

REPORT TITLE: Communities Plan update and Strategic Intelligence Assessment refresh.

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	9 May 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Amanda Pinnock
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No – scrutiny report
<p>Purpose of Report To provide an update on the refresh of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) and Communities Plan priorities overseen by the Communities Board, this is ahead of a new Communities Plan for 2026 -29, which also means a full SIA review.</p> <p>The report highlights that based on reported crime levels in the district in the year ending September 2024 the crime rate in Kirklees (95.39 per 1,000 of the population) was lower than the average for the West Yorkshire area (120.04 per 1,000). There are no significant community safety concerns being raised as a result of the SIA (based on the data available at the time of the report being produced). What is being proposed is strengthening even further how we work together as a whole partnership to raise awareness of the concerns, and any community responses required.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) OSMC to support the priorities for 2025/6 b) OSMC to support the full review of the SIA (commencing April 2025) with a new 2026-29 Communities Plan to be drafted by late 2025. c) Councillor engagement on the revision of the full Communities Plan takes place from June to October 2025 d) To note the progress the partnership has made during 2024/5 in a highlight report appendix 2 	
Resource Implications: None	
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford 24.3.25 Service Director Childrens Services 
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney 26.3.2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Sam Lawton 26.3.2025

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

a. Background

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

The SIA focuses on the 4 themes in the Communities Partnership Plan:

- Tackling Violence, Exploitation and Abuse
- Reducing Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour
- Building Resilient & Inclusive Communities
- Reducing Risk

The Strategic themes in the Communities Partnership Plan were developed using the findings from a full Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) in 2022 which brought together analysis of multi-agency intelligence from across community safety partners. The annual Partnership SIA refresh is used to make sure the Partnership Plan themes remain valid, and any exceptions / areas of future focus are highlighted and actioned.

There is a full review every 3 years, this will start to take place from April 2025 with draft completion in late 2025.

b. Strategic Intelligence Assessment refresh 2025 and planned development work

The SIA development is supported by the Council's Data and Insight Service working alongside the Communities Service and partners. The SIA should be an all-encompassing overview of what affects communities, drawing on partnership data and perceptions feedback. It is recognised that there is work to develop this insight further, working alongside analysts in the Police and Fire service and linking across other data and sources of information we hold in the Council and our partners in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

As a result of this year's SIA there are no areas of significant concern based on the reported crime data available at the time of producing the report. There are key theme areas that are being proposed as priorities the Community Safety Partnership should have a focussed partnership response on, these are in relation to early intervention and prevention, such as awareness raising and increasing confidence in reporting.

Work is in development with the Community Safety Partnership (Communities Board) and sub-groups, and these are the key areas being progressed:

- ***New Partnership Key Performance Measures***

Each key theme area e.g. Domestic Abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Hate Crime have been working on developing a set of performance measures that can be tracked and reported every quarter. Once partners have agreed appropriate measures, this will be developed into a reporting framework that we can use to track partnership progress on a more frequent whole partnership basis rather than annually through the SIA refresh. This will be in place by May 2025.

- ***Communities Partnership Plan - Theme priorities and delivery plan***

Alongside having enhanced partnership performance measures in place, all theme groups are using the data and insight available to agree practical achievable priorities for action for 2025/26 that can be reviewed and reported on to the Communities Board in a simple overarching delivery and performance plan.

- ***Place Based Planning***

This year, further work to understand the Communities Plan priorities relevant at Place level has and is developing, this will ensure the Communities Plan is understood from the perspective of the community and that partnership resources can be used as effectively as possible. A review of the existing Place

Based Communities Outcomes Groups (COG's -- problem solving groups working with Police, Fire etc) has taken place and recommended that the groups move to having a broader planning approach with focus on early intervention and prevention.

c. SIA and Partnership Plan Refresh 2025

The 2022 Communities Partnership Plan set out how partners would work collaboratively to create a safer Kirklees. The current areas sitting under each of the themes are prioritised based on issues raised in the SIA and performance against partnership indicators and measures. For each Partnership theme area, there have been stakeholder meetings to go through the data available. Place based sessions have also taken place with stakeholders and a final session with the stakeholders from the Communities Board took place in February 2025.

