

Stockton -on-Tees Community Safety Strategy

2022 – 2025

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-on-Tees. 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.

Six keys 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 but we recognise that there is still much work to do to continue to reduce these further. The Safer Stockton Partnership continues to monitor trends and Government national priorities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Stockton has been at the forefront of community safety since our first strategy in 1998/99 and our approach is to seek to evolve and improve with each new strategy cycle.

As a partnership we are facing several challenges in achieving our goals including reduced resources and a number of emerging issues affecting our communities. The continued support of all partners is necessary to ensure that the Safer Stockton Partnership is in the best place to deal with these issues and continue to protect those who live, work, and visit Stockton-on-Tees. This plan offers a change in focus and will look more in-depth at several 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 the Partnership every quarter and that an annual review of the actions is carried out to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, are measured against quarterly statistics and with updates of emerging issues within the communities of the Borough of Stockton.

The last community safety plan was delivered against a backdrop of change in terms of partnership resources and changes to police recorded practices. This period is no different and not without challenge due to organisational changes for partner agencies, particularly for Probation Services, and the impact of both resources and resilience due to the global outbreak of Covid-19. Our partnership approach will continue to work in a co-ordinated way on all cross-cutting themes relevant to all the key agencies of the SSP such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and vulnerable exploited missing and trafficked (VEMT).

This will involve linking all work where shared priorities exist for other close partnership agencies and to align with the direction of those such as the Children's and Young People's Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Stockton's Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Innovation has never been as important as it is now for the Partnership; changing time, and reductions in funding means that it is more essential than ever to continue to be creative and to develop new ways of working. We will be looking at tackling issues, using carefully planned approaches with continuous evaluation to make way to further develop new pilot projects into wider initiatives.

I am sure that working together we can continue to see further reductions in crime, ASB and the fear of crime, meet the new challenges we face and address the priorities of the residents of the borough.



Cllr Steve Nelson – Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership

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In supporting these key aims and objectives, the policy integrates with a number of other Council strategies and plans including:-

- Stockton Borough Council Plan 2021-24
- Stockton Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-22
- Children's Services Strategy 2019-23
- Early Years Strategy
- Cleveland Police and Crime Plan
- Cleveland Fire Brigade Arson Reduction Strategy
- Statement of Licensing Policy
- Stockton on Tees Alcohol Strategy
- Stockton on Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023
- Local Development Plan
- Economic Growth Plan
- Town Centre Plan
- Targeted Action Areas
- Tackling Inequalities in Stockton on Tees - A Fairer Stockton on Tees Framework

What does our borough look like?

Stockton-on-Tees is a large market town in the north east of England, in the former metropolitan county of Cleveland. Historically a port, Stockton's heavy industry declined in the 1980s and has since largely been replaced by service industries. The labour market in Stockton-on-Tees is generally more positive than the wider region, but employment rates and rates of job seeking claimants remain lower than national averages.

The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is home to 196,487 people, of which two in ten are aged 0 – 19 years, eight in ten are aged 18+ and two in ten are aged 65+. It is a Borough of multiple demographic contrasts, with 15 different groups of households. Most households are comprised of families with children, living with limited resources/squeezed budgets with some either owning low-cost homes or renting from social landlords.

- 12% of all households are younger households in full time employment, in private suburbs, with affordable housing costs, earning starter salaries.
- 9% of all households are families with children, living in upmarket suburban homes that are owned with a mortgage and own new technology.
- 7% of all households are elderly, likely to be living alone, in need of support, on low incomes in small houses and flats. Whilst the Borough is the 88th (out of 326) most deprived Local Authority in England, parts of the Northern, Western and Southern areas of the Borough are amongst the least deprived in England.

With regard to Community Safety, the crime recorded rate per 1,000 population for the Borough is approximately equal to all England and below the average level across the North East; the criminal damage and arson recorded rate per 1,000 population is higher in the Borough than across England overall and lower than for the North East; the rate of recorded theft offences (excluding burglary, vehicle crime or robbery) per 1,000 population is lower in the Borough than it is across England and the North East; and, the anti-social behaviour incident rate per 1,000 population is just over twice as much in the Borough as it is across England overall.

Total crime in Stockton has reduced by 8% since 2019/20, and Stockton has the third highest crime rate of the four boroughs in the Cleveland Police area:

Borough	Crimes per 1000 population
Middlesbrough	16.92
Hartlepool	13.1
Stockton	10.11
Redcar	9.99

What does our 2021 Strategic Assessment tell us?

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each local authority in England and Wales must produce a strategic assessment of risk to help inform the Community Safety Strategy. The 2021 Stockton Strategic Assessment reveals:

- Crime is falling in Stockton, with a reduction of 8% over the past 12 months
- Stockton is placed in a group of 15 “most similar” authorities¹, who have been assessed as being of a similar socio-economic profile. Stockton has the fifth highest crime rate of this group.
- The total cost of crime in Stockton is £75m². Of this, violent crime and sexual offences make up 70% of the cost (£53m). Violent and sexual offences have risen 6% in the past 12 months.
- Burglary has fallen 26%, and criminal damage 25%. This is likely to be due to the impact of the pandemic.
- Drug offences have risen 50% over the past 12 months.

What did resident’s feedback tell us?

