



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 25th November 2021

To the Chair and Members of the
Community & Environment Scrutiny Panel

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2022 - 25

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Rachael Blake	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update regarding the 2022-25 Community Safety Strategy. The Strategy is a statutory plan which requires endorsement by Council but is produced and owned by the multi-agency Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP), acting as Doncaster's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The SSDP has a legal duty to work together to: tackle crime and disorder, including serious and organised crime; reduce re-offending; tackle anti-social behaviour and to tackle alcohol and substance misuse. The SSDP has a wider remit to address any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment, and to produce a plan outlining how this will be achieved.
2. In Doncaster this plan is known as the Community Safety Strategy which is produced every 4 years and refreshed annually. The Strategy has been produced following consultation in respect of the partnership priorities and includes a summary of key achievements and outcomes we are seeking to achieve with, and for, the people of Doncaster. The Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan also gives an overview of how we plan to address these priorities.

EXEMPT REPORT

3. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Members of the Community & Environment Scrutiny Panel are asked to comment on and endorse the content of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

5. The review of the Community Safety Strategy ensures the priorities remain relevant and responsive to important issues for citizens and the borough, for the next 4 years. The public consultation process has been far-reaching with responses being welcomed from residents; elected members; community groups; the youth council; key partners; staff and businesses across the Borough. Communications have also been publicised in a variety of forums including Council social media platforms; Directorate newsletters; Chief Executive blog; Voluntary Action Doncaster newsletter and the Doncaster Talking Newspaper.
6. The survey has been offered in alternative formats, including braille, and alternative methods of consultation have also been offered, to help reach new and emerging communities and harder to reach groups. An 'Easy Read' version of the strategy will also be produced and launched alongside the full document.

BACKGROUND

7. The content of the Community Safety Strategy has been identified through cross referencing the data captured within the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and through a robust and comprehensive process of community consultation.
8. This consultation has identified that the strategic current priorities should remain, as they continue to meet the needs of residents and Partners, but has identified a number of emerging issues, which are reflected in the strategy and delivery plan.
9. The strategic priorities reflected within the strategy are:
 - Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
 - Reducing anti-social behaviour
 - Reducing crime & re-offending
 - Tackling serious & organised crime
 - Reducing substance & alcohol misuse
 - Reducing violence and violent crime
10. This strategy will result in closer partnership working in respect of the identified priorities and will have a positive impact on the citizens of Doncaster who will see improved outcomes in terms of feeling safer; being safer and getting the support they need with access to improved services. We will also be taking a strong enforcement approach to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, supported by early intervention and prevention, stopping issues from escalating at an early stage and targeting resources where they are most needed.
11. Crime reduction and community safety are not the sole responsibility of any one agency, organisation or group and it is important that we draw together all agencies and communities in a joint agenda to combine our shared resources, creativity and effort within a common framework and plan. This plan is owned by all agencies within the Partnership and the Community Safety Strategy provides an outline of this work and importantly how we as a partnership set out our ambitions to address local issues, whilst recognising the needs of our communities.

12. The results of the community consultation are encouraging and demonstrate that in general, residents feel safe in Doncaster. When asked about the crime and disorder themes that were most important, results indicated a relatively even priority across the strategic priorities detailed above. However, reducing anti-social behaviour accounted for 88.37% of the community safety themes most important to those surveyed.
13. When asked what could be done to improve the partnership and its services, responses included: more visible presence from officers within communities/neighbourhoods; simpler and faster Police reporting services; increased engagement with young people; increased support for offenders; closer working with community organisations; improved communications/social media presence; targeted work in hotspot areas; increased CCTV coverage; better support for victims of crime; additional resources for outlying areas. These areas will remain a focus for the SSDP in the forthcoming year and we will be examining how all partners can increase visibility and our response to incidents.
14. It must be recognised that the strategy does not seek to describe all the activities undertaken by each of the partners involved in community safety but highlights the key priorities for the partnership for the next 4 years. It also does not duplicate the work delivered through other structures such as children's and adult safeguarding. In each of the priority areas the community safety strategy is underpinned by a dedicated strategy and delivery plan to drive activity in that area.
15. An overview of each of the strategic themes and a summary of their respective key achievements are detailed below.