Appendix 1 provides a high-level summary of the priorities for 2025/6, including several areas highlighted as proposed partnership priorities that need a more intensive partnership focus to work together, because of the impact this has on individuals and communities.

d. Partners Involved

In December 2024, January 2025 and February 2025

- Key partners for each of the Theme areas of the plan have met to discuss the data and add their own service or organisation’s perspective. Those involved were key Council Services, Police, Fire Service, Integrated Care Board (ICB), Criminal Justice Services, Victim Support etc.
- Place based sessions have also taken place to hear localised feedback from key services and stakeholders.
- The Communities Board Strategic Delivery Group held a data and insight session
- Communities Board stakeholders held a data and insight session to review information
- To be presented to the Communities Board in May 2025 with OSMC feedback as part of the consultation process

e. Partnership Proposed Priorities 2025/6

Please see below the high-level overview of the proposed priorities in the Communities Plan and SIA refresh. High level detail is in Appendix 1. All existing priorities remain in place but there are key areas as highlighted below where additional partnership focus is being proposed.

	As a result of partnership consultation these are the Priorities that are being proposed for an intensive overarching partnership oversight and response
	The priority level remains the same as last year for risk it hasn't increased
	The priority level has increased on last year as a result of data and /or partners are feeding back this is an area where we need to look to do more working together
	The level of risk has reduced based on last years data/reporting and insight from partners

Strategic Theme 1: Tackling Violence, Abuse & Exploitation			
2023/24		2024/25	
P	→	P	Serious Violence
P	↑	P	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
P	→	P	Domestic Abuse
P	→	P	Modern Slavery including Exploitation
P	→	P	Youth Exploitation

Strategic Theme 2: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Crime			
2023/24		2024/25	
P	→	P	Anti-Social Behaviour
P	→	P	Neighbourhood Crime

Strategic Theme 3: Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities			
2023/24		2024/25	
P	↑	P	Community Tensions
P	→	P	Hate Crime
P	→	P	Migration and Asylum
P	↑	P	PREVENT
P	↑	P	Inclusive Communities Framework

Strategic Theme 4: Reducing Risk			
2023/24		2024/25	
P	↓	P	Road Safety
P	→	P	Water Safety
P	→	P	Drugs and Alcohol
P	→	P	Reducing Re-offending

f. Alignment with West Yorkshire Combined Authority

The Kirklees Communities Board and its Partners work closely with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), who are core members of the Communities Board, to ensure there is strategic alignment between policies and priorities and the sharing of best practice. This includes supporting the delivery of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2025 and its associated outcomes which are strongly linked within the existing Communities plan [Police and Crime Plan on the page leaflet](#) and will be as we review the Communities Plan for 2026-29

g. Communities Plan Review 2026

Since the Communities Partnership Plan runs on a 3-year cycle, from April 2025 work will take place to ensure there will be a full (as opposed to the annual refresh) Strategic Intelligence Assessment undertaken and subsequent full review and revision of the Communities Partnership Plan priorities.

A plan for this will be in place from May 2025 which will recognise the importance of working with our partners, utilising existing assessments (such as the Councils Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Police Profiles), multi-agency data, insight and perceptions information to pool collective understanding and insight for the District. The review of the Communities Plan links to the work already taking place to look at existing performance measures, meeting structures rationalisation and developing further work at a place level .

2. Information required to take a decision

This is for information and a decision on anything further that OSMC may want further information and insight on.

3. Implications for the Council

This is to support the Council's delivery of the Council Plan working with people, and alongside our partners, and in our places to achieve our ambition.

3.1 Working with People

The 2022 Partnership Plan was developed taking onboard the voices and experiences of communities' helping shape the services and support we deliver and improve how we work alongside communities to prevent and resolve community issues that impact of staying safe. Available perception information has been used to inform the revised SIA this year.