To support the development of the strategy, we ran a public consultation exercise to understand perceptions and residents experiences of crime and disorder in Stockton-on-Tees. Residents told us:

- 63% of respondents felt less safe in Stockton than they did 12 months ago even though recorded crime and anti-social behaviour is reducing.
- 51% of respondents were concerned about people using or dealing drugs. This was the highest reported concern
- 43% were concerned about teenagers hanging around.
- 37% of respondents said that they had been victims of ASB in the past 12 months.
- Residents told us they would most like to be communicated through existing social media channels.

Community Safety Priorities

Having regard to the public consultation and data obtained through a partnership strategic assessment, the Community Safety Partnership have agreed the following priorities to address the crime and disorder issues in Stockton.

- Managing the impact of serious and organised crime on Stockton-on-Tees

¹ Wirral, Sefton, Torbay, Chesterfield, North Tyneside, Rotherham, St Helens, Wigan, Gateshead, Kirklees, Darlington, Wakefield, North East Lincolnshire, Thanet

² As defined by the Home Office in “Economic and Social Costs of Crime” – can be broken into three parts: 1. Costs in anticipation of crime (eg target hardening activity) 2. Costs as a consequence of crime (eg stolen property) 3. Costs in response to crime (eg costs to the criminal justice system)

- Serious violence
- Vulnerability
- Crime and disorder linked to drugs and alcohol
- Reducing the offending rates of the most prolific offenders
- Anti-social behaviour and feelings of safety

The Stockton on Tees Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to prepare a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, reduce reoffending, and to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol.

It is likely that in the next 12 months government will legislate that this list be extended to include serious violence. Given this, and the prevalence of violent crime in Stockton on Tees, we have added this to our priorities in advance of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Bill becoming law.

The CSP have also agreed a set of cross cutting themes which are common across all the six agreed priorities. These are:

- Protect people from serious harm
- Enable safer communities
- Improve community resilience

The successful delivery of the Community Safety Partnership priorities will help us deliver our mission statement:

“To make Stockton a safer place where people are protected from serious harm and live in communities which are safe and welcoming.”

Managing the impact of serious and organised crime on Stockton-on-Tees

Why is this a priority?

We recognise that Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) is a key issue that drives crime and causes many associated harms for residents and communities in Stockton-on-Tees. SOC groups are involved in a multitude of criminal activities from drug importation to firearms supply, modern slavery, and human trafficking (including county lines), to housing fraud.

Organised crime groups operating in Stockton-on-Tees routinely target and exploit the most vulnerable children and adults within our society. The impact of this is devastating and is felt not only by the individuals victimised, but also entire communities who live in fear of the extreme violence and intimidation that goes hand in hand with this kind of offending.

These groups all operate differently. Organisations can run networks that undertake criminal activity across international, national, and county borders. Some groups are less organised and engage in criminal offences that require less professional competence (e.g. low level drug supply and distribution).

Serious and organised crime now affects more of our citizens, more often, than any other national security threat. The threat from serious and organised crime continues to grow in volume and complexity, impacting our communities on a daily basis.

There is no single solution to tackling serious and organised crime and we believe that a holistic approach is needed. Police and partner agencies in Stockton-on-Tees will utilise all available powers to relentlessly disrupt and dismantle organised crime groups, although enforcement activity is just one aspect of how we tackle organised crime.

We need to understand the pathways into serious and organised crime, and wherever possible, prevent young and vulnerable people from being drawn into criminality. We also need to work with vulnerable communities to build resilience against the threat from serious and organised crime; empowering these communities to be part of the solution and reducing future victimisation.

SOC is the biggest threat to national security in the UK, and it is estimated to cost society at least £37 billion annually. As a result, SOC has been identified as a priority locally, regionally and nationally. A large amount of SOC remains hidden and unreported, making it difficult to estimate the true scale of the challenge facing law enforcement agencies and partners.

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Responsible partners will seek to reduce the impact of serious and organised crime in Stockton-on-Tees.
- Responsible partners will reduce the opportunities for serious and organised crime groups to operate in Stockton-on-Tees.
- Responsible partners will make businesses and communities more resilient to serious and organised crime.
- Responsible partners will protect vulnerable people from being exploited or drawn into supporting serious and organised crime.

Outcomes we want to achieve

Responsible partners in the partnership will seek to reduce the impact of Serious and Organised Crime in Stockton-on-Tees. This includes:

- identify and safeguard vulnerable adults exploited by OCGs tackle child sexual exploitation, especially where there is clear organised criminality
- protect communities from cyber enabled crime such as fraud
- use local regulation and licensing and powers to disrupt OCGs
- use taxis/private hire vehicles or licensed premises to share essential community intelligence
- tackle those selling counterfeit or illicit goods which may be linked to wider, more organised criminality

How will we achieve this?

Inform

We will raise local awareness about serious and organised crime and its impact on local communities and businesses. This will include providing opportunities to report SOC and to gain support if vulnerable. We will raise awareness amongst local practitioners around SOC, OCGs operating in the area, and referral pathways to access support.

Identify

In November 2014, guidance was issued by the Home Office which asked each police force to produce a Local Profile of the threats from serious and organised crime in their area. The profile should include input from a range of local partners to ensure a comprehensive picture is developed, along with a 4P (Prevent, Prepare, Protect, Pursue) action plan for tackling OCGs at the local level.

We will contribute local intelligence via a range of opportunities and functions including the Troubled Families programme, Community Safety Partnerships and health data from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This profile will be used to inform the local serious and organised crime programme of actions to ensure that recommendations are acted upon locally by partners.

