



Safer Stockton Partnership Plan 2017-20

Introduction

The Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) operates as Stockton's Statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The partnership consists of statutory and voluntary organisations who work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

The partnership is responsible for the delivery of a wide variety of strategies and plans with the overall aim of improving the safety of the community in Stockton.

As part of this process a Community Safety Plan is published every three years which focuses on an identified set of priorities. The priorities are intelligence led based upon analysis from the partnerships strategic assessment and results from public consultations. Four key areas have been identified which the partnership will focus on over the next three years.

Since 1998 the Safer Stockton Partnership has worked to reduce crime and the fear of crime for residents across the borough. Over the last 10 years we have experienced significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour as well as an increase in community confidence and feelings of safety. As a partnership we are facing a number of challenges including reduced resources and a number of emerging issues affecting our communities. The continued support of all partners is necessary to ensure that the SSP is in the best place to deal with these issues and continue to protect residents, workers and visitors.

This plan offers a change in focus and will look more in-depth at a number of cross cutting themes involving a range of partners and seeks to build on the positive work completed to date, as well as to address emerging issues and challenges. It is proposed that an action plan is reported back to partnership every quarter and that an annual 'health check' of the actions is carried out to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, measured against quarterly statistics and updates of emerging issues within the communities of the Borough of Stockton.

The Safer Stockton Partnership continues to support the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and in particular the following:-

- A better deal for victims and witnesses
- Tackling re-offending
- Working together to make Cleveland safer
- Securing the future of our communities

The Safer Stockton Partnership will continue to monitor trends and Government national Priorities to promote safer communities and better social cohesion. Building on the success on the very first Community Safety Plan ever produced in 1998/99 total recorded crime (17,563) reduced by 16% when compared to the figures in 2016/17 (14,740)! We are proud to say that we continue to have the lowest rate of crime per thousand population when compared to our Tees Valley neighbours.

The last Community Safety Plan was delivered on a backdrop of change in terms of partnership resources and changes to police recorded practices. There has also been significant organisational changes for partner agencies, particularly for Probation, and the impact for the partnership targets overall in terms of the availability and collation of data overall. Whilst taking this into account there has also been positive progress made, but it further identified after consultation for partners that this Plan would be better to concentrate on broader themed areas unlike any of the other Safer Stockton Plans.

Cllr Steve Nelson – Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership

1. Reducing re-offending

Tackling re-offending continues to be a priority for the partnership and has been instilled in the borough for many years through the management of the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM). The unit works with prolific priority offenders (PPOs) and this framework brings together partners to prioritise interventions with the most persistent adult offenders and aims to break the cycle of re-offending through a multi-agency approach.

However there is still progress to be made. It is evident prolific offenders continue to be linked to acquisitive crime, which accounts for nearly half of all publicly reported crime in the borough. This type of crime is varied in nature from shoplifting through to domestic burglary and vehicle crime. Offenders also suffer from a wide variety of complex needs, which can lead to a person continuing to commit multiple offences despite receiving custodial sentences. These issues can vary from mental health through to learning difficulties and substance misuse.

Issues driving people into a destructive cycle of prison, disadvantage and reoffending are highly complex and we know we cannot tackle these problems on our own. We are committed to working in partnership with local providers who have a wealth of expertise and insight. We will also be building upon the excellent work of the probation service.

The priority will also focus on reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse, rate of first time entrants into the youth justice system and finding community resolutions. The Early Help programme is also a core element of this priority which aims to reduce youth re-offending.

By working together we aim to help offenders and ex-offenders to change their lifestyle, reduce or stop their offending, resulting in an improved quality of life not only for them, but for the whole community.

How will we do this?

- Continue to develop and implement restorative practices across a wide variety of organisations and agencies for both adult and youth offending.
- To ensure an approach is taken to tackling specific needs and risks linked young offenders to include the transition from Youth Offending Services to adult offending management. **Add something further around FTE**
- Ensure we have the right specialist services in place to provide support to perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly high risk and repeat offenders. **Public Health to add more here?**
- Continue to work with Integrated Offender Management Team to take a multi-agency partnership approach to reduce re-offending.
- To maintain proactive representation on the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Reducing Re-offending and Harm Group and ensure links into the development of Stockton's approach.

2. Protecting vulnerable people

Protecting vulnerable people by identifying and managing risk are essential to this priority. We will do this by developing the capability and capacity to keep people safe so we are meeting the needs of residents in Stockton throughout our diverse communities.

Protecting vulnerable people has always been a key priority for the partnership however the emergence of new threats such as child sexual exploitation (CSE), missing and trafficking individuals, modern day slavery and the risk of radicalisation require a shift in the partnerships focus.

