



Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 6 February 2023

Title of report: Refresh of the Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) 2023

Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with

- Findings emerging from the annual refresh of the Kirklees Strategic Intelligence (currently in draft)
- Provide a spotlight on Road Safety and Serious Violence
- Opportunity to discuss initial findings from the emerging Intelligence refresh and enable contribution to the ongoing delivery of the Communities Partnership Plan

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – No Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Service Director Jill Greenfield 25/01/2023 Strategic Director Mel Meggs 25/01/2023 N/A N/A

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Carole Pattison

Electoral wards affected:

ALL

Ward councillors consulted: The SIA refresh is being discussed with ward Councillors at Safer Kirklees briefings and the opportunity to comment will be offered to political groups.

Public or private: **Public**

Has GDPR been considered? **Yes**

1. Summary

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on a number of responsible authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder. Known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) the act defines CSPs as “An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”. In Kirklees this is the Communities Board, chaired by the Cabinet member for Communities, with a senior Police representative as Vice Chair.

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act places a statutory duty on CSPs to develop a strategic plan which addresses multi-agency community safety issues affecting quality of life for residents.

The Strategic themes in the Partnership Plan are developed using the findings from a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) which brings together analysis of multi-agency intelligence from across community safety partners.

This refresh of the Partnership SIA is been undertaken to ensure the themes remain valid and any exceptions / areas of future focus are highlighted. There is a full review every 3 years. This first draft of the SIA is subject to ongoing discussions with partners and theme groups, alongside scrutiny, to finalise the document,

Strategic Intelligence Assessment (Annual Refresh) Key Messages (Appendix A)

The Draft Executive Summary of the Refresh of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment is shown in Appendix A.

From these findings, it is recommended that the Partnership Plan Themes remain the same with a continued focus on the following existing priorities:

Violence and Exploitation

- **Violence** – Development of Kirklees Strategy and Action plans to implement new Serious Violence Duty and West Yorkshire Violence against Women and girls strategy.
- **Exploitation** – Focus on preventing young people becoming involved in Urban Street Gangs (see footnote 1, for definition) and consequently at risk of Serious Violence.
- **Domestic Abuse** – Better understand what is behind the levels of repeat victims/incidents

Neighbourhood Crime and ASB

- **Neighbourhood Crime** – Partnership Strategy and action plan to be developed to supplement police response to Neighbourhood Crime through a place lens.

Inclusive and Resilient Communities

- **Migration & Asylum** – develop overarching strategy and governance to steer operational response and links between programmes that will ensure robust and supportive services that meet need and mitigate impact as required.
- **Hate Crime** – Identify how we can strengthen our hate crime prevention work

Reducing Risk

- **Drugs and Alcohol** – Local strategy and governance structures in place to meet new statutory requirements to establish Combatting Drugs Partnership to steer delivery and oversight of effective prevention, treatment and recovery and enforcement (links with serious violence).

A Spotlight on Road Safety (Appendix B)

Although the number of Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Casualties are generally reducing, road safety continues to be a top priority in terms of Community Safety Concerns for local people.

When this is explored, there appear to be place/neighbourhood specific issues although common areas of concern are speeding, loud vehicles and anti-social / dangerous parking.

The Communities Partnership Road Safety Strategy focuses on contributory factors to collisions, namely Vehicles, People, Locations and Times / Seasonality.

The refreshed Strategic Intelligence Assessment highlights the need to develop targeted approaches to address local concerns and ensure there is effective engagement and involvement of communities in neighbourhoods improving road safety ranging from use of hand-held community Speed Indicator Devices through to more collective action/campaigns to promote safer driving – further detail is provided in Appendix B.

A Spotlight on Serious Violence (Appendix C)

Serious violence includes offences such as homicide, violence against the person (e.g., knife and gun crime) and broader offending which might lead to serious violence such as drug dealing (particularly gang related), domestic abuse and alcohol related offending.

Serious violence is already an identified key priority within the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan. The national Serious Violence Strategy published in 2018 allocated funding to 18 areas most affected by serious violence (SV). In 2019 the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was established and gained resources to focus on preventing and responding to serious violence.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 provides new duties in respect to Serious Violence. The specific new Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities (Duty Holders) to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. Exact timescales for the implementation are due to be confirmed shortly and we are working locally and regionally with partners to meet our responsibilities under the duty.

The refreshed SIA document, which has been developed using a range of data sets and profiles, such as the Kirklees Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Local Profile, and the Kirklees Violence Reduction Needs Assessment highlights that whilst Serious Violence has reduced overall, there have been a small number of serious knife related incidents (some of which potentially connected with Urban Street Gangs (*see note (1) below*) which have created significant media interest and concern within communities. The most recent SOC profile highlights the top three wards for Most Serious Violence are also linked with high areas of deprivation and include town centres – Huddersfield and Dewsbury.

Urban Street Gangs are often young people, and not necessarily linked to organised crime groups. Datasets and intelligence is required from a variety of sources to understand the issues and challenges, alongside insight from the young people themselves via services that work directly with them, such as the Youth Engagement Service, and local voluntary and community groups.

A comprehensive partnership programme of work has been developed which focuses on (1) preventing people from committing violence, (2) intervening early to prevent individuals becoming entrenched in serious violence and (3) pursuing, disrupting and prosecuting those who commit serious violence. Further detail can be found in Appendix C.

