance (quantitative data) in 2013/14 together with some of the key achievements and partnership interventions in 2012/13; and
- An overview of the first 6 months progress against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2013/14.

1.2 This serves as a summary of performance in 2012/13 and identifies if the Safer Sunderland Partnership has done what it said it would do so far in 2013/14.

#### 2. SIX-MONTH PROGRESS AGAINST THE SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN IN 2013/14

2.1 The table below has been included to illustrate how the recorded crime stats have changed so far in 2013/14.

<b>Table 1: Sunderland Crime April to December 2013</b>			
Actual vs. Previous YTD			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	Variance
Total crime	11071	10713	+358 (+3%)
Violent crime	1899	1693	+206 (+12%)
• Violence against the person	1684	1472	+212 (+14%)
• Violence against the person - With injury	1038	964	+74 (+8%)
• Most serious violence against the person	51	38	+13 (+34%)
• Less serious violence against the person	987	926	+61 (+7%)
• Violence against the person - Without injury	646	508	+138 (+27%)
• Robbery	53	76	-23 (-30%)
• Sexual offences	162	145	+17 (+12%)
Vehicle crime	935	905	+30 (+3%)
• Vehicle interference	47	69	-22 (-32%)
• Theft From Motor Vehicle	735	634	+101 (+16%)
• TWOC	153	202	-49 (-24%)
Burglary	1326	1289	+37 (+3%)
• Burglary dwelling	527	474	+53 (+11%)
• Burglary OTD	799	815	-16 (-2%)

Criminal damage	2341	2509	-168 (-7%)
Drug Crime	729	734	-5 (-1%)
Other Crime	3841	3841	+258 (+7%)
Shoplifting	1474	1360	+114 (+8%)
Theft from the person	53	63	-10 (-16%)
Serious acquisitive crime	1468	1386	+82 (+6%)
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	77	68	+9 (+13%)

2.2 The long term reductions in recorded crime achieved over recent years has started to reverse in 2013/14.

2.3 The remainder of this section provides some examples of early progress being made so far during the first half of 2013/14 against the improvement actions in the current Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2013/14 to 2015/16. This is structured around the current priority work areas.

## 2.1 Tackling substance misuse (alcohol and drug related crime and disorder)

2.1.1 The Mobile Treatment Unit was evaluated and 12 months data demonstrates a net saving of £14,591 in health costs from prevented ambulance call-outs and A&E attendances and reduced pressures on the emergency services. There are also less easily quantifiable savings such as freeing up police officers to patrol and freeing up street pastors to carry out their prevention and early intervention work.

2.1.2 The review of Operation Gryphon has been rolled out across the city to ensure a consistent approach around those young people stopped for underage drinking and to make the home visits more structured so that if a young person is identified as having possible problems, appropriate referrals are now made (e.g. to YDAP).

2.1.3 Significant improvements have been made this year to the data quality and completeness of the alcohol-related assault A&E data (Cardiff model).

2.1.4 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.

2.1.5 A young people health champions' programme is being set up in six schools across Sunderland. The project is in its very early stages and work is continuing with Public Health England to identify the provider for the social norms work (which would include young people and alcohol). It is intended to use the schools that are acting as health champions to pilot the work.

2.1.6 The newly commissioned adult substance misuse treatment services began operating on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013. This allows the SSP to develop an outcomes based model of treatment with recovery as the ultimate outcome. The new system covers:

- Recovery Pathway – Turning Point Services Ltd.
- Clinical Interventions – Counted4 CIC
- Specialist Harm Reduction – Lifeline Project Ltd.

- Psychosocial Interventions – Lifeline Project Ltd.
- 2.1.7 The treatment services continue to operate within the Integrated Offender Management facility at Bridge House to provide interventions for drug and alcohol using offenders that are subject to statutory orders or non-statutory arrangements (e.g. the Drug Interventions Programme). The services are operating a single information system to help enable coordination of delivery. In order to maintain continuity, Care Navigation meetings (established during 2012) remain in place and are held weekly with representation from all provider agencies as well as Probation, Prison Service, YOS and housing. They focus on the heavy service users from the hospital team and the top high crime causing offenders. This is also helping to ensure that new entrants to the system are managed effectively during the transition phase and that existing clients are systematically reviewed.