Alongside this, safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable children, adults and families also remains at the forefront. The Partnership brings together people from a number of agencies and organisations, across the statutory and voluntary and community sectors, to ensure we all work together and focus on the things that will make the most difference.

This will include identifying and providing support to repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, ensuring we have strategies and policies in place to safeguard children and adults at risk, identifying those vulnerable to radicalisation, supporting victims of domestic abuse and those at risk of alcohol and drug misuse.

We are also committed to ensuring a multi-agency approach to both recognise and empower children and their families to live safe and healthy lives in our communities. We want to encourage people to take responsibility for their own wellbeing as well as the positive contributions they could be making for others, we want to engage further with those who are struggling to understand what services are available to help them and to remove the barriers that prevent them from accessing services. Working together as agencies with communities using a holistic tool that highlights any needs at the earliest point and looks at a child and its strengths, vulnerabilities and goals after considering all aspects of his/her life, family and environment.

How will we do this?

- Prevent and protect children from becoming victims of CSE through education and awareness training. We will also proactively target, disrupt and pursue perpetrators of CSE.
- Continue to work with all partners to assess the risk of radicalisation in Stockton. Prevent is also well embedded in the Local authority, Education, Health and Housing throughout the borough. As a result of the current proactive partnership work, the borough is deemed as 'low risk' and no specific emerging 'Threat' within Stockton.

- Play an active role in CAVIC (Communities Against Violence in Cleveland) in its work to reduce the risk of becoming a victim and repeat victim of violence
- In line with recommendations from the Anti-Slavery Commissioner ensure that there is a co-ordinated partnership approach to tackling modern slavery and trafficking in Stockton which links into a wider Tees approach.
- Work closely with partners like Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) to ensure that there are clear pathways in place for individuals identified as vulnerable or victims of crime and/ anti-social behaviour to seek specialised support.
- Ensure that there is a clear process in place to address Hate Crime across the borough.

3. Tackling drug and alcohol misuse

Alcohol and drug misuse, and their related harms, costs our society hundreds of millions of pounds every year. Alongside this, the financial burden can never fully describe the full impact substance misuse has on many vulnerable individuals, including children and young people and families within our own community.

Alcohol and drug misuse have been identified as significant public health and social issues in Stockton for many years. This priority also links in with repeat offending with the majority of prolific offenders having some sort of substance misuse. Tackling drug and alcohol problems is an important part of breaking the cycle of offending and providing a pathway out of crime.

The misuse of alcohol and drugs continues to play a major role in crime and anti-social behaviour in Stockton. This is evident in particular with regards to offences of violence including those which are domestic related and offenders linked to acquisitive crime.

In Stockton, we continue to retain a high proportion of estimated drug users in treatment that is significantly better than the national average. It is also extremely rare to have anyone present themselves to treatment with opiate or crack addiction that isn't already known to the service. Stockton also has the second lowest number of people entering prison with substance dependence issues that are not known to community treatment and a high rate of re-engagement with treatment services on leaving prison.

The challenge for the partnership over the life this plan is to ensure we continue to have the correct interventions in place to order to tackle this issue to prevent substance misuse from escalating.

How will we do this?

- Drug and Alcohol related crime often overlaps with health issues so it is important to work closely with local health and wellbeing boards, health professionals, voluntary sectors, police and local authority to identify the scale of the problem and take action to reduce the misuse.
- The partnership should do this by continuing to monitor data across multiple agencies in order to estimate the harm caused by alcohol misuse.
- Education within schools and higher education is essential to highlight the effect of substance misuse including educational material to those aged 16 plus who are more at risk of 'binge' drinking and experimental drug misuse including new psychoactive substances. NB. Eve Connor-McGill is about to start on some development work so Dale would need to link with Eve in how this will be done throughout the year.
- Identification of families at risk to mitigate the effects of their drinking and support the whole family in tackling the problems and staying together without harm.
- Apply a partnership approach to managing those drug users that continue to lead a chaotic lifestyle that includes offending related to their substance misuse.

4. Community Safety & Protection

The Safer Stockton Partnership works hard to tackle crime throughout the Stockton Borough. As a result, it is the safest place to live in Tees Valley; this is in spite of challenges within certain categories of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The borough of Stockton covers a wide diverse area with crime rates per 1000 population varying considerably. Historically Stockton Town Centre, Mandale & Victoria and Parkfield & Oxbridge are the main wards which suffer from a disproportionate level of crime and disorder along with a strong correlation with substance misuse, particularly alcohol. These three wards have above average levels of alcohol related crime, violence and criminal damage along with low deprivation.

Poverty itself does not cause criminal behaviour however it enhances the desire of material, personal and social wants and needs and means people living in these areas are more likely to be victims of crime or perpetrators. The majority of young offenders and prolific adult offenders also reside in the more deprived wards. Working together we will aim to tackle incidents of crime and ASB by focussing our efforts on the most problematic areas of the community.