3.2 Working with Partners

A range of partners have been involved in the development of the SIA refresh which includes Police, Fire Service, Integrated Care Board (ICB), Probation, Victim Support at a district and a Place based level.

3.3 Place Based Working

For 2025/26 the delivery of the Communities Plan priorities will be embedded further in to Place Based working. The Community Outcome (Place based) groups will oversee the place-based delivery providing support and challenge, ensuring where needed we are coordinating delivery and engagement at place and as needed at neighbourhood level.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

None

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

By refreshing and ensuring the Communities Partnership Plan is updated based on the data and insight available in the SIA, this will work to ensure that children and families under the themes of the partnership plan will be supported by the partnership to stay safe and live in cohesive communities. The work of the Communities Board will link with the work and priorities of the Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Board as and where agreed.

3.6 Financial Implications

A robust intelligence led community safety partnership plan with clear priorities will contribute to effective interventions and prevention activity being delivered across the partnership, reducing the overall cost of crime and wider community safety issues. The cost of crime to victims is not only significant but can be long lasting.

The costs of each serious violence offence type in Kirklees has been estimated by multiplying the number of recorded crimes between July 2023 and June 2024, by the unit cost of crime provided by the Home Office. These unit costs have been adjusted to factor in inflation rates since the publication of the [original](#) (see link for further information nationally) costs in 2018. Please note this figure of inflation is an estimate that has been calculated using the Bank of England Inflation Calculator. The overall estimated cost for Serious Violence in Kirklees is £187,167,599.

3.7 Legal Implications

None

3.8 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

4. Consultation

In developing the SIA and refresh key partners from across the Community Board partnership and Theme Groups and place-based Community Outcome Groups have been consulted. Children's Senior Leadership Team has also been consulted on the priorities resulting from the refresh.

5. Engagement

In developing the SIA and refresh key partners from across the Community Board and Theme Groups and place-based Community Outcome Groups have been engaged.

6. Options

The only option for 2025/26 was to provide a refresh of the SIA and Communities Partnership Plan using the existing approach and for a full review starting April 2025.

6.1 Options considered.

Going forward it is proposed we have a refreshed approach as to how we continuously review the SIA as a District and at Place working using a consistent set of performance measures per theme area

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

The only option for 2025/26 was to provide a refresh of the SIA and Communities Partnership Plan using the existing approach.

7. Next steps and timelines

- a. From mid-April 2025 work alongside the Councils Data and Insight Service and partners to fully review the SIA, all data and insight available from a range of sources to inform a 2026-29 Communities Plan to be drafted by late 2025
- b. May 2025 - Present feedback to Communities Board from OSMC on proposed priority areas for 2025/6
- c. May 2025 new performance measures per theme area are in place and being reported on quarterly from the end of quarter one.
- d. June/July 2025 - The Communities Partnership Plan priorities are formulated into a clear thematic delivery plan that partners report against every quarter, with issues and positive work being escalated to the Communities Board, in reports provided for each meeting.
- e. By July 2025 onwards the existing Place Based Community Outcomes Groups (Place based partnership meetings including the Council, Police, Fire etc) to have oversight of the place-based delivery of the Communities Partnership Plan having key communities in view this includes the areas that will have a more intensive focus in response to the Serious Violence Duty.
- f. Ward based Councillor engagement on the revision of the full Communities Partnership Plan takes from June 25 - October 25 developed working alongside the Councils Active Citizen Team

- g. Late 2025/early 2026 a revised Communities Partnership Plan will be drafted.
- h. Draft Communities Partnership Plan to be presented to OSMC for feedback – date TBC.

