

Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan

2018 – 21



About the Partnership Plan

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and other subsequent legislation places a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships to develop a strategic plan which addresses multi-agency issues affecting quality of life for residents.

The Partnership Plan outlines these key strategic priorities for the next 3 years which will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose. For each of the strategic priorities, an annual action plan details multi-agency interventions along with more specific performance measures for each area. Delivery of these will be scrutinised and supported through the governance arrangements outlined at the end of this document.

The priorities within this plan are informed by an in-depth analysis of data from a range of community safety agencies which are contained in the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment for Kirklees. The key findings of this assessment are set out in the next section.

Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment

The Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA) pulls together a wide range of data sources relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, environmental issues and substance misuse alongside perceptions information concerning public confidence and reassurance. The PSIA considers the changing socio-economic and demographic profile of Kirklees to contextualise some of the community safety hotspots in the district.

Contextual Information

Kirklees has 4 distinct areas (Batley & Spen, Dewsbury & Mirfield, Huddersfield and Rural/semi-rural), each of these areas has pockets of deprivation which often correspond to the multi-agency hot spots of community safety issues. Kirklees' population is changing both in the long term and transient groups such as the student population and migrant / asylum seekers, all of which can be associated with community safety issues.

Crime

In the past three years, overall recorded crime has increased by 70%. Although the vast majority of this increase is associated with recording changes which has affected the recording of crime for all Police areas (the level in Kirklees is below the average of other similar areas), it is estimated that there has been an actual increase in risk of around 5%. A more reliable indicator of crime shifts is the Crime Survey for England and Wales which suggested, based on people's experience of crime, that it is either stable or in many cases reducing in real terms.

For the purpose of the Partnership Plan, overall crime is divided into Property crime (eg Burglary and Vehicle crime) and Personal Crime (eg violence and robbery).

Residential burglary has increased by 41% over the past 3 years (although this is in part due to changes to the recording of these offences which now include burglary of sheds and garages). Vehicle Crime (mainly theft from as opposed to theft motor vehicles) is 27% higher than the historic lows three years ago, although figures have stabilised. Changes in technology continue to influence the nature of vehicle crime including using keys (including cloning) to steal cars and targeting high end navigation consoles, although the main volume is associated with items being left on display

The latest re-offending data shows the re-offending rate for Kirklees is the lowest in West Yorkshire although there remain significant risks in particular with young men leaving juvenile custody and people serving sentences of less than 12 months.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The definition of ASB relates to behaviour which causes “harassment, alarm or distress” to individuals and communities and is grouped into 3 main types; personal, nuisance and environmental. Due to the nature of ASB, the PSIA draws on data from Police, Council, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to build up a picture.

There are continued location specific hot-spots such as bus stations and hospitals (for nuisance behaviour) and repeat locations for fly-tipping, neighbour disputes involving noise and underlying issues including mental health and alcohol. There is some evidence of an increase in youth related ASB including use of Off Road Motorcycles. The PSIA also highlight a number of seasonal issues including an increase in grassland fires over the summer and spikes in ASB around bonfire night / Halloween.

Confidence and Satisfaction

The regular survey undertaken by the Police Crime Commissioner into local perceptions was relaunched in June 2017. The key headlines from this survey are that 80% of Kirklees respondents reported they feel safe in their local area and 77% say they are satisfied with the area.

The Kirklees CLiK survey provides a more detailed breakdown of these figures and highlight higher levels of satisfaction / perceptions of safety in South Kirklees (in particular in the Rural area). When asked about the work of Community Safety Partnerships, respondents were most positive about the work relating to supporting

victims and protecting witnesses but less satisfied with keeping the area clean and preventing crime / ASB – highlighting a clear opportunity for enhance communications about partnership activities.

Protecting People from Serious Harm

This area of the PSIA cover a wide range of areas from road / fire safety through to safeguarding issues including violent extremism, human trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation.

The trends relating to the number of road casualties to improve although “driver error” remains one of the primary factors.

