

Report of Corporate Director of Health, Housing & Adult Social Care

## **An Introduction to Safer York Partnership**

### **Summary**

1. As the structure of Policy and Scrutiny Committees has changed, the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee now holds the portfolio for Community Safety. This report provides a comprehensive overview of Safer York Partnership, the statutory community safety partnership (CSP) for the City of York.

### **Background**

2. Following changes to the senior management structure within City of York Council in September 2016, Housing and Community Safety transferred from the former Directorate of Communities and Neighbourhoods to a newly formed Directorate of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care. The scrutiny arrangements which support all service delivery within City of York Council have also been realigned with the portfolio for Community Safety being held by the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.
  - 2.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 made provision for a range of changes to the way in which Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) fulfil their responsibilities in relation to tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse in their locality. These changes contained in sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Act include a requirement that local authority scrutiny structures should consider crime and disorder matters.
  - 2.2 The statutory partnerships originally created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder were originally known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP). Their role and remit has extended with changes in legislation to include reducing reoffending and changes to policing. The key changes have been as follows:

- Police and Justice Act 2006 – introducing the role of scrutiny and the requirement to undertake a Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment to underpin the three year community safety strategy. Introducing the probation service as a statutory partner
- Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011- changing police accountability to introduce the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

2.3 Despite amendments to the role and remit of a community safety partnership, the core requirements set out within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 remain very much at the heart of the CSP remit. These are:

- Preparing an annual strategic assessment. This is a document identifying the crime and community safety priorities in the area, through the analysis of information provided by partner agencies and the community
- Producing an annual three year rolling partnership plan, laying out the approach for addressing those priorities
- Undertaking community consultation and engagement on community safety issues; and
- Sharing information between the responsible authorities other partners within the CSP.

2.4 Community Safety is not just about the police. Like every challenging outcome that local authorities and their partners deliver for communities, community safety needs a wide range of people and organisations to be involved and contributing to address crime and its causes. The statutory partners that make up a CSP are as follows:

- The local authority
- The police
- Fire and Rescue
- Health (Currently involving both Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups)
- Probation (now split to include National Probation Service and the Local Community Rehabilitation Company)

## 2.5 Local Authority

The council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with due regard to the need to prevent crime and disorder in its area. Many of the factors which affect levels of crime, offending and anti-social behaviour are the responsibility of the local authority, such as housing, education, social services, safeguarding, planning and alcohol licensing. They also have a significant role in relation to children and young people and local authority functions such as the Youth Offending Team and Local Children's' Safeguarding Boards are important contributors to community safety.

## 2.6 Police

The police play a crucial role in preventing and detecting crime, protecting and reassuring communities and pursuing and bringing to justice those who break the law. They are a key partner but their role is much strengthened by the ability to contribute their warranted police powers to a much stronger and effective process of multi-agency problem solving.

## 2.7 Fire and Rescue

Fire and Rescue have a relatively focused remit, but are committed and enthusiastic members of community safety partnerships. Their main contribution is through fire safety education focusing on young people within communities who may be vulnerable, road safety, emergency response and being a positive mentor and role model to young people.

## 2.8 Health

Health are a critical partner where health has a role in community safety. This includes tackling misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances and commissioning and providing treatment services. They also provide advice and treatment to those who put themselves at risk through their use of drugs or alcohol, provide crucial support to victims of domestic abuse and work with local partners to help prevent problems from occurring. Eg by alerting the police to locations where a lot of alcohol related injuries occur.

## 2.9 Probation

Probation play a key role in protecting the public, reducing reoffending, rehabilitation of offenders and ensuring that offenders are aware of the effect their behaviour has on communities. This is delivered through packages of support aimed at addressing those factors which contribute to offending behaviour. Their work is split between the National Probation Service and Local Community Rehabilitation Companies. Their respective contributions are pulled together under the Local Criminal Justice Board which has strong links to the CSP.