Overarching Principle: Leaving Nobody Behind

16. Some people are more at risk than others in our communities, perhaps because of their age, disability, ethnicity or other distinguishing characteristics that can link to increased vulnerability.
17. For children and young people, and for adults with care and support needs, cross-cutting work is delivered through other structures including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding board. Each of these structures has their own priorities and strategies supporting. The Community Safety Strategy will not seek to duplicate their work here.
18. However, ensuring we engage with and support people who are at higher potential risk than others is a key overarching principle which runs as a cross-cutting theme throughout the partnership structure. Understanding and addressing vulnerability was identified as a key issue in the consultation process informing this strategy, resulting in the ongoing commitment to deliver improved services to communities across Doncaster.
19. Having also considered the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, there are some key areas that have been considered and included, as detailed within each of the priority group sections and Delivery Plan. Overall, through the Strategy and accompanying actions we will show our commitment to equality and good outcomes for all Doncaster people, regardless of situation or background.

Tackling Domestic & Sexual Abuse

20. During the pandemic increases have been seen particularly in the reporting of domestic abuse. People seeking support has also increased. This is not surprising since families have been spending more time together which increases the time victims are spending with their perpetrators, whilst also being impacted by the wider stresses of life. A new domestic abuse strategy for 2021-2024 has been developed following extensive consultation with communities, survivors and practitioners. This will be closely followed by a new sexual abuse strategy.
21. The new domestic abuse strategy builds on the extensive work already undertaken and reemphasises that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility and that it will only be tackled by everyone working together. There is improved collaboration with survivors of domestic abuse and a strong commitment to learning from their experiences. The strategy seeks to provide support for victims, survivors, children and young people that have been affected by domestic abuse as well as promoting trauma informed practice to understand and address offending behaviour.

22. Key Achievements:

- A co-ordinated response to prevention, early identification and intervention work for victims and perpetrators that ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in the Domestic Abuse Bill and a desire to strive for excellence.
- Established Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub to provide a single point of contact for victims of domestic abuse to access information and support.
- Funding from Doncaster Council, the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit and the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership to tackle domestic abuse.
- Funding secured to support statutory requirements on the Local Authority to produce a needs assessment and strategy to tackle domestic abuse, as well as provide safe accommodation and secure tenancies for victims.
- Established senior officer group to oversee continuous improvement in delivery of Domestic Abuse practice across the partnership

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

23. It can be seen from the consultation undertaken that anti-social behaviour is the area that most respondents were concerned about. It is likely that this is due to anti-social behaviour affecting more people on a daily basis than the other priorities and it being more visible to the wider community.
24. Anti-social behaviour impacts on community resilience and people's quality of life often impacting day after day. Anti-social behaviour plays a significant role within the localities-based approach which seeks to improve our communities.
25. Recognising the feedback from communities is important for the partnership, in particular improving confidence in reporting anti-social behaviour, updating the public on our actions and increasing visibility of partnership resources in those areas affected by anti-social behaviour. Some of these actions will form part of our Rapid Improvement Plan and from this we will communicate with the public the improvements and successes that have been achieved.

26. As a Partnership we have invested heavily in CCTV to tackle anti-social behaviour, both in terms of providing reassurance and using footage to support prosecutions. Over the last 3 years we have expanded our CCTV network in Doncaster using capital funding and Government Safer Streets funding to expand our networks and benefit more Communities across Doncaster.

27. The monitoring of CCTV has also improved and we are now more productive in terms of active enforcement, seeing a large increase in footage being used as evidence in fly-tipping prosecutions and combating other forms of anti-social behaviour.

28. Key Achievements:

- Increased the deployment of the dedicated SYP Off Road Bike Team resources. as part of our response to off-road bikes in key areas affected by this issue.
- Implemented successful plans around tyre burning and fly tipping across the borough in partnership with the Fire service.
- Using Fire data around deliberate and secondary fires, we have developed a mechanism to improve the response to this issue by targeting resources into the area affected and developing early intervention and prevention plans.
- Developed new ways of engaging with young people during lockdown via social media platforms and targeted detached youth work.
- Monitored hate crimes and incidents across Doncaster to ensure an effective multi-agency response to reports, monitored patterns and trends to determine areas of higher activity and an appropriate response.
- Improved the multi-agency processes to monitor and respond to community tensions across the Borough. The Doncaster model continues to be widely regarded as one of the most positive examples of tension monitoring, which includes inputs from Elected Members, key partners and neighbourhoods.
- Significant capital investment in CCTV across the Borough to improve public realm and re-deployable CCTV, which can be used to tackle anti-social behaviour through reassurance, proactive monitoring and improved evidence gathering capability.
- Instigated a campaign to lobby the Home Office for a change in legislation to tackle nuisance off road motorbikes and quad bikes used in organised crime.