The threats relating to violent extremism have changed over the past 3 years and a number of attacks within the United Kingdom continue to cause concern and possible tensions, particular where this is inflated through social media.

The monitoring of community tensions highlights recurrent themes around far right groups using social media and flash mobs to focus on local issues, although the impact of global politics does feature in local tensions monitoring.

There have been increases in reported levels of a range of issues including domestic abuse and human trafficking although this might be attributed to more confidence of people to report and also front line workers able to more effectively spot the signs of issues at an early stage.

Overview of Strategic Themes

The analysis of multi-agency data through the PSIA informs the strategic outcome themes which will provide the focus and direction for the Partnership Plan. The next section provides an overview of each of these themes.

Preventing and Reducing Crime

What’s the issue?

Recorded crime has increased substantially over the past 3 years. Although the vast majority of this is associated with changes in the way crimes are recorded, there is some evidence of actual increases, some of which are associated with high impact crime. The makeup of recorded crime has changed – violent crime is now the highest volume offence.

Crime, whether directly experienced or reporting of, has a negative impact on individuals and communities – it can effect mental health, whether people go out in their local area.

What will be delivered?

Work on crime focuses on two main dimensions – personal crime (eg violence and robbery) and property offences (eg burglary and vehicle offences). In common with other areas in the Partnership Plan, work focuses on prevention and reducing opportunities for crime by focusing on the people (offender and victim) and places where crimes are concentrated. Some of the key elements of this approach include;

- Strong focus on crime prevention through tactics including increase awareness, target hardening and secured by design approaches.
- Increased deterrent presence in emerging hot spots through deployment of partnership staff and community resources including neighbourhood watch.
- Offender focus through the delivery of the reducing reoffending strategy, the integrated offender management model and addressing risk factors including drugs and alcohol.
- Strong emphasis on victim focused working to repair harm.

Outcome Measures

Property Crime

- Reduction in residential burglary and vehicle crime (in comparison to similar areas in IQUANTA family).
- Improved perceptions concerning fear of crime

Personal Crime

- Reduction in violent offences (in comparison to similar areas in IQUANTA family).

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

What's the Issue?

For the purpose of the Partnership Plan, anti-social behaviour (ASB) is behaviour which causes “harassment, alarm or distress” to individuals and communities. ASB can be broken into personal (eg neighbour noise, threats and intimidation), nuisance (eg rowdy behaviour and speeding vehicles) and environmental (eg graffiti, litter and fly-tipping). ASB can be directed at individual, the wider community and tends to be concentrated in particular locations (increasingly including the internet). Where ASB is not addressed, it tends to have a serious negative impact on wellbeing in communities and can often escalate in severity.

What will we do?

Through the delivery of the Kirklees ASB Strategy, there will be a focus on preventing and reducing ASB through;

- Education interventions to develop responsible citizenship throughout people's lives
- Community Engagement to ensure ASB is not tolerated and is tackled through active citizenship
- Training and development for front line officers and community contacts to ensure they deal with ASB at the earliest possible opportunity
- Effective use of tools and powers and area based problem solving approaches to address persistent ASB
- Effective links to more specialist services to deal with underlying issues such as mental health and substance misuse
- Where necessary, efficient and effective prosecution to ensure people are held to account for their actions and to provide a message that such behaviours will not be tolerated

Outcome Measures (to be developed)

Increased perceptions of levels and response to ASB (% of people who say ASB has got worse in past 12 months).

Protecting people from serious harm

What's the issue?

This theme covers a wide range of areas which all require strong relationships between community safety / safeguarding partners and communities to identify and address serious harm at the earliest opportunity, ideally by preventing it in the first place. Serious harm covers a wide range of areas such as;

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Domestic Abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Forced Marriage
- Hate crime
- Human Trafficking
- Preventing Violent Extremism and Community Tensions

Work under this area requires excellent co-ordination at both a strategic and operational level to protect victims and disrupt and target perpetrators as rigorously as possible.

What are we going to do?