### **How Community Safety is Delivered in York**

3. Safer York Partnership is the Community Safety Partnership for the City of York. It was established in 1999 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and built on an already successful existing local partnership between the local authority and the police. York was part of the Safe Cities Scheme in the 1980s and as such had already formed a strategic partnership aimed at keeping the city safe. It is this strong foundation that has contributed to Safer York Partnerships success and reputation and this has frequently been recognised by the Home Office.
- 3.1 Safer York Partnership works with the police to carry out an annual Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which sets the priorities for the partnership and shapes the Community Safety Strategy. Each strategy is for three years but is refreshed annually to reflect changing patterns of crime in the city and allow the partnership to respond to emerging issues.
- 3.2 To reflect changes in local policing and reductions in the resources available to deliver community safety outcomes, the partnership has adapted to focus more on those issues which pose the biggest threat harm and risk to communities and in particularly those individuals who are most vulnerable. The recently adopted Community Safety Strategy is less focused on traditional crime types and places more emphasis on improving quality of life and reducing risk. The strategic priorities contained within the plan address those crime types which impact most significantly on quality of life and communities. However, the crime prevention role has not been lost. Through the Ward Planning teams, the Safer York Partnership Website and social media, the partnership is able to continue to empower communities by providing advice which will help to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of crime.

## The Community Safety Unit

4. The work of Safer York Partnership is specifically supported by a Community Safety Unit located in West Offices. Since 2014, this unit has had the added benefit of five operational police officers working alongside City of York Council community safety staff. The unit fulfils a dual role supporting the wider partnership working and multi-agency problem solving that underpins delivery of the community safety plan but also works specifically to tackle anti-social behaviour – a priority for the police, local authority and communities across the city.
- 4.1 The Community Safety Unit links closely with the neighbourhood policing teams and the newly formed multi-agency Local Area Teams providing support, undertaking daily and weekly risk assessments and working towards resolving the most complex and highest risk cases of anti-social behaviour. A dedicated Neighbourhood Enforcement Team works to tackle environmental anti-social behaviour but also brings additional powers under the Anti-social behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to provide quick responses to those issues which impact significantly on quality of life. Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers have access to police radios and participate in planned operations designed to address those issues of greatest concern including tackling the impact of alcohol on anti-social behaviour at weekends and carrying out patrols in hot-spot locations across the city.
- 4.2 The Community Safety Unit sits within the Directorate of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care within City of York Council. There are very strong thematic links across the services that make up the directorate including safeguarding adults, housing, alcohol and drug support services. However, the complex nature of the community safety agenda also means that the team work closely with many other local authority services including Children & Education, Planning, Public Protection and Licensing.

## Council Plan

5. The Community Safety Strategy links to the following priorities within the Council Plan 2015-19:
  - **A focus on frontline services** – to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities

- **A council that listens to residents** – to ensure it delivers the services they want and works in partnership with local communities

## **Implications**

6. In producing this report the following implications have been considered
  - **Financial** – none identified
  - **Human Resources** – none identified
  - **Equalities** – none identified
  - **Legal** – Safer York Partnership is a statutory partnership identified within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
  - **Crime and Disorder** - Safer York Partnership supports the Council's discharge of its crime and disorder duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
  - **Information Technology** - none identified
  - **Property** – none identified
  - **Other** – No other implications identified

## **Risk Management**

7. There are no identified risks relevant to this report.

## **Conclusions**

8. The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced a clear role for Overview and Scrutiny Committees in overseeing the work of Community Safety Partnerships and their constituent partners. This report provides some background to the CSP and sets out the way in which community safety is delivered in York. Under the council's scrutiny arrangements bi-annual performance reports from Safer York Partnership are presented to the Scrutiny and Policy Committee.

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### Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Abbreviations

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour  
CDRP – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership  
CSA + E – Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation  
CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation  
CSP – Community Safety Partnership  
CYC – City of York Council  
CYSCB – City of York Safeguarding Children’s Board  
IDAS – Independent Domestic Abuse Service  
JCG – Joint Co-ordinating Group  
JSIA – Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment  
MoRILE – Management of Risk In Law Enforcement  
NEO – Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer  
NYFRS – North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service  
NYP – North Yorkshire Police  
OCG – Organised Crime Group  
RoSPA – Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents  
SOC – Serious Organised Crime  
SYP – Safer York Partnership  
YBAC – York Businesses Against Crime