

**To the Chair and Members of the
Full Council Meeting**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2014-17 REFRESH AND OUTLINE OF SAFER
STRONGER DONCASTER PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES 2015-16**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Chris McGuinness	All	P349

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the 2015 refresh of the 2014/2017 Community Safety Strategy. The Strategy is a statutory plan which requires endorsement by Council but it is produced and owned by the wider Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) who have a legal duty to work together to: reduce reoffending; tackle crime and disorder; tackle anti-social behaviour; tackle alcohol and substance misuse, and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment, and to produce a plan outlining how this will be achieved.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Full Council are asked to comment on and endorse the refreshed content of the Community Safety Strategy 2014/2017.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Our consultation this year has been far-reaching and we have seen a large increase in the number of responses from residents, elected members and Partners throughout the Borough. Whilst using traditional methods of consultation, we have also used social media and on-line surveys to increase our level of engagement and this year we have had a particular focus on harder to reach and new and emerging communities to ensure our refreshed Strategy reflects the needs of all communities.

The refreshed content of the Community Safety Strategy has been identified through cross reference of the data captured in the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and through a robust and comprehensive process of community consultation. This consultation and refresh has identified that the current priorities should remain, as they continue to meet the needs of all residents and Partners. Therefore during 2015/16 the priorities will remain as:

- a. Protecting vulnerable people;
- b. Reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending; and
- c. Reduce substance and alcohol misuse and the associated effects on crime.

This strategy will result in closer partnership working on the priorities identified 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 and targeting resources where they are needed.

BACKGROUND

5. In Doncaster, the Community Safety Strategy which is produced every 3 years and refreshed annually. The attached refresh document has been produced following consultation on the partnership priorities and includes a summary of key achievements and refreshed priorities and outcomes we are seeking to achieve with and for the people of Doncaster. The plan also gives an overview of how we plan to address these priorities.

Key achievements to note over the last year include:

- Over the last year, through strong partnership working, overall crime has reduced by 7% which equates to 2,000 fewer victims of crime
- There has been a 7.9% reduction in criminal damage in the last year
- Anti-Social behaviour continues to fall, with a 4% reduction in the last quarter
- When compared with the same period last year, house burglaries have reduced by 33%
- Victims of Domestic Abuse and their families now have access to a 24 hour helpline and there are now additional caseworkers to support victims and their families
- Doncaster has launched a new programme to support those that want to change their abusive behaviour and early indications are that this is really helping people to stop Domestic Abuse
- For the first time in years reported incidents of Domestic Abuse has started to fall
- There has been a 25% reduction in adult re-offending which equates to over 7,000 offences
- We have taken a robust approach to people selling Novel Psychoactive Substances (legal highs), closing Town Centre premises and tackling the associated issues of anti-social behaviour and significant community concern
- Working in partnership with the police we have developed a centralised state of the art CCTV and Alarm Monitoring service with no reduction in the number of CCTV cameras in the Borough

Key challenges remain and the following refreshed priorities are recommended:

- Reducing Crime and ASB –with a new focus on restorative justice and visibility within communities as well as the use of new tools and powers to address these issues

- Reducing Reoffending – making better links with youth offending and the new providers commissioned to take over previous work undertaken by the Probation service.
- Protecting Vulnerable People – supporting the agendas of the Safeguarding Adults and Children’s Boards, developing stronger links, particularly in the areas of Child and Adult Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
- Domestic Abuse – continuing to drive down repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse and focussing on children and young people affected by this – helping to deliver a better and more innovative programme with the new Doncaster Children’s Trust who have been successful in securing Government funding to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families.
- Substance Misuse – responding to the introduction of new legislation banning the sale and possession of Novel Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs) the availability of which is having a negative impact in our communities and local prisons.

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.

The Community Safety Strategy was published last year and is a four year strategy, however we are required to refresh the Strategy on an annual basis to ensure our existing priorities remain current and in order to do this we carry out a community consultation.

The results of the 2015 Community Safety consultation are encouraging and demonstrate that in general residents have a positive perception of the work of the Partnership. However, many residents felt we could improve our services by being more visible, with a quicker response to incidents and more emphasis being placed on educating young people about the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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. In terms of educating young people about the impact and effects of their behaviour we will continue to use the successful Stronger Families programme and interventions led by the Communities Area Teams, Youth Services provision and new Restorative Justice Project.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. To not produce a Community Safety Strategy – this would mean that the Council are not complying with legal requirements

To produce a refreshed Community Safety Strategy – enables the Council and partners to meet statutory requirements as well as focus partnership priorities over the coming year on issues that matter to the community and are based on evidence of needs.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

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

8.

	Priority	Implications
1.	<p>We will support a strong economy where businesses can locate, grow and employ local people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The priorities within the Community Safety Strategy, particularly those reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending will help support the economy and businesses within the Borough.</p>
2.	<p>We will help people to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>The Community Safety Strategy priorities apply equally to all residents. Delivery of high quality community safety services contributes to resident safety and perceptions of safety.</p>
3.	<p>We will make Doncaster a better place to live, with cleaner, more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Delivery of the Community Safety Priorities contributes to safeguarding all residents.</p>
4.	<p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Many of our priorities have a direct impact on families.</p>

5.	We will deliver modern value for money services.	The range of services provided through the Strategy are reviewed to ensure VFM principles are followed.
6.	We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.	The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership provides strong and effective leadership to the Partnership agenda through effective governance.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The Council is under a legal obligation to produce a three yearly strategy and refresh it yearly, this meets our legal requirement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. Any additional financial costs as a result of this report will need to be met within existing budgets or additional resources identified. The partnership will continue to seek external funding sources as appropriate.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no HR implications contained within the Strategy.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

13. No technology implications have been identified.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

14. A Due Regard Statement accompanies the refresh of the community safety strategy.

CONSULTATION

15. 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

16. Refreshed Community Safety Strategy and Due Regard Statement.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Hotchkiss, Head of Service: Community Safety
01302 737831 Bill.Hotchkiss@doncaster.gov.uk

David Hamilton, Director Adults Health and Well Being
01302 737811 DB.Hamilton@doncaster.gov.uk