## **2.2 Tackling domestic violence**

- 2.2.1 A learning resource pack (6 lesson plans and teaching aids for KS3 & 4) was produced to accompany the 'I have the right: against abuse in teenage relationships' film developed in 2012/13. This has been provided to all secondary schools in Sunderland via the safeguarding designated persons leads. The film and resources were put onto the Police's ebeat site and shared with the DV partnership members, the North East Women's network, victim support teenage relationship project, DV co-ordinators in the region; and the young people's violence advisors at CAADA. It is currently being scoped out for inclusion in training for front line police officers. Promotion of the resources using social media resulted in 195 hits in its first week.
- 2.2.2 A council front-line social worker is being trained to be one of the 150 young people's violence advocates nationally (CAADA programme). This role will include raising awareness of teenage abuse and wider young people's violent crime issues (HBV, SE, on-line exploitation and cyber stalking); embedding data collection at MARAC for 16-17 year olds; and developing clear and consistent care pathways for 13-17 year olds to ensure child protection and MARAC processes work together.
- 2.2.3 MARAC continues to operate and provides safety plans for victims. Awareness of MARAC has been done with GPs locally and family solicitors regionally. CAADA's DASH is now used by all agencies referring to MARAC. The MARAC steering group completed and submitted its self-assessment to CAADA and is progressing the recommended improvement actions.
- 2.2.4 The IDVA service supported 462 victims of domestic abuse from April-September 2013 and also offered group support delivering the Freedom Programme to 103 victims over the same period. Outcomes data is being collated by the service.
- 2.2.5 A multi-agency operation involving Northumbria Police and WWIN was set up in Sulgrave and Concord where an outreach worker and PVP worker will attend all police call outs to domestic abuse incidents on Friday and Saturday nights over a set period of time. In addition, the neighbourhood police teams will deploy the bodyworn cameras purchased by the Partnership.
- 2.2.6 A Health Needs Assessment on domestic violence has been completed by public health colleagues and the recommendations for a range of the city's

partnerships will be taken forward in the latter half of 2013/14 and into 2014/15.

- 2.2.7 Work around domestic violence has been initiated with GPs to spot the signs of domestic violence and increase confidence in referring to MARAC. Domestic violence training has been rolled out to hospital staff and referral pathway discussions were started with A & E.
- 2.2.8 In the first quarter of 2013/14 a further 60 staff have successfully completed the e-learning training on domestic violence, bringing the total to 390 since the module was developed. Reminders have been sent to partner agencies whose staff registered to undertake the training, but who have not yet started it. The training has also been offered to all elected members.
- 2.2.9 Work has been initiated by Gentoo on developing a nationally recognised Domestic Abuse Chartermark for housing providers and the work is being supported by DCLG. The Chartermark will be included in a "Safe at Home" standard alongside issues including safeguarding and hate crime. It will have its own domestic violence strand and it is intended to be launched nationally at the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference in June 2014.
- 2.2.10 A Domestic Homicide Review process is underway and will report back to the SSP Board and the Home Office in March. This has been supported by Gentoo (independent chair) and advice/guidance from the head of safeguarding at the CCG.

### **2.3 Tackling anti-social behaviour**

- 2.3.1 The ASB Victim Support Worker has supported 72 victims of anti-social behaviour and hate crime from April-Sept 2013. Upon initial contact, 41% of victims were very worried about being a victim of crime and 31% felt unsafe living in their local area. Upon conclusion of the support given, this improved greatly with 96% no longer feeling worried and 100% feeling safer.
- 2.3.2 The Council ASB Team has worked with Sunderland University Accommodation Services and the dedicated University Campus police officer to carry out joint visits to student properties that have been reported for ASB to either the council or police. They also linked into the Residential Students Association (RSA) on staying safe in the city and providing advice on how to be good neighbours. Talks were also given to International students.
- 2.3.3 The LMAPS have also implemented a range of interventions so far this year including environmental works to combat problems around off-road motorbikes accessing a local park; fencing to remove a problem of youth related ASB (following 30 residents' complaints at a PACT meeting); providing target hardening equipment including shed alarms and bike locks, following a spike in thefts and burglary OTD; and distributing crime prevention leaflets linked to reducing risk of wheelie bin fires on the run up to bonfire night. Community Payback is also used as and when appropriate.
- 2.3.4 Agreement has been reached to ensure family focus clients lists are shared for intelligence purposes with LMAPS key partners. In addition an offer was made that LMAPS could manage the crime and disorder elements of a family if required. LMAPS can also refer any potential families in to Family Focus.