Reducing Crime And Reoffending

29. The partnerships ability to reduce reoffending relies heavily on strong multi-agency working. This helps us to share information and resources to unblock barriers, reduce reoffending and reduce harm to victims. Reducing crime, the fear of crime and reducing re-offending are inextricably linked. Representatives from many agencies including the Council, Police, Probation Service, business sector and the voluntary/community sector work collectively to tackle the root causes of crime and re-offending. This collective effort drawing on best practice, resource and expertise to rehabilitate offenders will contribute to reducing the fear of crime and the impact in our communities.

30. Managing repeat offenders remains a key priority. A high number of offences are committed by a very small group of individuals, termed Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs). The model of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is used in the management of offenders. This model brings together all agencies, including police, probation, local authority, substance misuse treatment services and a range of third sector providers, to reduce reoffending through the targeted management of youth and adult offenders.

31. Key Achievements:

- Significant reductions in the number of Serious Acquisitive Crime offences.
- Low rates of reoffending in young people as first-time entrants into the criminal justice system.
- Using crime pattern analysis, developed local responses to increased levels of crime, which has led to the deployment of additional resources into areas leading to the arrest and conviction of prolific offenders.
- Using the Integrated Offender Management process to prioritise the management of the highest risk and most prolific offenders, leading to increased focus on offenders who present the greatest harm to victims.
- Successful deployment of Smartwater into residential areas affected by high levels of residential burglary leading to improved reassurance of victims and a deterrent to offenders.

Tackling Serious And Organised Crime

32. Serious and organised crime has a significant impact on communities especially in relation to peoples fear of crime. Organised crime impacts significantly on young and vulnerable people whether through exploitation or on young people's future ambitions. Much organised crime also relates to drug supply which further impacts on wider offending. Often reinforcement of organised crime involves the use of high levels of violence.

33. Though this often takes place between those involved in organised crime, it also impacts on the broader community. In order to deliver a partnership response, the serious and organised crime theme group brings together a number of key partners working to a strategy based around the 4 themes of prevent, protect, pursue and prepare.

34. Key Achievements:

- Carried out targeted interventions against geographically based organised crime groups. Achieved significant custodial sentences against mapped OCG members, which equates to combined sentencing of 90+ years imprisonment.
- January-March 2021 seized 5 criminally held firearms, recovered £64,325 in cash, executed 18 warrants, recovered significant quantities of drugs.
- During 2020 carried out in excess of 30 partnership interventions to disrupt organised crime activities.
- Undertaken several high-profile publicity campaigns with crimestoppers, using a blend of social media, posters and ad-vans in one area alone this led to a 20% increase in reports.
- Held a targeted 'day of action' operation to disrupt OCG activity, leading to the recovery of 500 cannabis plants, £40k in cash and 8 arrests.
- Expanded our terms of reference to include work to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, being aware this is a vastly under-reported problem.
- Built upon our multi-agency arrangements to respond to all aspects of the prevent agenda, providing support services to those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Reducing Substance And Alcohol Misuse

35. Substance and alcohol misuse impacts on all of the key priorities within the Community Safety Strategy. It is fair to say that reductions in peoples misuse of substances would significantly impact not only on crime and anti-social behaviour but would also lead to healthier relationships, more productive futures, improved individual wellbeing and better outcomes for children, families and communities. There is also an impact on economic cost to Doncaster from lost productivity and cost to health, social care and the criminal justice system.
36. Doncaster has higher than national average rates of alcohol related hospital admissions, which makes significant demands on the hospital and creates a major cost pressure on the local health system. Costs to the local health economy is estimated £17.2m each year.
37. As alcohol and drug misuse are often symptoms of complex underlying factors, Doncaster partner agencies support individuals to overcome stigma and embark on their own recovery journeys, to live substance misuse free lives. This includes supporting the annual Recovery Games in Doncaster, which is a nationally and internationally recognised event.
38. The Substance Misuse Theme Group is a multi- agency group of professionals which tackles the health and crime impacts of substance misuse through the development and performance management of an integrated substance misuse plan for the Partnership. The effectiveness of the drug / alcohol treatment and care system is monitored against the 2021-24 treatment plan, which oversees actions relating to Public Health and Police and Crime Commissioner funds. These funds are invested to address addiction and substance misuse related offending, by the delivery of an integrated range of addiction services.
39. Key Achievements:
 - Secured additional resources from Public Health England and the local Public Health Allocation to further develop inpatient detoxification, criminal justice treatment services, family/ parental interventions and early interventions for alcohol.
 - Increased public awareness and knowledge about the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.
 - Identified and supported people who want to change their alcohol and/or drug using behaviour.
 - Reduced the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of alcohol and other legal substances.