Prevent

The Safer Stockton Partnership and Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Board will work together to ensure there is an integrated pathway of support for vulnerable children, good awareness amongst local practitioners, and services available that can support children and young people away from this complex criminal activity

We will build resilience and develop protective controls within public sector bodies where they might be vulnerable to fraud, bribery and corruption, and support third and private sector organisations through access to support to make them more resilient.

Protect and Support

We will map the tools and support available to communities to help them protect themselves. We will seek to advertise these and communicate with those organisations and individuals who may be vulnerable for them to access support. We will work with local victim's services to ensure that there are adequate pathways of support for those who may take some time to seek, engage and accept help.

Pursue and Prosecute

We will work with Cleveland Police and the National Crime Agency to identify, disrupt and prosecute OCGs operating in Stockton-on-Tees. We will be tireless in our efforts to bring perpetrators to justice and to dismantle OCGs who have established themselves in our area.

Serious violence

Why is this a priority?

Serious violence, as defined in the National Serious Violence Strategy, includes "...homicide, knife crime and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing... and other forms of serious assault". It does not currently include domestic abuse, sexual abuse and alcohol, but this is under review, and these issues are dealt with elsewhere in the Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy.

Serious violence is a national priority due to its growing prevalence and impact. There has been a significant rise in serious violence, with increases in homicide, knife and gun crime in virtually all police force areas since 2014. Robbery has also risen significantly since 2016. The violence is often gang related and the association with drugs markets, particularly crack cocaine, is evident. Too frequently, children are the victims of gun crime, knife crime and exploitation, in many cases by organised criminal groups running 'county lines'.

In response, the government published 'Ending Gang and Youth Violence: Community Engagement' in 2014, and its Serious Violence Strategy in 2018. Both documents advocate an end-to-end approach, from prevention and early intervention to law enforcement, and a strengthened partnership response involving statutory and non-statutory partners, including the local community and businesses.

A new statutory duty is likely to be placed on Community Safety Partnerships in 2022 to address serious violence. Current government plans suggest that each area should deliver a local strategy based on a strategic needs assessment which identifies the drivers of serious violence acting in the local area and the cohorts of people most affected or at risk. The Strategy should "outline the multi-agency response that the partnership will take to address the drivers identified in the strategic needs assessment and work to prevent and reduce serious violence in the specified local area. The strategy should set out how the proposed actions will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence." This is Stockton-on-Tees's first Serious Violence Strategy.

Key Issues

Unlike other forms of crime and disorder, violent crime in Stockton has steadily increased including over the period of the pandemic, with a 6 % rise in reported incidents over the past 12 months. Violent crime costs the local economy an estimated £52m; this is 70% of the total cost of crime in Stockton. In Stockton we have hotspots of serious violence in both town centre areas and also residential housing estates.

Cleveland has the third highest violent crime rate in the country, and most serious violence offences are increasing at a higher rate than the national average.

National research suggests that the following are drivers of serious violence:

- Education, Employment and training
 - Poor school attendance and attainment
 - High levels of poor emotional and mental health needs in school age children
 - High levels of young people not in education employment or training
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse
 - High levels of hospital admission for substance misuse (15-24 year olds)
 - High levels of hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions (under 18s)
- Parenting, Families and Communities
 - Early years child development
- Child poverty and unemployment
 - 21.9% of children in Stockton-on-Tees are growing up in poverty; this increases to 65.4% in Newtown and 57.7% in Stainsby Hill. This is set against a UK average of 31%.
 - 5.8% of Stockton-on-Tees residents are unemployed. This is higher than the UK average (5%). 21.9% of households in Stockton are workless, compared with 13.9% in the UK and 20.3% in the North East.

Our aims and strategic intentions

In line with agreed national approaches around serious violence, will take a “public health” approach to tackling serious violence as a partnership.

Furthermore the safer Stockton Partnership support the World Health Organization’s (WHO) definition of taking a public health approach to reducing violent crime. A public health approach that *“seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. By definition, public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Programmes for primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level.”*

The success measures for the national programme are reductions in:

- hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25;
- knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25, based on police recorded crime data;
- all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

How will we achieve this?

There are substantial crossovers with other elements of this strategy. Vulnerability is acknowledged by national government to be a key driver of serious violence, with those vulnerable groups at risk of being drawn into criminality as well as being more likely to be victims. Drugs and alcohol are known to be drivers of violent crime, including demand for opiates and the mismanagement of the night time economy. Although domestic abuse is dealt with elsewhere in this strategy, there are clear links

between adverse childhood experiences and perpetrators of violent crime; this includes witnessing or being a victim of domestic abuse.

Inform

We will work with partners to help develop a strategic needs assessment for serious violent crime, and to help understand the impact of the causes of violent crime and the importance of delivering these. We will adopt a public health approach which will seek to expose a broad segment of Stockton's population to violence preventative measures.

Identify

We will develop a dedicated Strategic Needs Assessment to further support our understanding and commissioning around serious violence in Stockton-on-Tees.

Prevent

- Responsible partners will seek to prevent the onset of serious violence or to change behaviour so that serious violence is prevented from happening. We will ensure relevant bodies are sharing timely information to understand and respond to local needs and prevent serious violence.
- Responsible partners maximise opportunities to work with children and families before issues arise and when they do arise, respond in a swift and co-ordinated way.
- Responsible partners will equip professionals with the skills to identify and respond to Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Responsible partners will work with the licensed trade to help reduce serious violence.
- Responsible partners will support families experiencing serious violence to stop the intergenerational cycle of violence from continuing through the Families First programme.
- Responsible partners will support education providers in reducing exclusions and off-rolling from school.

