

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

## **SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Summary**

1. Last year it was agreed that a report outlining the work that has been delivered through Safer York Partnership against the Community Safety Strategy would be reported to the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee on a bi-annual basis. This report is the half year report for 2018-19 and outlines the work that has been delivered against each of the partnership's strategic priorities.
2. With the introduction of the Community Safety Strategy 2017-20, Safer York Partnership implemented a new performance monitoring regime. This is based on delivery of outcomes by partners to demonstrate the 'added value' the community safety partnership brings to mainstream delivery of work that contributes to the partnership's priorities. Whilst the partnership considers police crime data and responds where hot spots or an increase in a crime type is emerging, performance is no longer driven by police performance data.
3. It should also be noted that due to changes in the way police data is supplied to the local authorities and the introduction of tighter data access control, CYC no longer routinely receives data recorded by the Police. This is being addressed by the Head of Business Intelligence, working with North Yorkshire Police to determine how we will receive data in future. A number of datasets, where data can be sourced from alternative national sources are within Annex 1.

### **Safer York Partnership Priorities**

3. Safer York Partnership has identified the following strategic priorities within its three year Community Safety Strategy 2017-20:

Strategic Priority	Lead Agency
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Road & River Safety	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Keeping the City Centre Safe	North Yorkshire Police
Protecting People from Harm	CYC Safeguarding Adults & Children
Tackling Anti-social Behaviour	CYC/NYP Community Safety Hub
Serious Organised Crime	North Yorkshire Police
Tackling Substance Misuse	Public Health

## Road and River Safety

- 4 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue chair the River Safety Task Group. The group have delivered awareness raising events over the summer months in the city centre. However, these events have not been well attended. Communications messages about the danger of open water, the risk of swimming in the river and the increased danger posed by the river when excessive alcohol has been consumed, continue to be promoted using social media and other communication opportunities.
- 4.1 City of York Council delivers Road Safety Training to every **Primary School** in York, and most of the **Secondary Schools**. Last Financial year (to end of March 2018) Road Safety Cycle Training was delivered to approx 1700 children and Road Safety Pedestrian Training to approx 2,500 children via York School.
- 4.2 In addition, this year (2018) saw the start of a pilot project to help schools with inconsiderate parking outside school. There are two elements to the project:- “**kiddie signs**” placed out at the school entrance morning and afternoon With supporting materials of an assembly and a fun booklet, called **Should you Sack your Chauffeur** to take home. Feedback from pilot schools is positive, with some schools going on to purchase the “kiddie signs” and continuing on with the initiative.

## Keeping the City Centre Safe

### *Operation Safari*

- 5 Operation Safari focuses on a partnership approach to tackling incidents related to the night time economy. Work continues with the ambulance service, British Transport Police, Licensing, Fire and Rescue, the Universities and Street Angels to provide support to those who are vulnerable due to excessive alcohol.

### *Operation Erase*

- 5.1 Operation Erase is a multi-agency initiative that has been running for three years and is aimed at tackling alcohol related anti-social behaviour late on Saturday afternoons. This summer's good weather combined with a number of events in the city has seen large increases in visitor numbers. Although there remains a perception that alcohol related anti-social behaviour has increased, there was a 14% reduction between 2016 and 2017 and an 11% reduction between 2017 and 2018. Much of the behaviour which is highlighted in media reports is low level nuisance rather than criminal and this is addressed through high visibility patrols by the police, BID Rangers and CYC Neighbourhood Enforcement Team.