- 2.3.5 Safetyworks! Sessions have been offered to all year 6 pupils in primary schools across the city which are tailored to be area-specific and help educate young people about anti-social behaviour and the impact it has.
- 2.3.6 Operation Harpoon (North) took place over the summer during which there were 121 stops with 115 home visits conducted with view to modifying young peoples' behaviour and focusing on early intervention/prevention of further problems occurring. A number of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements were signed and to date none have been breached.
- 2.3.7 Work will continue with the youth develop groups and the Secondary schools over the coming months.

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

- 2.4.1 Between April–Sept 2013, the Partnership's Homes Security and Sanctuary Scheme supported 25 high risk victims with enhanced security, the majority of whom did not feel safe before the service but who do feel safe after receiving support.
- 2.4.2 Gentoo's victim support service has showed that at the closure of a case, the majority of victims felt safer as a result of the support (55% felt very safe and 40% felt fairly safe).
- 2.4.3 Marketing and communications activity so far in 2013/14 includes:
- Re-designing the domestic violence help cards to take account of the local and national support services available and to highlight early warning signs and identify the issue of abuse in teenage relationships.
  - Promotion of key safety in the night time economy (KMP) messages over bank holidays in April and May;
  - Support to the police ASB 'report it and sort it' campaign and how to report it (via posters, leaflets, social media, PR, Community News).
  - Updated crime prevention advice leaflets produced for 'other burglary' e.g. sheds and garages, and distributed to hot spot areas across Sunderland backed up with photocall PR in the local media;
  - Promotion of Operation Engage with leaflets, posters and PR/media to boost community engagement with the neighbourhood teams in the east of the city
  - Positive PR coverage of the neighbourhood management pilot and domestic abuse operation in Sulgrave and Concord
  - Supporting the Northumbria domestic abuse 'are you walking on eggshells?' campaign including the 24/7 helpline number, and an LGBT-specific version.
- 2.4.4 Work is underway with the Council's contact centre to ensure repeat victims can be identified and to improve case histories (following improvements made on this by the police as part of their new anti-social behaviour delivery model).

## **2.5 Reducing re-offending**

- 2.5.1 Over the last two years Sunderland has moved from having a consistently higher actual rate of reoffending to the best performing local delivery unit in the North East<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.5.2 Data for prolific and other priority offenders (PPOs) shows a 41% reduction in offending for last six months (from 1<sup>st</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013) in comparison with offending over the same period 12 months ago). Data on non-statutory offenders shows a reduction in arrests and convictions after being on probation programmes by 62%, down from 121 arrests before starting on programmes down on 46 after.
- 2.5.3 The Spotlight on Shoplifting initiative launched in September 2013 which targets the top 20 prolific offenders in Sunderland. The aim of the scheme is to deter repeat offenders from continuing to shoplift by restricting their ability to commit further offences, encouraging them to change their behaviour and tackling underlying drug and alcohol issues.
- 2.5.4 The Reducing Re-Offending Delivery Network action for 2013/14 has a specific focus on improving outcomes related to offender accommodation, health and well-being, Integrated Offender Management, and prioritising the needs of women offenders.
- Accommodation – the scrutiny recommendations are being responded to which includes supporting People Directorate to manage the closure of Camrex House; improve relationships with private landlords; work in partnership with the ‘Through the Gate’ project; and ensure offender needs inform future commissioning intentions.
  - Integrated Offender Management – there has been continued investment in IOM approaches and prioritising the links between Police, Youth Offending Service and Prisons. The YOS transitions project has been completed and learning identified from this will need to be included in the partnership delivery plan for 2014/15.
  - Women Offenders – Support is also available to women via the Probation Women’s Hub, which runs twice weekly where women can explore issues related to their offending in a safe women only environment.
- 2.5.5 Employment, training and education case review workshops are now established between treatment services, Job Centre Plus and Probation to enhance the understanding and management of complex cases.
- 2.5.6 Welfare reform, finance, benefits and debt training was delivered to the IOM team to equip practitioners with basic knowledge and awareness of where to sign post offenders for help and support.
- 2.5.7 The creation and embedding of referral routes with the Community Support Team has taken place in order to better support and assess the needs of children on the edge of care. There is a strengthened partnership with the

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<sup>1</sup>This is a particularly strong achievement given the following context: the North East has the highest re-offending rates nationally 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) 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

new South of Tyne Children and Young People's Service for Mental Health (CYPS) and a strengthening of the role of the public health nurse within the Youth Offending Service ensuring children's health needs are assessed early. There has been the establishment of links with the Adult Diversion pilot in Sunderland in order that service developments can be shared and effective transition plans agreed for young people on the cusp of 18.