Protect and Support

- Responsible partners will work with a range of early intervention services to identify potential victims and potential offenders
- Responsible partners will divert children away from harm through positive activities
- Responsible partners will work with voluntary and faith groups in developing and supporting the mentoring of our most at-risk young people as a way to change behaviour
- Responsible partners will support Stockton Borough Council's Youth Offending Service to address the needs of young people most at risk of being drawn into continuing violence
- Responsible partners will work with the Integrated Offender Management programme to provide employment, education and training opportunities for ex-offenders
- Responsible partners will support MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) for high-risk violent offenders

Pursue and Prosecute

- Responsible partners will direct proactive operational enforcement activity within hot-spot areas across Stockton-on-Tees to target serious violent crime.
- Responsible partners will carry out proportionate enforcement activity that is focused on the identified problem profile

- Responsible partners will support Cleveland Police and the National Crime Agency to undertake enforcement and innovative practice to tackle emerging or persistent serious violence
- Responsible partners will support Cleveland Police in taking targeted enforcement and disruption action against drivers of serious violence (county lines, drug markets etc)
- Responsible partners will maximise enforcement opportunities through effective partnership work across the Criminal Justice System and through Integrated Offender Management, prisons and probation as well as partnership enforcement approaches.

Vulnerability

Why is this a priority?

The exploitation of vulnerable people (including children) is a national issue, encompassing county lines, cuckooing, modern day slavery, radicalisation and child sexual exploitation. In addition to this, communities and individuals can be placed at risk due to their demographic characteristics; this is known as hate crime. The range of issues identified within this priority are often classed as “hidden high harms” – that is, they are not publicly visible, but the impact of them can be significant.

We will seek to support and protect those most vulnerable in our community. Those at risk of domestic abuse will be supported through the ‘Stockton Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-22’, but there is a clear link between those who are vulnerable as victims or witnesses of domestic abuse and a broader range of vulnerabilities.

A small number of highly vulnerable individuals are at risk from a range of potential harms. We will work in partnership with other multi-agency arrangements including safeguarding boards to identify those at risk and seek to intervene early to support these individuals and increase their resilience.

Our aims and strategic intentions

We will seek to protect vulnerable individuals and communities from the following hidden harms:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Hate Crime
- County Lines
- Modern Slavery
- Radicalisation
- Cuckooing
- Sexual Exploitation

We have agreed five objectives to deliver our vulnerability objectives:

1. **Inform** – to ensure that practitioners and residents alike recognise and are aware of the signs of harm to vulnerable people and responsible authorities recognise its everyone’s business to protect these groups.
2. **Identify** – to identify those most likely to be vulnerable, and those individuals and groups seeking to exploit them in our area. To encourage and make it easier to report into relevant authorities any concerns or information relating to vulnerable people.

3. **Prevent** – to prevent those identified as being vulnerable from being exploited
4. **Protect & Support** – to safeguard and support all those who are being exploited and protect them from further harm
5. **Pursue & Prosecute** – to investigate, disrupt and prosecute those who would seek to exploit or harm those who are vulnerable.

The table below provides an agreed definition for each hidden harm.

Harm	Definition
Child Sexual Exploitation	Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
Hate Crime	Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.
County Lines	A form of criminal exploitation in which criminals groom and manipulate children into drug dealing. The 'lines' refer to mobile phones that are used to control a young person who is delivering drugs, often to towns outside their home county.
Modern Slavery	The recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.
Radicalisation	The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
Cuckooing	A practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation
Sexual Exploitation	Sexual exploitation includes rape, prostitution, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Outcomes we want to achieve

By their nature, hidden harms are under-reported. Achieving For each hidden harm we will seek to achieve the following outcomes:

- An increase in reported incidents to the police, reflecting a community more confident in receiving support from the state
- An increase in the volume of defendants prosecuted
- An increase in the volume of successful prosecutions

The exception to this will be in radicalisation, where we will be seeking to increase the percentage of successful discharges from the Stockton-on-Tees Channel Panel.

How will we achieve this?

Harm	Activity
Child Sexual Exploitation	<u>Inform</u> – we will work with the Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership to support communication to professionals around spotting the signs of CSE and understand how to make referrals.
	<u>Identify</u> – to ensure that we have current knowledge of locations, individuals and groups who sexually exploit, as well as emerging issues and models of targeting and exploiting children in order that we can act upon early indicators relating to individual children and young people at risk and shape services appropriate to their needs.
	<u>Prevent</u> – to prevent children, young people at Risk from experiencing or continuing to experience sexual exploitation
	<u>Protect and Support</u> - to work together to safeguard current victims of sexual exploitation to minimise harm, reduce opportunities for perpetrators to target victims and to provide appropriate support, intervention, information and recovery services to children, young people, parents, and at Risk.
	<u>Pursue and Prosecute</u> - to successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate the exploitation of children and young people at Risk, and to disrupt activities and locations so as to prevent further incidents of sexual exploitation.
Hate Crime	<u>Inform</u> – we will work to communicate to communities and those with protected characteristics routes to report hate crime. We will communicate to those who live, work and visit Stockton-on-Tees that hate crime is not tolerated.