### *City Centre Hot Spot*

- 5.2 Due to the importance of the city centre in terms of York's overall reputation as a tourist destination and the impact on the economy from visitor numbers, the City Centre has been adopted by Safer York Partnership as a Hot Spot. This is enabling partners to focus on all types of crime and anti-social behaviour related to the city centre. A hot spot group has been established which incorporates Operations Safari and Erase but also focuses on other issues such as street drinkers, beggars and nuisance related to buskers.
- 5.3 There has been an increase in the number of needles found in public areas within the city centre. The Neighbourhood Enforcement team are currently working with Public Health, the BID and Changing Lives to target this issue. Initiatives include working with needle exchanges, increased outreach services and distribution of plastic needle bins.
- 5.4 The Neighbourhood Enforcement team have planned Saturday afternoon joint patrols with Make It York with the purpose of engaging with all buskers in the city centre and to ask them not to hand their microphones to members of the public. All buskers will be provided with a laminated card they can show the public which states that they are not permitted by CYC or MIY to hand over their microphone in the interest of reducing noise nuisance and ASB.
- 5.5 In addition, officers are working with Make it York to review and update the existing Buskers' Code of Conduct, in consultation with local buskers. A Gag Mag seller in the city centre has been issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice by Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers following complaints by members of the public.

- 5.6 An entrenched rough sleeper with chronic health issues has been given a Criminal Behaviour Order with positive and negative conditions to engage with support services and not to inject in public or to leave drug paraphernalia in public spaces. The Order was sought with the full support of support and enforcement agencies represented on the City Centre ASB Task Group and has been granted for 2 years.
- 5.7 A number of Direction to Leave notices have been issued to those sleeping in tents in and around the city centre. These are always sought in partnership with the Salvation Army in order they can offer accommodation and support alongside enforcement action.
- 5.8 Work is ongoing to work with providers to manage some minor ASB associated those visiting soup kitchens in the city centre. In addition we are working with Two Ridings Community Foundation to encourage coordinated working between the various charities offering support to rough sleepers in York.
- 5.9 A new Text to Give Campaign will be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> November in partnership with the Two Ridings Community Foundation to encourage people to give to charity rather than to those on the street.

### *Business Crime*

- 5.10 York Business Against Crime continues to grow and is about to re-tender for its radio and information sharing systems. The organisation has just renewed its accreditation as a Business Crime Partnership and will continue to work with the BID and Make It York to support information sharing between retailers, licensed premises and local business.

### **Counter Terrorism**

6. The Counter Terrorism Task Group has continued to meet monthly. A programme of physical security measures for the city centre has been agreed and will be implemented in phased approach over the next twelve months. Monthly training and awareness events have been run jointly by City of York Council and the Counter Terrorism Unit. These have been well attended by a range of partners.
- 6.1 Following the successful workshop held in September 2017, a further workshop was held in September 2018 to engage specifically with the

city's tourist attractions and those organisations which hold events attracting large crowds to the city centre. Following this event, further support will be given to those organisations to assist them in developing business continuity plans, emergency plans and to provide them with further training and awareness raising. Working with North Yorkshire Police and the Counter Terrorism Unit, the task group will be developing some exercises to test evacuation plans and to highlight any gaps in the city's ability to respond to a terrorist attack or other serious incident.

## **Protecting People from Harm**

7. Work has continued with the Children's and Adult Safeguarding teams to strengthen links between the strategic boards and to facilitate better information sharing and joint working. Regular meetings taken place between the Board Chairs and the Operational Managers to identify where there are cross cutting themes that can be delivered jointly. Safer York Partnership continues to support Safeguarding Week through the promotion of key messages and support to events.

### *Domestic Abuse*

- 7.1 A Domestic Abuse operational group as a sub-group to the York and North Yorkshire Joint Co-ordinating Group has been established. This group has undertaken analysis of the MARAC scheme in York, identifying some key areas for change to facilitate better engagement from partners and more timely intelligence gathering. The group has also facilitated the re-drafting of the York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. This has now been approved, subject to minor amendments by the two Community Safety Partnerships for York and North Yorkshire. An action plan, including specific actions for the city, will now be developed and monitored through the Community Safety Partnerships.
- 7.2 A large piece of work has been undertaken by the Domestic Abuse Commissioning sub-group to produce a detailed needs analysis in order to review all domestic abuse services and develop new service specifications for a two phase tender process across the city and county. A tender process has now been undertaken and the bids are currently being evaluated with a start date for implementation in York from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### *Prevent*