- Focus on prevention through a combination of education / awareness of risk and communicating a clear message about partnership work with communities.
- Working with communities to improve victim confidence to report issues and improve general awareness of the signs of possible harm.
- Comprehensive and co-ordinated training for front line workers to have the awareness of what to report and the confidence and drive to take responsibility for reporting issues.
- Effective operational links between partners to ensure there is effective case management in place both to ensure offenders are held to account for their actions and victims are appropriately safeguarded.
- Strategic links in place between Community Safety Partners and the Safeguarding Boards for adults and children to ensure joined up approach is in place.

Outcome Measures

To be determined through theme groups

Improving Place theme

What's the issue?

One of the most important factors associated with how safe and satisfied people are is their relationship with their local area including housing, the physical appearance of neighbourhoods and how connected people are in their local community.

In terms of the physical appearance, often seemingly lower level issues can indicate the general decline of a neighbourhood, and typically, there is an escalation into more serious issues. Therefore, if issues such as graffiti, fly-tipping and litter do not get addressed, not only will it make an area look uncared for, it can also serve as a signal that residents don't care and acts as a barrier for any participation in neighbourhood involvement.

A more cohesive Kirklees is one where there is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities, the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued, those from different backgrounds (including those who have migrated to Kirklees from overseas) have similar life opportunities and strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds and circumstances in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods.

What are we going to do?

Tackling these issues neighbourhood issues requires partners and communities working in an integrated way to address some of the neighbourhood concerns.

Community Safety partners have committed to realigning services to 4 districts (Batley & Spen, Dewsbury & Mirfield, Huddersfield and Rural) with a commitment to work collaboratively to achieve outcomes rather than been constrained by traditional agency boundaries. Partners have been developing a more integrated and co-ordinated approach to tackle neighbourhood issues which improves reporting channels, provides more co-ordinated deployment of partnership resources and significantly improves communication of outcomes back to customers. As well as been a more efficient approach to dealing with issues, the more co-ordinated problem orientated approaches creates longer term solutions to issues as opposed to short term fixes.

Feeling safe is consistently identified as the most important priority for residents to enhance their quality of life. If we are to develop interventions that are sustainable and take account of what works locally, it is vital that local people are at the heart of this through building Community Capacity. The approach to cohesion in Kirklees has 4 key themes of (1) breaking barriers at a young age so that there is (2) a greater sense of commonality / shared belonging so (3) people are less likely to feel perceptions of unfairness and consequently (4) tensions between communities are managed / reduced.

Some of the main areas of work in this theme to be delivered are;

- Work collectively to secure good quality **Housing and Neighbourhoods**
- Coordinate activity to maintain and improve high standards in **Street Scene** provision (clean & green)
- Strategic lead on partnership activity in relation to **Community Safety, Community Cohesion and counter extremism**
- Lead on collaborative work **on migration, asylum dispersal and refugee resettlement in Kirklees**
- Contribute to improvements in **air quality** standards across the district

Outcome Measures

- People in Kirklees live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are safe/protected from harm
 - Kirklees respondents who say they felt safe
 - Kirklees respondents who said they felt people get on well together
- People in Kirklees experience a high quality, clean, sustainable and green environment.
 - Kirklees respondents who said they were satisfied with their local area
 - Kirklees respondents who said they felt their area is “better now”

Action / Delivery Models

The Kirklees approach to creating safer communities is based on the principle that the best way to tackle community safety issues and reduce the fear of crime is to prevent issues happening in the first place and where they do occur address them at the earliest opportunity before they become more difficult to tackle and harmful to individuals and communities.

The following section outlines each of these levels underpinning all of the action plans which deliver the Partnership Plan.



Prevention

Prevention can be focused on individuals and communities and involves changing behaviours both through education and engagement.

Education – General and targeted educational input particularly with children and young people to develop the concept of responsible citizenship throughout people’s lives by promoting behaviour change.

Community Engagement – This involves engaging communities in tackling community safety issues by moving them from apathetic or intimidated through to active and involved citizenship.

General Communications – It is critical to ensure the members of the public and partners are kept regularly informed of the work that is being undertaken by the Safer Kirklees Partnership. This will be undertaken through a wide variety of channels including traditional media, publicity materials, social media and perhaps most importantly, key messages delivered through word of mouth.