- 2.5.8 The on-going success of the Youth Offending Service's Restorative Justice (RJ) approach is being developed into a traded business model, thereby offering local partners and organisations the opportunity to deliver RJ and victim best practice.
- 2.5.9 Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner has been used to support the Youth Drug and Alcohol Project service where staff provide Tier 2 and 3 (targeted and specialist) substance misuse interventions to young people referred from Youth Offending Service. These include psycho-social and family work as well as drugs-testing and prescribing services if necessary. They directly input relevant information and records onto the YOIS information system. In addition, YDAP staff (Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Project) provide training and consultation services to Youth Offending Service staff in relation to drugs and alcohol issues.

## **2.6 Improving cohesion**

- 2.6.1 Systems have been put in place to improve the collection, analysis and escalation routes for Sunderland's tension monitoring information. A Civic Mediation Group meets on a monthly basis comprising reps from community, police, faith, Sunderland Partnership, council and school. Any tensions or issues are fed into the issues log and remedial/mitigation action taken as required.
- 2.6.2 Between April-August 2013, there were 95 incidents reported to ARCH of which 76 involved racism; 4 were religious; 5 were homophobic; 2 were transphobic; 5 were linked to a disability and 5 involved bullying. There has been an increase in reporting, particularly from schools, following the training and awareness raising that was carried out over the last year.
- 2.6.3 Sunderland University is helping to improve the analysis of hate crime/incident data in order to identify any significant patterns, particularly in relation to disability hate crime which is under-reported. This work will continue throughout 2013/14.
- 2.6.4 5 secondary schools have now booked in to work with the Anne Frank Trust to train young people to be peer guides to help tackle prejudice and discrimination.

## **2.7 Organised crime**

- 2.7.1 As yet there is no progress on the actions in the delivery plan for this work area as guidance on local rollout of a national approach is awaited.

## **2.8 Safeguarding**

- 2.8.1 Work has begun to scope out the key messages for a campaign aimed at raising awareness of financial abuse for vulnerable adults.

2.8.2 329 members of staff from 59 agencies have received WRAP training to improve front-line staffs' understanding of the warning signs around radicalisation, raising awareness of Prevent and how to refer people to appropriate support within a safeguarding context<sup>2</sup>. Work is still to do to identify the impact this training has had on staffs' retained awareness of warning signs and referral processes.

## **2.9 Partnership improvement and development**

2.9.1 Long term tactics have been implemented in relation to tackling issues at Sulgrave and Concord areas of Washington and a neighbourhood management pilot went live on 7<sup>th</sup> October. This involves: working with the management committee and private landlords to help enforce breaches of tenancies; bring empty properties back into use; support victims of domestic violence; engage high crime causers with the Integrated Offender Management team; provide outreach support for substance misusers; and provide an on-site reassuring presence to residents.

2.9.2 The Safer Communities Survey continues to be delivered. During the first half of the year (April-September), 1083 residents were surveyed in Sunderland; of these, 336 (31%) identified at least one problem in their neighbourhood. All of those who felt the problem wasn't being tackled effectively had their concern escalated to the relevant neighbourhood police team and/or council and service recovery was carried out.

2.9.3 Developments in the draft Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill have been monitored and following the recent successful passage of the Bill into legislation, joint working across Northumbria is now taking place in preparing for the Community Remedy and Community Trigger tools.

2.9.4 The new LMAPS meeting structure has been implemented which includes a new funding proposal process, a revised agenda format and a forward plan to help action to tackle seasonal issues is planned for well in advance.

2.9.5 Work to improve the Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership has taken place by including the voice of survivors and victims.

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<sup>2</sup> Work is still needed to identify what type of information can be shared from the WRAP key messages which could be targeted to the public to raise awareness of the warning signs around radicalisation and how to refer people to appropriate support through Safeguarding procedures