7.3 Prevent Strategic Board has considered the Counter Terrorism Local Profile for York and North Yorkshire and made a number of recommendations to support local delivery through the Prevent Local Delivery Group. The Channel Panel in York has continued to meet monthly to develop the referral process and prepare for changes in the administration of the Channel system nationally, which will impact on York in around late 2019. These will see more responsibility for Channel being placed on the Local Authority rather than the police. York already has excellent safeguarding referral processes in place which are being developed to enable Prevent referrals to form part of existing practice. Since April 2018, the York Channel Panel has received four referrals, of which two have been adopted for Channel interventions.

### **Tackling Anti-social Behaviour**

8 The Joint North Yorkshire Police/City of York Council Anti-social Behaviour Hub continues to tackle the highest risk/most serious cases of anti-social behaviour identified through shared intelligence and analysis of reporting.

8.1 The hub has been dealing with one of its most time consuming cases. Complaints were received from 24 different complainants in the local area relating to a case passed to the hub in April of this year. Since that time ASB officers have obtained an Injunction, requested possession that has now been agreed by the tenant. In addition 3 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served by the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer's (NEO's) for waste accumulation in the garden. The tenants are due to leave on 21st October.

8.2 Working with colleagues in the North Yorkshire Police and Legal Services, the ASB team have obtained 3 Premises Closure Orders which have given immediate respite to neighbours, by closing the properties, in two of these cases, the properties were closed to all parties, and in one only the tenant was allowed to remain.

8.3 Following on from a fire in Dale Street in early July, the ASB Hub received various complaints from local residents about ongoing drug dealing from the tenants of the fire damaged property, this coupled with evidence of cannabis being grown at the address and investigations that the NEO's had carried out regarding dog on dog attacks in the locality. At a court hearing in August we were granted possession, and the tenants were formally evicted.

- 8.4 The Hub obtained an eviction in Apollo Court on 29th June, to ensure that the harassment that neighbours were experiencing stopped. As a result of the work led through the Hub, one of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers was awarded Employee of the month by City of York Council
- 8.5 The Hub have coordinated the 4 current hot spot areas, that are currently in place, and as part of their ongoing work, have arranged for multi agency reassurance visits to local residents to take place in the Groves, Chapelfields and Nunnery Lane. This involved officers speaking with large numbers of residents to obtain information about the extent of the issues, and to advise what actions are taking place in the areas.

### *Crime Not To Care*

- 8.6 The Neighbourhood Enforcement team launched the Crime Not To Care campaign in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy. The campaign will run for 12 months and its aim is to highlight to residents their duty of care responsibilities in relation to domestic waste in an effort to reduce fly-tipping, e.g. ensuring householders check waste carriers licences of those to who remove waste on their behalf, not leaving goods out on the pavement for scrap metal/waste collectors to take, not leaving additional bags out next to bins etc. Currently the council can only undertake formal enforcement action via the prosecution route for such offences. However the government is currently proposing to introduce Fixed Penalty Notices for domestic duty of care offences which will feel will be both more effective and proportionate.

### *Operation Eyeball*

- 8.7 City of York Council has worked with the North Yorkshire Police Rural Crime team and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to lead on the development of the Operation Eyeball (cross-county work to reduce fly-tipping). Under the operation, multi-agency meetings, involving CYC, NYCC, district councils and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, NYP, Environment Agency, NFU and Network Rail are held on a regular basis to share best practice, coordinate enforcement activity and increase information/intelligence-sharing. The first county-wide day of action was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September with another planned on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. This consisted of coordinated council/police stop and search operations running across the county targeting suspected unlicensed waste carriers and scrap metal dealers. In York 23 vehicles

were stopped and checked for waste and 17 notices were served requiring evidence of authority to carry waste or to produce waste information/records. In addition the group is currently in the process of producing an information sheet for farmers/landowners in partnership with the NFU and looking at ways of working with local garages and workshops to tackle common trends such as tyre dumping.