The effects of this type of behaviour can have a devastating effect on a person's quality of life, health and overall well-being and we are dedicated to ensuring we are doing the best we can to stop this.

The partnership remains committed to reducing crime and disorder in the borough.

How we will do this?

- Continue analysis of a wide variety of partnership data using a problem solving approach in order to highlight and respond to any emerging issues.
- Maintain regular monthly policing Tasking and Co-ordinating meetings to raise significant short term crime and anti-social behaviour issues, offenders and vulnerable people which area impacting on the local policing area. Keeping communities safe is a priority for Cleveland Police and the Police Crime Commissioner.
- Develop interventions and activities which are driven by intelligence led evidence.

Public Consultation

To ensure the partnership has taken into consideration the issues residents consider to be a priority, findings from local community survey and forums have been undertaken.

Safer Stockton Partnership on-line survey

During March 2017 the Partnership undertook an on-line survey accessed via My Views on Stockton council website. More than 115 responded to set of questions based on the four priorities identified through the partnerships strategic assessment

The table below shows the % of the responses to each of the four priorities based on scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being of the most important.

Priority	Least important ----- Most important				
	1	2	3	4	5
1.To work together to stop people from continuing to commit crime (reducing re-offending)	2.54%	4.24%	11.02%	20.34%	59.30%
2.To work with our partners to protect children and families from crime and anti-social behaviour, that includes wider issues such as domestic abuse and child sex exploitation and modern slavery. (protecting vulnerable people)	3.39%	3.39%	5.93%	9.32%	74.58%
3. Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol within our communities throughout the Borough of Stockton (Tackling drug and alcohol misuse)	3.39%	4.24%	11.02%	23.73%	55.08%
4. To look at how we compare to other areas and understand where we can improve how we respond to crime and anti-social behaviour (community safety and protection)	5.08%	5.93%	23.73%	19.49%	42.37%

Participants also identified other key concerns which have been incorporated into the plan.

Public Forums

Several public forums were also attended to gain further insight into the views of the public. Several issues were also raised, a summary of the answers shows the following three main concerns (in order of priority):

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violence
- Criminal Damage

The above issues also correlated with many of the current policing priorities identified by residents (mainly issues surrounding ASB and drugs).

As the four priorities are a theme rather than a crime type, the three other issues raised will fall within one these priorities. For examples, ASB and Criminal Damage will be tackled through community safety and protection and drug and alcohol misuse.

Lower level asb issues were raised by a minority of respondents in relation to inconsiderate parking, dog fouling and street drinking were also noted. Along with concerns raised with regards to keeping resident up to date on issues affecting their community and increased patrols by police/Enforcement and other partners in bid to stop youth related ASB.

Performance Monitoring

The Partnership will monitor performance on a quarterly basis to assess progress against set targets drawn from the strategic assessment.

The following performance targets will be monitored over the first 12 months of the plan:

Priority	Performance measure	Owner
<p>Reducing re-offending</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The % of PPOs who have reoffended in a quarterly period 2. Average number of re-offences per offender 3. Any national targets around re-offending? 4. Targets from YOT? Ie number of young people entering the CJS? 5. Victim led RJ Numbers? 	<p>Meeting set up with IOM and Analyst to look at most appropriate monitoring targets for 1, 2, &3</p> <p>Check with YOT</p> <p>Monitor the number of RJ referrals</p>

<p>Protecting vulnerable people</p>	<p>Speak to Jill Anderson re MACH</p> <p>DA Targets</p> <p>ASB repeat victims</p> <p>Levels of ASB?</p> <p>Hate Crime monitoring broken down by strand</p>	<p>Information to be gathered via Analyst and JAG documents</p> <p>Monitoring of Hate incidents and crimes to develop targeted responses. Evaluate and monitor emerging issues.</p>
<p>Tacking drug and alcohol misuse</p>	<p>% of people who thing drug dealing is an issue in Stockton</p> <p>Alcohol related hospital admissions?</p> <p>Number of people known to services compared to national comparison?</p>	<p>Local public confidence surveys – Police</p> <p>Long delay receiving data. Hospital admissions not as useful as A & E data as it covers long term chronic conditions as well as alcohol poisoning.</p> <p>A & E assault data more appropriate? Not sure what this would tell us anyway.</p>

	Measures from the alcohol strategy	We can look at the proportion of clients in treatment compared to the estimated prevalence data – However prevalence data is from 2011/12 and the numbers in treatment don't fluctuate by much so not ideal for Qtr reporting, maybe look at annual review?
Community Safety & Protection	Comparisons against Other CSPs using IQUANTA. Feelings of safety (measured by PCC?)	Check what the PCC monitor

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