	<p><u>Identify</u> – We will work across the partnership to identify and reassure victims of hate crime and signpost towards reporting mechanisms.</p> <p><u>Prevent</u> – We will prevent those with protected characteristics from experiencing hate crimes by improving community resilience, promoting equality, diversity and community cohesion, and practicing a zero-tolerance approach to hate crimes.</p> <p><u>Protect and Support</u> – we will provide support to minority communities and seek to reassure anyone with protected characteristics that they are supported in Stockton-on-Tees.</p> <p><u>Pursue and Prosecute</u> – we will support Cleveland Police in increasing successful prosecutions of hate crime incidents.</p>
County Lines	<p><u>Inform</u> – we will work to help practitioners to recognise the signs of County Lines and respond appropriately so that potential victims get the support and help they need.</p> <p><u>Identify</u> – we will work with Cleveland Police and other agencies to identify County Lines operations in Stockton-on-Tees and profile those who may be at risk.</p> <p><u>Prevent</u> – we will work with partners to prevent young people at risk of exploitation from County Lines from being victimised by perpetrators.</p> <p><u>Protect and Support</u> – we will support those who have been identified as being at risk by providing routes out of County Lines activity and providing safe havens for them to do so.</p> <p><u>Pursue and Prosecute</u> – we will seek to identify those operating County Lines in Stockton-on-Tees through multi agency working and support Cleveland Police to prosecute them.</p>
Modern Slavery	<p><u>Inform</u> – we will work with partners to increase awareness of Modern Slavery through the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network.</p>

	<p>Identify – we will develop intelligence products with partners which will help us identify potential modern slavery incidents in Stockton-on-Tees.</p> <p><u>Prevent</u> – we will work with the Cleveland Anti Slavery Network to increase the numbers of local businesses operating in Stockton who have adopted a Modern Slavery statement.</p> <p><u>Protect and Support</u> – we will seek to support those at risk of Modern Slavery or who have been victims of this</p> <p><u>Pursue and Prosecute</u> – we will work with Cleveland Police and other partners to identify individuals and organisations operating Modern Slavery and bring them to justice.</p>
Radicalisation	<p><u>Inform</u> – we will seek to improve training on spotting the signs of safety for radicalisation amongst frontline workers as per our obligations under the Prevent Duty.</p> <p><u>Identify</u> – we will develop a risk assessment for Stockton-on-Tees based on the police’s Counter Terrorism Local Profile. This will inform the Prevent action plan we will develop separately to deliver our obligations under the Prevent Duty.</p> <p><u>Prevent</u> – we will close down spaces for extremists to operate in Stockton-on-Tees and ensure that there are meaningful referral pathways for those identified as being at risk of being drawn into or supporting terrorism.</p> <p><u>Protect and Support</u> – we will support individuals who have been identified as being vulnerable through the Stockton-on-Tees Channel Panel and provide support to</p> <p><u>Pursue and Prosecute</u> – we will support Counter Terrorism Policing North East through information sharing and operational responses in enforcing action against those suspected of planning terrorist attacks, being members of a proscribed organisation, or seeking to radicalise others. We will disrupt radicalising behaviour where appropriate.</p>
Cuckooing	<p><u>Inform</u> – we will work with partners including Housing and Social Care to understand issues around cuckooing.</p> <p><u>Identify</u> – we will seek to share information with partners to help identify cuckooing in action and understand how to make referrals</p> <p><u>Prevent</u> – We will seek to identify those who may be vulnerable to cuckooing and provide advice, support and access to services to prevent this from happening.</p> <p><u>Protect and Support</u> – We will work with those who are victims of cuckooing to help them access support and exit the situation safely.</p> <p><u>Pursue and Prosecute</u> – we will work with Cleveland Police and others, using a full range of tools and powers,</p>

	to bring those who would seek to cuckoo properties to justice.
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Crime and disorder linked to drugs and alcohol

Why is this a priority?

51% of residents surveyed in Stockton-on-Tees said that people using or dealing drugs was a concern for them. This was the top-rated concern.

Alcohol admissions in Stockton-on-Tees have been increasing over the last 5 years. The levels of admissions are significantly higher than the national value and higher than Stockton's statistical neighbours. In Stockton-on-Tees, there are significantly higher hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions compared to the England average, there are also significantly higher levels of alcohol specific conditions in Stockton-on-Tees.

Alcohol specific mortality in Stockton-on-Tees is significantly higher than the national average but similar to most of Stockton's statistical neighbours.

50% of people in the North East have been negatively affected by another person's drinking; this can be assault, abuse, or other crime related offenses. Evidence suggests women and children are disproportionately affected by other people's drinking. Alcohol plays a part in 25 to 33% of known cases of child abuse. Parental alcohol misuse is also identified as an adverse child experience (Public Health England, 2016). A recent survey by Balance highlighted that 65% of people in the North East avoid town centres due to other people's drinking.

A study by Public Health England reported that 50% of all violent crime is alcohol related, and that the amount of alcohol and crime related disorder is associated with outlet density. Perpetration of domestic abuse and child abuse are also associated with alcohol consumption.

Key Issues

Overall, Stockton-on-Tees has a higher estimated rate of opiate and / or crack use (15.1 per 1000 population) compared to regional (10.4) and national (8.6) averages. National prevalence estimates indicates that 1898 individuals are using crack and / or opiates across Stockton-on-Tees. The majority of this population are opiate users (1657). It is estimated that 917 individuals are crack users.

Estimates of opiate and / or crack use by age range indicate that the 25-34yr age group have the highest estimated prevalence of use for Stockton-on-Tees, and that estimated prevalence is higher than North East and regional averages.