Early Resolution

This tier of the Community Safety approach involves partnership officers, local communities and other stakeholders taking ownership for reporting and tackling crime and ASB where it occurs.

Addressing these low level signal crimes is vital to improving perceptions in local areas as they are often associated with fear of crime. It is critical that there is a broad understanding of techniques such as restorative justice and neighbourhood resolution to tackle issues as soon as possible.

Partnership Problem Solving

Where community safety issues are more entrenched either on an individual or geographic level, it is important an intelligence led partnership problem solving approach is used to identify the most appropriate solution including using ASB tools and powers.

High risk / Intensive Cases

This involves dealing with a smaller volume of more costly cases which have not been addressed at an earlier stage. These cases will be harder to resolve and are likely to be more complex in terms of underlying issues (such as mental health and drugs / alcohol) or require individuals to be held to account for their actions through enforcement and prosecution.

Quite often these issues require longer term approaches to address them – they often relate to a small number of recurrent families and areas which don't seem to “move on”.

Applying the Community Safety Model

For each of the 4 tiers, partners and other stakeholders will use multi-agency intelligence to develop interventions which target one or more element of the traditional Problem Analysis Triangle of Victim, Offender and Location (including virtual locations via the internet) to tackle a community safety problems.

In applying this approach, interventions will consider risk and protective factors which make individuals and locations at heightened risk of community safety problems and need managing.

Consequently there is a strong focus on promoting behaviour change through the delivery of the Kirklees reducing re-offending Strategy by addressing a range of risk factors including drugs and alcohol.

In order to deliver safer communities in a sustainable and effective way, it is critical that partners are working in a more integrated way, solving shared problems rather than operating in silos. More important still to sustainable solutions is our relationship with communities as it is critical that local people are at the core of creating safer communities.

Governance and Delivery arrangements

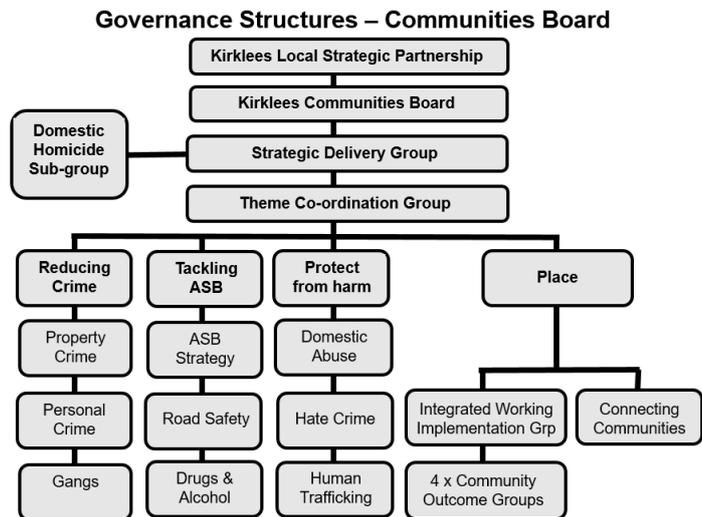
It is vital that all partners and local people are fully engaged and actively involved in delivering this plan if we are to achieve our aim of developing Kirklees as a better place to live, work, visit and study.

The recently formed Communities Partnership Board fulfils the statutory duty of the Community Safety Partnership for Kirklees but also has responsibility for cohesion, integration and live in high quality, clean, sustainable and green environment.

The board oversees the implementation of Partnership plan and works with other strategic boards to address shared strategic issues through the Local Strategic Partnership for Kirklees.

The Strategic Delivery Group sits under the Executive and provides appropriate challenge and support for the delivery of each of the action plans including diverting resources to thematic areas in the Partnership Plan.

In addition to these channels, there is also a mechanism whereby the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the implementation of the Community Safety plan.



On a wider level, it is critical to ensure there are close links with the Office for the Police Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire both to ensure there is strategic alignment between priorities and also to share best practice at a local and West Yorkshire level.

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