Reducing Violence And Violent Crime

40. Reducing violence and violent crime, including that linked to the night-time economy crime is a cross-cutting theme and priority for the partnership. The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) was established in August 2019 to develop the South Yorkshire-wide public health approach to tackling violent crime and is supporting this theme with a dedicated Partnership Manager working directly with the SSDP.

41. SYVRU activity supports a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling violence which is embedded and delivered locally and Community Safety Partnerships are the agreed lead mechanism for local delivery. The SYVRU look at the causes of violence and work with partners to stop violence before it starts, halts its progression once its already begun and provide ways out for people already entrenched in violent behaviour.

42. Key Achievements:

- Gap analysis completed, based on information from the SYVRU area profile and survey analysis, as well as local knowledge.
- A working Local area action plan created linked to SSDP and SYVRU priorities.
- Funded and supported the development of initiatives such as One of a Kind family Domestic Abuse programme.
- Ensure referral mechanisms are in place and utilised to support programmes that offer ways out of crime i.e. Plan-B Navigator custody programme.
- Undertaken work with the youth council in relation to tackling knife crime.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

43. The following options were considered:

- To not produce a Community Safety Strategy – this would mean that the Council are not complying with legal requirements;
- To produce a new Community Safety Strategy – enables the Council and partners to meet statutory requirements as well as focus partnership priorities over the coming years on issues that matter to the community and are based on evidence of needs.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

44. There is a statutory requirement to produce a local plan setting out how the Council and its partners are working together to tackle crime and disorder; reduce re-offending; tackle anti-social behaviour; tackle alcohol and substance misuse, and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment.

45. The Community Safety Strategy meets this requirement and will inform the Local Authority’s priorities and ensure the service meets the requirements for all Communities within the Borough.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

46.

	Outcomes	Implications
1.	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>The priorities within the Community Safety Strategy, particularly those of reducing crime (including serious and organised crime), anti-social behaviour and re-offending will help support the economy and businesses within the Borough to flourish and attract new investment.</p>

2.	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>It is important that residents feel safe within Communities and key areas such as the Town Centre.</p> <p>Residents who feel part of vibrant communities are more likely to enjoy spending living and spending time in these areas.</p>
3.	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school. • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better. • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>The Partnership works closely with the Doncaster Youth Council in respect of Community Safety campaigns and initiatives to provide greater engagement and experience.</p>
4.	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>Delivery of the Community Safety priorities contributes to the improved safeguarding of all residents.</p> <p>Many of our priorities have a direct impact on families and vulnerable individuals.</p>
5.	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The services provided as outlined within the Strategy are reviewed to ensure they are efficient, effective and deliver value for money. This includes working in Partnership with other agencies to tackle cross cutting issues in a co-ordinated way.</p> <p>The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership provides strong and effective leadership to the Partnership agenda through effective governance.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

47. The main risk to the delivery of this strategy would be pressures upon partnership resources and the ability to remain focused on the priorities identified. This will be addressed through regular discussions with partners and strong performance management.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (Initials: NC 25.08.21)

48. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, places a duty on local authorities, the Police and other partners to exercise their functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behavior and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and re-offending in its area.

49. Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the local authority and the other responsible authorities forming the SSDP to formulate and implement a strategy for:

- (i) the reduction of crime and disorder in their area (including anti-social behavior and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment);
- (ii) combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- (iii) the reduction of re-offending in the area.

50. The Community Safety Strategy forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and therefore the adoption or modification of the strategy is a decision for full Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (Initials: HR 25.08.21)

51. There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Initials: EL 26.08.21)

52. There are no specific Human Resource implications within this report. However, through implementation of the Strategy, should any staffing resources be identified these must be coordinated through Human Resources and be established and recruited to in line with the relevant policies and procedures.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (Initials: PW 31.08.21)

53. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report. Any technology requirements to support the delivery of the strategy and accompanying delivery plan should be discussed at the earliest opportunity with Digital and ICT, with a further report for consideration by the Technology Governance Board (TGB), where applicable.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (Initials: HC 24.08.21)

54. The strategy will reduce the harms of crime on individuals and communities, and particularly address therefore the associated health inequalities of vulnerable people, and the wider public.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

55. A Due Regard Statement accompanies the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25.

CONSULTATION

56. This report has significant implications in terms of the following:

Procurement		Crime & Disorder	x
Human Resources		Human Rights & Equalities	
Buildings, Land and Occupiers		Environment & Sustainability	
ICT		Capital Programme	

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Safety Strategy 2022-25
Due Regard Statement

ACRONYMS LIST

SSDP	Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
PPOs	Prolific and Priority Offenders
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
OCG	Organised Crime Group
SYVRU	South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit
TGB	Technology Governance Board

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