Opiate users within Stockton-on-Tees are predominately male, and the estimated rate of male opiate users for the borough is substantially higher than north east and national estimated averages. While

significantly lower than male estimates, the rate of female opiate users within the borough is higher than North East and National estimated average rates.

Our aims and strategic intentions

Responsible partner agencies will seek to:

- Ensure appropriate support is in place for offenders, with access to housing, training and employment, financial aid, debt recovery and drugs and alcohol services
- Support those who misuse drugs and/or alcohol to successfully treatment
- Enforce against persistent and prolific offenders who misuse drugs and/or alcohol
- Address drugs, as a driver of crime, and associated criminalities through innovative initiatives
- Reduce the impact of alcohol on violent crime
- Make the night time economy in Stockton-on-Tees a safer place for leisure use both day and night.

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Improve public confidence through collaborative problem solving and community based multiagency campaigns which address drug litter, open use of drugs, and drug and alcohol related anti-social behaviour
- Protecting the public and residents from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible premises.
- Maximise every opportunity to address offending behaviour that is driven by abusing drugs and alcohol.
- Work with criminal justice partners to ensure that responses to young people's drug and alcohol related offending are appropriate to their needs.
- Develop a set of common standards that clearly identify "what works" in reducing drug and alcohol related offending.
- Strengthen partnership responses to address the impact that drugs and alcohol play in the exploitation of vulnerable children, young people and adults including:
 1. domestic abuse
 2. violent crime
 3. sexual offences
 4. child sexual exploitation
 5. modern day slavery

How will we achieve this?

This includes a multifaceted approach that prioritises 'early intervention and prevention', 'evidence-based treatment and recovery support', and 'reducing drug and alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour through enforcement and regulation.

We have agreed five objectives to deliver our strategy to reduce crime and disorder linked to alcohol:

1. **Inform** – to ensure that residents and visitors feelings of safety are not impinged by the impact of visible drug and alcohol use; to ensure that potentially problematic drug and alcohol users understand how to access treatment and support services.
2. **Identify** – to understand hotspots of open drug dealing and venues which are contributing to alcohol-related disorder.

3. **Prevent** – to help make areas more resilient to drug and alcohol related issues through designing out crime, managing premises, increased security; to work to educate those who may be vulnerable to problematic drug and alcohol use to support them into diversionary activity. Partners will adopt a public health approach to early intervention within the early years setting.
4. **Protect & Support** – to provide access and referral pathways into treatment services, and to support venues and premises with successful security management.
5. **Pursue & Prosecute** – to work with Cleveland Police to identify and bring to justice those who seek to deal drugs into our community, and to take enforcement action against licensees who do not manage disorder and breach licence conditions.

Inform

Responsible agencies on the partnership will help service users and potential service users understand how to access statutory and non-statutory services to help those with drug and alcohol issues. We will work with Licensing and Trading Standards to manage night time economy and licensing issues and ensure these are communicated to residents and visitors effectively.

Identify

Partners will support the development of the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to help understand the extent of drug and alcohol issues in the borough. They will work with health and frontline partners to identify service users who may require support and intervention services. Alongside this, work will also be done to identify problem premises and locations in partnership with licensing colleagues.

They will work together to identify hotspot areas of alcohol-related disorder and manage these locations through a multi-agency approach, using available tools and powers to close problematic locations and manage repeat offenders.

Prevent

Early identification and intervention are key to supporting vulnerable young people at risk of offending and drug and alcohol misuse. It is essential that local agencies including youth offending teams, police, custody healthcare, looked after children's services, education and health services take every opportunity to identify young people at an early stage and work together to put in place appropriate support.

For those young people who have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System it is important that we identify their needs and put in place adequate provision to support the young person's desistance from further crime. Where substance misuse is a part of wider issues in a young person's life, it is important to take an integrated multi-agency response, including family support.

Applicants for alcohol licenses will be expected to demonstrate practical steps towards the four objectives of Stockton Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

These are:

- The Prevention of crime and disorder
- The Prevention of public nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

- Ensuring Public Safety.

Evidence suggests that through local licensing arrangements a reduction in alcohol related violence can be achieved.

Campaigns are often used to promote safe and responsible drinking in Stockton-On-Tees (including schools and colleges) and delivers key safety messages, such as getting home safely after a night out and how to reduce vulnerability when under the influence of alcohol.

Schools, the VCSE sector and local authority services all support different elements of the prevention agenda around drugs, this approach is currently embedded within a risk-taking behaviour approach and includes:

- Resources and training to support secondary schools to deliver educational messages to young people about drugs, alcohol, sexual health, relationships, risk, and choice as part of a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHEe) programme.
- Direct delivery of risk-taking behaviour education to young people in primary, secondary, further / higher education settings and youth settings by a range of partner organisations.

As a partnership we will embed prevention approaches and drugs information within existing voluntary and statutory services.

Protect and Support

We will focus on reducing the risks for our most vulnerable people. We recognise that the criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults can take many forms including the use of drugs and alcohol in grooming. Gangs typically use children, young people, and vulnerable adults to deliver drugs to customers and this often involves them being subjected to deception, intimidation, violence, and both financial and sexual exploitation.

The Criminal Justice System offers several routes into support and treatment. Our local programmes such as Liaison and Diversion in our police custody suites give us the opportunity to make sure that offenders are offered the right help at the right time.

It is important that those involved in drug and alcohol related crime are given every opportunity to address their offending behaviour as well as being punished for their actions. We will ensure that our criminal justice agencies and drug and alcohol services work better together. We will promote the use of out of court disposals and community sentences, such as drug and alcohol treatment requirements which require offenders to engage with services, and we will work closely with prisons in the resettlement of offenders.