8. Contact officer

Sarah Mitchell – Head of Communities

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

10. Appendices

Please see

- Appendix 1 SIA high level Summary
- Appendix 2 Highlight Report 2024/25

11. Service Director responsible Jill Greenfield - Service Director Communities and Access Services

Appendix 1 – High Level Summary of SIA

Below is a high-level summary of the existing priorities in the Communities Partnership Plan. At this stage there is no suggestion to remove or change any priorities, these have been in place since 2022 and remain highly relevant. There are existing Partnership structures in place for each priority area, some led by the Council and some led by our partners in Fire, Police or Probation that keep the Partnership work in view. What is being proposed is that in some identified areas there is additional partnership focus - this could be because there needs to be greater awareness, or/ and it is felt to be a significant impact on communities e. g Anti- Social Behaviour (ASB) and Domestic Abuse or that more needs to be understood about a priority area and there are factors that could impact on this

The Data and Insight Service have been used to check the existing priorities for any significant changes and improved performance reporting will be in place from May 2025 for each priority below which will then support informing any changes the Partnership suggest are made for a new plan for 2026-29.

	As a result of partnership consultation these are the Priorities that are being proposed for an intensive overarching partnership oversight and response
	The priority level remains the same as last year for risk it hasn't increased
	The priority level has increased on last year as a result of data and /or partners are feeding back this is an area where we need to look to do more working together
	The level of risk has reduced based on last years data/reporting and insight from partners

Strategic Theme 1: Tackling Violence, Abuse & Exploitation			Strategic Theme 2: Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Crime		
2023/24		2024/25	2023/24		2024/25
P	→	P	P	→	P
					
		Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)			Anti-Social Behaviour
P	↑	P	P	→	P
					
		Domestic Abuse			Neighbourhood Crime
P	→	P			
		Modern Slavery including Exploitation			
P	→	P			
		Youth Exploitation			
Strategic Theme 3: Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities			Strategic Theme 4: Reducing Risk		
2023/24		2024/25	2023/24		2024/25
P	↑	P	P	↓	P
					
		Community Tensions			Road Safety
P	→	P	P	→	P
					
		Hate Crime			Water Safety
P	→	P	P	→	P
					
		Migration and Asylum			Drugs and Alcohol
P	↑	P	P	→	P
					
		PREVENT			Reducing Re-offending
P	↑	P			
					
		Inclusive Communities Framework			

1. Tackling Violence, Abuse & Exploitation: RAG Rating Summary high level priorities

a. Serious Violence

Based on the existing partnership KPI's as a District the number of recorded violent offences for April to December 2024/25 (3,473 Offences) are below those of the same period in 2023/24 (3,574) by 3%. Although this is positive, we do have identified locations where there has been an increase in serious organised crime (SOC) threats. Those locations will have a Place based priority for partnership awareness, coordination and response.

The overall trend in West Yorkshire since 2019 is that violent crime is decreasing, however West Yorkshire are still above the most similar groups with 64.5 violent crimes per 1,000 residents, with Kirklees having a rate of 55.6 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.

It is proposed that Serious Violence remains a priority and that a report is received quarterly into the Communities Board from the Kirklees Violence Reduction Partnership and the partnership will have key locations in view

b. Domestic Abuse

As a District based on the existing Partnership KPI this has improved in the last 12 months as Domestic Abuse incidents have reduced by almost 6% (down 815 incidents from 11,981 to 11,166). Partners have fed back concerns with regards to under reporting and also the number of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) and capacity of Partners in responding to those.

Across England, the number of domestic abuse-related offences decreased 8% compared with the year-end June 2023 (906,708 recorded offences). This decrease is mainly because of decreases in violence against the person offences (from 715,951 offences).

It is Proposed that Domestic Abuse continues to be an area of Partnership intensive focus for 2025/6 to ensure full partnership awareness and support with the aim of early intervention and prevention to reduce risk and harm. The Kirklees Domestic Abuse Board will report quarterly to the Communities Board

c. **Violence Against Women and Girls**

The Partnership KPI for the number of sexual and rape incidents with a female victim across the district has increased by 91 reported offences in the last 12 month (2023 - 1046 incidents, 2024 1137 incidents) Partners felt strongly VAWG and sexual violence is an area of under reporting and warranted a strong Partnership focus across the whole partnership.