#### *Portable CCTV*

- 8.8 The council is currently in the process of procuring portable CCTV cameras for use in fly-tipping hot-spot areas. The Neighbourhood Enforcement team is particularly keen to deploy CCTV in rural and semi-rural areas, where there is little natural surveillance from surrounding properties. The aim is to increase opportunities for intelligence-gathering for enforcement purposes.

#### *Designated Public Space Orders*

- 8.9 All of the Designated Public Space Orders have been reviewed and converted to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) under new legislation. These will continue to be monitored. New PSPOs will only be granted as a last resort and where measures can be put in place to mitigate the displacement of anti-social behaviour to other areas of the city.

#### *Street Urination Prosecutions*

- 8.10 A significant number of successful street urination prosecutions continue to be obtained. In September four individuals were given fines and costs totalling over £2000 for this offence. Prosecution cases are progressed by the Neighbourhood Enforcement team on receipt of witness statements received by North Yorkshire Police officers.

#### *Illegal encampments*

- 8.11 The Neighbourhood Enforcement team has dealt with a number of illegal traveller encampments across the city over the summer period.

### **Serious Organised Crime**

9. The police are the lead agency for Serious Organised Crime. Multi agency work is managed through a multi-agency county and citywide Serious Organised Crime Board with operational delivery through a

multi-agency disruption panel. City of York Council contribute to the disruption panel through representation from housing, public protection and community safety, sharing intelligence to facilitate the disruption of serious organised crime groups identified as operating in the city. A presentation on the multi-agency approach to Serious Organised Crime and the impact of it across the county and city was given to the Safer York Partnership Board at its last meeting in September.

### *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*

- 9.1 The Modern Slavery Partnership continues to meet quarterly. The partnership is developing awareness raising materials that can be used on National Anti-Slavery Day on 18<sup>th</sup> October and also next year as part of National Safeguarding Week. City of York Council was one of the first organisations in the city to produce a statement on Modern Slavery and one of the first Local Authorities in the country to do so.

### **Tackling Substance Misuse**

10. There are clear links between many aspects of the health and wellbeing agenda and community safety. Substance misuse (whether drugs or alcohol) is strongly linked to both crime and disorder. Substance misuse can also make some people more vulnerable and therefore at risk of becoming victims of crime. The Community Safety Hub works closely with Public Health to ensure that the education, awareness and support services are incorporated in delivery of multi-agency approaches to tackling the consequences of substance misuse and excessive alcohol consumption.

- 10.1 Substance misuse services (including alcohol treatment) are delivered through a contract with Changing Lives in partnership with Spectrum Health. The Community Safety Hub works closely with support services to ensure that support is offered to those in need of support. This includes joint working to provide support to those who are homeless and the inclusion of requirements to engage with support services where enforcement action is required to deal with prolific offenders.

### **Council Plan**

11. 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

12. In producing this report the following implications have been considered:
- **Financial** – none identified
  - **Human Resources (HR)** – 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 (IT)** - none identified
  - **Property** – none identified
  - **Other**
- No other implications identified

## Risk Management

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

## Conclusions

14. 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. Under the council's scrutiny arrangements bi-annual performance reports from Safer York Partnership are presented to the Scrutiny and Policy Committee.

## Recommendation

15. Members are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report.

### **Reason**

16. To update Members on the performance of the Safer York Partnership.

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**Report Approved**  **Date**

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

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

### **Annexes**

Annex 1 – Safer York BI-Annual Report Statistics

### **Background Papers**

Community Safety Strategy 2017-20

### **Abbreviations**

CYC- City of York Council  
NYP- North Yorkshire Police  
BID- Business Improvement District  
MIY- Make it York  
ASB- Anti-Social Behaviour  
MARAC- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference  
NEO- Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer

NYCC- North Yorkshire County Council  
NFU- National Farmers Union  
PSPO- Public Space Protection Orders