Stockton Town Pastors is a charitable initiative involving local churches who provide support for people during the night time within Stockton-on-Tees. The model follows the 'Street Angels' approach and has been running since 2009. They offer a safe haven for those who are vulnerable or in need during the hours of 10pm and 3am on a Friday and Saturday, the unit is based at The Shambles in Stockton Town Centre.

Responsible partners provide a range of treatment and recovery support based on what is realistic and achievable for this cohort of drug users and their families. We will maintain and optimise harm minimisation activity including overdose training and needle exchange with a wide range of partner services.

There are a range of VCSE sector organisations offer mutual aid and recovery support for individuals recovering from drug addiction and their families including:

- The Moses Project: provides guidance, monitoring and support to adult males with current and past addiction
- A Way Out: provide one to one support, group work and outreach support vulnerable women across the borough
- Eastern Ravens: is commissioned to provide support to young carers and their families
- Bridges: is commissioned to deliver specialist support to families of individuals misusing drugs and alcohol
- Change Grow Live (CGL) Alcohol Service provide alcohol support services for adults and young people within the Borough of Stockton. They offer support within General Practice and within North Tees Hospital through the Drug and Alcohol Referral Team, CGL also provide “Have a Word”, Alcohol Brief Advice training.

Pursue and Prosecute

There is evidence that drug law enforcement action can have some local impact but when delivered in isolation the benefits can be short-lived. The evidence suggests it is far more effective to identify underlying problems in a place and for communities and services to work together to resolve them. However, all partners will work with Cleveland Police to enforce licence breaches as appropriate where the objectives in the councils Statement of Licensing Policy are at risk.

Trading Standards have a regulatory function in relation to protecting consumers. Trading standards can undertake under 18 test purchases based on intelligence to protect children from harm.

Cleveland Police will work in partnership with statutory partners including Stockton Borough Council to identify on-street drug dealing locations and seek to identify perpetrators. The Serious and Organised Crime element of this strategy will seek to diminish the opportunities of organised crime groups supplying and distributing drugs across the borough.

Reducing the offending rates of the most prolific offenders

Why is this a priority?

A high volume of crime is committed by offenders described as 'prolific or priority offenders'. Providing appropriate monitoring and supervision, and working together with offenders to tackle drug and alcohol abuse, improving their basic skills, tackling their offending behaviour and improving the chances of them getting a job has proven to help break the cycle of offending.

Our aims and strategic intentions

We will work in partnership to reduce reoffending. We will do this by:

Improve the interventions we have in place against the seven pathways of reoffending:

1. Accommodation
2. Education, training and employment
3. Health
4. Drugs and alcohol misuse
5. Finance, benefit and debt
6. Children and families
7. Attitudes, thinking and behaviour

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Visible drug and alcohol use and dealing reduced
- Reduction in the reoffending rate for adults and juveniles
- Reduce reoffending behaviour through Integrated Offender Management
- Fewer first-time entrants into the criminal justice system
- More people successfully completing treatment and not returning to the service for treatment within a six-month period.

How will we achieve this?

We will target persistent offenders through the rollout of a refreshed Cleveland-wide 'Integrated Offender Management' (IOM) framework that emphasises a more consistent and evidence-based approach. This cohort does not include those managed through MAPPA (high risk) or MARAC (domestic abuse) arrangements.

The refreshed IOM framework for Cleveland will focus on a cohort of the 60 most prolific offenders from Stockton-on-Tees. These will be:

- Neighbourhood crime offenders with a high, very high or prolific risk of reoffending, assessed using the Offender Group Reconviction Score (OGRS).
- More serious neighbourhood crimes such as robbery and burglary even when they have a medium OGRS score to reflect the level of harm caused by these offences.

Key CSP partners including the council, the police, and probation services in Stockton-on-Tees all have a key role to play in the rollout of this new framework.

Inform

We will work with police and HM Prisons and Probation Service to ensure that those on the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort are aware of the expectations of compliance placed upon them. We will communicate across services to ensure that the holistic needs of the cohort are met; this will have the largest impact in reducing the likelihood of their reoffending.

Identify

We will develop a cohort of the 60 most prolific offenders resident in Stockton-on-Tees through analysis of offending behaviour and need. This will be based on the following four criteria:

1. Should be subject to statutory supervision
2. Should have an OGRS score of 75 or above
3. Should be an individual who is a high crime causer in the areas of Neighbourhood Crime
4. Persons who are already managed by MAPPA at Level 2 & 3 will not be managed on the IOM PPO Cohort

Prevent

We will seek to prevent offenders from reoffending by providing support alongside the seven pathways (nine if female). Address drugs, as a driver of crime, and associated criminalities through innovative initiatives, work in partnership, locally and nationally, to disrupt and prevent serious and organised crime to reduce the impact of its resulting social harms on communities and residents.

These seven pathways are:

- accommodation;
- education, employment and training;
- health;
- drugs and alcohol;
- finance, benefit and debt;
- children and families;
- attitudes, thinking and behaviour.

There are two additional pathways for female offenders:

- Women who have experienced violence
- Women who have been involved in prostitution

Protect and Support

We will increase support across the partnership to offenders by providing access to housing, training and employment, financial aid, debt recovery and drugs and alcohol services.

We will support those who misuse drugs and/or alcohol to successfully complete community/facility-based treatment

We will protect the public from prolific violent and high risk offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

We will review opportunities to improve referral rates to drug and alcohol services.