It is proposed that VAWG is an area of Partnership intensive focus. The VAWG Partnership will report into Communities Board every quarter.

d. **Modern Day Slavery (MDS)**

In the rolling 12 months to 30th June 2024 West Yorkshire Police recorded a total of 74 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), this is a reduction of 4% (-4) (actual reduction number 4) for the Partnership KPI when compared to the 12 months. We would expect to see an increase in referrals and work will continue to raise awareness as with all forms of exploitation

The number of NRM referrals has steadily decreased throughout the year which appears to be in line with the rate of crimes recorded. West Yorkshire Police are the main contributors to referrals with Local Authorities following, closely followed by Government Authorities.

MDS remains a partnership priority and awareness raising and training will continue but also as part of a wider offer on raising awareness and reducing exploitation overall.

2. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Crime: Summary

a. **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Personal ASB – Targeted towards an individual or a household - there is currently no partnership KPI although there is data on this area. This type of ASB has a significant impact on people's lives. There has been a 10% reduction in noise complaints in 2024 (3,096) when compared with 2023 (3,432). Domestic noise is the main contributor to this type of complaint and accounts for over 50% of the noise complaints in 2024 (1,734), followed by animal noise or dogs barking which account for 26% (792).

Nuisance - impacts on the wider community and covers issues such as rowdy behaviour and fireworks Based on the Partnership KPI this has reduced by 4.3% (from 4,508 to 4,352) as a district in the 12 months to November 2024 compared with the previous year. Nuisance motorcycles continue to make up the largest proportion followed by youth related incidents. There are identified locations across the district, and this links across to reducing serious violence and early intervention and prevention in identified communities. Increases in antisocial behaviour are evident during spring and summer (e.g. April–July 2023 and similar peaks in 2024) when people are spending more time outside. Potential contributing factors include school holidays, local festivals, or sporting events drawing large crowds. Decreases are noticeable during colder months, such as November 2023–January 2024. This trend aligns with fewer outdoor activities and colder weather discouraging public gatherings, however the number of incidents remains lower compared to summer months.

Environmental - relates to issues such as graffiti and fly-tipping, this impacts on fear of crime and tend to increase if not dealt with quickly. Number of reports are up 35% in the last year from 6,420 to 8,680 incidents - deliberate fires are often linked to this type of ASB. This increase is due to a range of reasons including increased reporting an multiple reports of the same issue, 'man in van' social

media cheap offer to take away waste that then gets dumped, repeat issues in identified locations and also recording of bagged rubbish which have been left at the side of the road and subsequently gets reported as fly tipping (particularly if other items are also left over a period of time).

According to national Police data (Jan-Aug 2024), the rate of ASB incidents in West Yorkshire is 8.2 per 1,000 population. Kirklees is performing best amongst the other West Yorkshire areas with a rate of 7.3 ASB incidents per 1,000 population. Wakefield has the highest rate of ASB incidents at 10.4 per 1,000 population.

It is proposed ASB is a priority for intensive Partnership focus for 2025/6 due to the impact this can have on individuals and communities it affects. There are identified locations that will be in view. There will be a quarterly assurance report for each Communities Board from the ASB partnership group.

b. Neighbourhood Crime

The total crime trend in Kirklees is reducing, in 2023/24 there were 45,329 total crime offences recorded and this year it is forecasted to reduce further to below 44,000 crimes. The trend for residential burglary incidents is reducing, April to December 2024/25 has seen a 13% reduction (-147) in the number of incidents, to 951 incidents, the 12-month forecasted figure is 1,268 and below the 1,307 offences target.

Vehicle offences have reduced as a District but there are identified Wards where theft of and from has increased Neighbourhood crime to continue to be a partnership priority for 2025/6

When comparing to the other West Yorkshire authorities, according to the most recent data, Kirklees has the lowest recorded total crime rate per 1,000 population at 94.8, compared with 116.7 for West Yorkshire, it is also just below the most similar groups average of 98.9.