Work on Serious Violence takes place across Kirklees, although there has been particular focus on some of the Wards which have been identified as priority areas for enhanced work.

Findings from the refreshed SIA alongside ongoing engagement with communities and partners highlight the need to continue the focused approach on tackling serious violence both to prevent immediate harm and reduce risk factors in the longer term.

*(1) Urban Street gangs are gangs formed by youths in urban areas, and are known primarily for street fighting. The term "street gang" is commonly refers to neighbourhood or street-based youth groups that meet "gang" criteria. Urban street gangs tend to be less organised than OCGs and more concerned with perpetuating a threat of violence or harm across a geographical area related to the gang's main activities. These types of gangs can be involved in varied forms of serious criminality that can have a significant impact on local communities. The term "Gang" does not have a precise definition. Section 34(5) of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015, provides that something is 'gang related' if it occurs in the course of, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that:
Consists of at least three people; and
Has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group.*

2. Information required to take a decision

A decision is not required, but a contribution from the Overview and Management Scrutiny Committee in the review and refinement of the current delivery to ensure priorities remain appropriate focused is welcomed.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Communities Partnership Plan will continue to put the victims and witnesses of crime and disorder at the heart of our approach, we want to be better at capturing the lived experience of our most vulnerable residents to inform future service delivery. We acknowledge that supporting the victims and witness of crime and disorder, including repeat victims, cuts across all aspects of any Community Safety Plan, and we will continue to work closely with colleagues in Adult and Children's safeguarding to ensure our most vulnerable individuals and communities are supported.

Our restorative approach of working 'with' local people and elected members to solve problems at the earliest possible opportunity compliments our overarching work around prevention and early intervention, building on the positives within communities.

3.2 Working with Partners

It is vital that partners work collaboratively and with local communities to create safer communities and provide reassurance. The Communities Partnership Plan will continue to build upon the relationships already in place, such as utilising approaches from Public Health to tackle serious violence and harnessing the expertise and capacity in local communities to achieve the desired shared outcomes.

The cross-cutting nature of crime and disorder means that collaboration with other Boards is essential in achieving successful outcomes. Issues such as Exploitation and Youth Violence are priorities for both the Communities Board and the Children's Partnership therefore continuing to build collaboration and identifying shared outcomes and approaches is essential to our success moving forward.

3.3 Place Based Working

It is critical that the diverse geography and communities of Kirklees are at the forefront of delivering the Communities Partnership Plan. Through the development and delivery of local action plans, areas will see enhanced service delivery to tackle the current issue and to prevent future issues

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

As part of our commitment to climate change and air quality Safer Kirklees continue to use electric vehicles which enables our Community and Environmental Support Officers to travel across the district in an environmentally friendly way. Virtual working has resulted in a significant decrease in the use of paper for partnership meetings with most if not all meetings being paper free. The Partnership does however still acknowledge the need and benefit of meeting face to face, especially with local communities, residents and the most vulnerable and continues to increase its visibility post restrictions.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The strategic themes within the Partnership Plan all have an impact upon children and young people within Kirklees. We have made significant investment in children and young people in our approach to Domestic Abuse and our work to reduce violence in under 25s in partnership with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, which should support the prevention of future generations becoming involved in/or the victim of serious crime. The Partnership are engaging in new and emerging issues such as water safety where we will look to reduce this risk at the earliest opportunity through education, prevention and early intervention

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

Being the victim of crime, anti-social behaviour or road safety problems has a significant impact on individuals and communities at both an emotional and economic perspective. Research has shown a recurrent pattern of increases in crimes such as burglary and shoplifting during economic downturns – there is some evidence highlighting diversification of offending into lower risk / higher gain offending such as fraud (including online). Where tensions are reduced and communities are more inclusive, there are more opportunities for collaborative working to achieve shared outcomes.

3.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

The Partnership in exercising its requirements under Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 should prepare an annual PSIA and prepare and implement a Community Safety Plan. In 2022, the partnership will be required to prepare and implement a strategy to tackle serious violence with the introduction of a new statutory duty. The Legal challenges and demands associated with tackling our most prolific ASB offenders continues to be time consuming and costly.

4. Consultation

The Communities Partnership Board will review the emerging findings and initial thoughts on areas of focus. There will be an opportunity for political groups, partners, ward members and Voluntary & Community Sector groups to receive a briefing relating to the SIA refresh and associated Partnership Plan delivery and this will inform the delivery moving forward.

5. Engagement

The Refresh of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment is produced in collaboration with Theme Group Leads and key partners who are responsible for delivering Partnership Plan themes and therefore are able to provide additional insight and sense checking.

6. Next steps and timelines

The refreshed Strategic Intelligence Assessment will be used to review and highlight areas for additional focus. The final SIA, engagement feedback and recommendations will be discussed at Communities Board in March 2023.

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee provide views on the key findings from the refreshed Strategic Intelligence Assessment and associated areas of focus for Communities Partnership Plan delivery.

8. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Scrutiny is asked to note the report and updates and give views on the emerging priority themes for the Partnership plan

9. Contact officer

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10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

A copy of the draft refresh of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment is appended to this report. Scrutiny has been engaged with in the development of the current Partnership Plan.

11. Service Director responsible

Jill Greenfield
Service Director Communities and Access Services