We will continue to provide support for young people who are involved in offending, and reduce First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system

Pursue and Prosecute

Whilst prolific offenders will be provided with support in order to change their behaviours, we will take opportunities to bring any offender on the cohort to justice should they continue to offend.

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Anti-Social Behaviour and feelings of safety

Why is this a priority?

Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) is pivotal in achieving a safer, cleaner Stockton-on-Tees. The impact of ASB can be devastating to residents, businesses and visitors. For victims and the wider community, it can become a destructive, cumulative issue leading to a poor quality of life. It often overlaps with more serious crime, and this can contribute to communities feeling unsafe where they live and work.

Anti-social behaviour is a conduct that:

- has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household
- is capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises
- is capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person"

Given the broad definition, we recognise people will have difference thresholds and tolerances for anti-social behaviour. All agencies will take reports of anti-social behaviour seriously. Some of these examples can also be criminal offences, and when that is the case, we maintain a strong partnership approach to deal with those causing the problems.

We also know that often those responsible for ASB are often vulnerable themselves. We recognise that ASB-related behaviours can be symptomatic of other issues which require support and care. We are committed to working in partnership to safeguard, support and protect vulnerable residents and provide meaningful opportunities for behaviour change.

We know that ASB is a concern for our residents. In 2021, of those who responded to our survey, 37% of residents reported that they had been a victim of anti-social behaviour. In addition, 63% of our residents felt less safe in the borough than they did a year ago.

There is an overlap between hotspots for violent crime and hotspots for anti-social behaviour in the borough. Whilst the link is not necessarily causal, there are benefits in aligning approaches to tackling both. Addressing anti-social behaviour in the borough is a complex matter that requires the attention of many different agencies.

Key issues include:

- Drug and Alcohol related antisocial behaviour and crime
- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- Street drinking and begging
- Vehicle nuisance
- Fly tipping
- Arson (deliberate fire setting)

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Continuously deliver a victim-focused response to ASB

- Address the full spectrum of ASB, from littering and graffiti, to alcohol and drug-related ASB
- Safeguard vulnerable victims and perpetrators of ASB, working in partnership with the Safeguarding Adults Board and Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Improve our understanding of ASB to deliver a more informed approach to tackling the underlying drivers of demand
- Work with partners and residents to address neighbourhood and cross border issues
- Working in partnership to reduce deliberate fire setting, improve fire safety and fire prevention

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Tackling harmful behaviour in our shared public spaces
- Managing offenders of ASB
- Supporting victims to reduce the risk and harm caused by ASB
- Reduce repeat victimisation
- Reduce the impact of the night-time economy
- Ensuring residents know how to report ASB via the correct channels
- Fewer deliberate fire incidents
- Improve use of CCTV across vulnerable locations
- Continue to reduce anti-social behaviour repeat calls to the Police and Council
- Reduce the public's fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

How will we achieve this?

We have agreed five objectives to deliver the ASB strategy:

1. **Inform** – to ensure that residents understand how to report ASB and to promote positive outcomes in tackling ASB.
2. **Identify** – to identify victims, offenders and locations of ASB
3. **Prevent** – to prevent those at risk from being at risk of or experiencing ASB
4. **Protect & Support** – to safeguard and support all those identified as being at risk of or experiencing ASB.
5. **Pursue & Prosecute** – to take enforcement action against perpetrators of ASB.

Inform

Responsible partner members will deliver a communications campaign which will seek to reassure residents regarding issues around fear of crime. This will be combined with opportunities to advertise ASB services to help residents access support when required. A focus on countering negative messaging around anti-social behaviour will also be undertaken by relevant partners, in order to improve perceptions around safety in our communities.

Identify

Responsible partner members will also work with partners to identify locations suffering from ASB, perpetrators of it, and those who are or may become victims. The partnership will use this information to inform operational interventions and activities.

Prevention

Responsible partner members will seek to prevent ASB by strengthening communities and the environment to make them more resilient to ASB:

- Visible patrolling by Civic Enforcement Officers and neighbourhood policing teams
- Improving the visible environment of Stockton-on-Tees to help people feel safer
- Ensuring a strong CCTV service is in place and is visible to residents
- Maintain 28,000 street lights across the borough
- Work with communities and Neighbourhood Watch schemes to promote resilience and community cohesion
- We aim to continue with our intelligence led area based approach using analytical products and reports

Protect and Support

When ASB does occur, partners will act quickly and appropriately to minimise the impact through multi-agency joint working and utilising a range of powers available to partnership members:

- Rapid communication with victims and perpetrators (where known)
- Warning letters
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- Community Protection Warning
- Premise Closure Notices

Being either a victim or perpetrator of ASB can suggest that someone is vulnerable and in need of support. We will seek to:

- o Signpost access to Drug and Alcohol Support services
- o Report Rough Sleepers to the Homeless Service
- o Provide effective support to ASB victims in a neighbourhood setting
- o Make referrals to the Community Mental Health team as appropriate
- o We will provide access to the Community Trigger process for those who are repeat victims of ASB

Pursue and Prosecute:

Enforcement is a last resort but will sometimes be necessary in order to effectively manage a problem. Where problems are ongoing and consistent we will make robust use of ASB enforcement powers including:

- ASB Injunctions
- Closure Orders
- Community Protection Notices
- Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Notice of Seeking Possession
- Premises Closure Orders
- Public Spaces Protection Orders