Neighbourhood Crime will remain a priority for the partnership but at this time not additional focus or changes to what is already in place.

3. Building Inclusive and Resilient Communities – Summary

Following a discussion with the Communities Board stakeholders it was felt this overall theme area needed to be an intensive focus for the Communities Board and partnerships that sit within its structures to ensure awareness and that we are working together to mitigate any risks and concerns for and with communities.

a. Community Tensions

There is currently no Partnership KPI for this area. More community insight/ an ask for Partnership support to use Kirklees community tensions and Partnership Intelligence Portal will be taking place. International, National and past Kirklees events is a concern and further work will take place to ensure Officers and communities are aware of what a Community Tension is and what insight needs to go into the Partnership Intelligence Portal (PIP) and Kirklees tensions processes.

b. Hate Crime

The number of hate crimes steadily increased from 2017 peaking in 2022 but there was a 10 % reduction last year and this is continuing which is the existing performance measure. Partners do feel that this is an area of potential underreporting, and more partnership support is needed.

c. Preventing Extremism

There is currently no Partnership KPI for Prevent. However, the Prevent programme in Kirklees is annually assessed by the Home Office against their agreed Benchmarking Standards. Kirklees still has priority status and works with the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Police.

D. Migration

There is currently no partnership KPI for Migration. Over the past year the numbers of people seeking sanctuary has been the most stable since 2021 and Kirklees has continued to be a place of welcome for those seeking sanctuary.

d. Inclusive Communities

Partnership strong focus will continue to be needed for 2025/6, reflecting on how inclusive we are as a Council and partnership and embedding the Inclusive Communities Framework further [Inclusive Communities Framework | Kirklees Council](#)

Reducing Risk: Summary

a. Road Safety

Overall, the number of people killed and seriously injured (KSI) because of road traffic collisions has reduced by 20% There has been a reduction in the number of KSI casualties in Kirklees from 229 in 2023 to 184 in 2024 Road safety reported into scrutiny in January 2025

Road Safety is still a priority for the Partnership, but the concerns compared to last year and information from Highways suggest this has decreased. Existing partnership arrangements have Road Safety in view. The District Commander for Fire is Communities Board Deputy Board Chair, Cllr Pinnock and the Portfolio Holder for Communities Service and the Chair of the Communities Board now sits on the Vision Zero Board

b. Water Safety

The KPI is to have a reduction in demand for partnership resources due to risky behaviours. As of December 2024, there have been no admissions relating to submersion or drowning in natural water for 2024. Water safety is still a Partnership priority but Partnership arrangements and support in place at the existing level is as needed and no changes in concerns.

c. Drugs and Alcohol

Drug related crime is increasing in Kirklees with offences relating to possession of drugs and trafficking controlled substances going up from 1,425 offences in 2023 to 1,504 offences in 2024. Locations are identified as part of the Serious Organised Crime Profile. Good connections are in place with the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) as this cuts across many areas of the Communities Plan and Board.

Still a Priority for the Partnership but existing arrangements and support in place and this links across to Serious Violence arrangements and further work is progressing through the CDP and Communities Board.

d. Reducing Reoffending

Reduction in first time entrants for Criminal Justice Service - There were a total of 65 children entering the criminal justice system in Kirklees the 12 months to up to April 2024 - this is a reduction from 85 the previous year (24% reduction). The reduction in the number of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System is mirrored regionally and nationally.

This will remain as a priority as a Partnership and as with Drugs and Alcohol it cuts across other elements of the Communities Plan and Partnership.

Reducing Adult Reoffending - The Probation caseload is increasing and has increased by 5% since September 2023 to 2,325 cases in July 2024. Nationally the number of offenders under probation supervision has increased by 1% in the 12-months to September 2024 but there has been a 9% increase since September 2014.

This area remains a partnership priority and cuts across many aspects of the Communities Plan. Kirklees Reducing Reoffending Strategy is being revised and will come to the Communities Board in the next 6 months.