

Report of Director of Health, Housing & Adult Social Care

Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Report

Summary

1. In 2017, 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 year end 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

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

Strategic Priority	Lead Agency
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

- 5 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue chair the River Safety Task Group. The group have continued to deliver awareness raising events about the dangers of the river and in particular the consequences of entering the river when alcohol has been consumed. These messages are also shared via social media on a regular basis.
- 5.1 Road Safety is delivered through the 95 Alive Partnership which is made up of representation from North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council, Scarborough and Harrogate District Councils, The Yorkshire Ambulance Service, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Keeping the City Centre Safe

Operation Safari

- 6 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

- 6.1 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. It is overseen by a multi-agency task group

chaired by North Yorkshire Police and which meets bi-monthly. The group aims to maintain and seek to improve the reputation of York as one of the best cities in the country; improve public perception and communicate effectively with residents to encourage them to visit the city centre. Success is measured through police data on reports of ASB between 10:00 and 20:00 each Saturday, web-chat, feedback from residents and visitors through Make It York, Feedback from business via the BID and analytical research carried out by North Yorkshire Police. The group organise multi-agency days of action throughout the summer and Christmas periods and are working to develop and deliver a new communications message to replace “HAD ENOUGH”. This new message will concentrate on the positive aspects of visiting York whilst trying to encourage visitors not to engage in anti-social behaviour.

City Centre Hot Spot

- 6.2 The City Centre Hot Spot Group focuses on all community safety issues relating to York’s city centre. Meetings are well attended by a range of partners including Make It York and the Business Improvement District. Regular joint patrols involving the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team, BID Rangers and North Yorkshire Police focus on engaging with stakeholders and working together to tackle issues of crime and anti-social behaviour. A monthly nominals meeting has been established to identify and discuss individuals who are committing the most serious forms of anti-social behaviour and criminality in the city centre. This allows for targeted and co-ordinated multi-agency enforcement action to be taken.
- 6.3 The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team is now in the final stages of work with Make It York to develop a joint approach to complaints received about busking and street entertainers. In addition, work is ongoing to update the Guide to Busking In York document. The emphasis of this work is on reasonableness and proportionality. All partners recognise that busking and street entertainment plays a valuable role in contributing to the vibrancy of the city centre, but that consideration must also be given to ensure that it does not have a negative impact on businesses and visitors. Enforcement action will only be taken when complaints cannot be resolved through informal discussions. This work should be completed by June 2019 following consultation with the busking/street entertainment community.

Business Crime

- 6.4 York Business Against Crime is extending its remit to incorporate information sharing in relation to a wider range of criminal and anti-social behaviour. It is currently in the process of procuring a new Radio system which will be used to link businesses with the CCTV control room in West Offices and the police. It will also support work on counter terrorism, providing a communication method between businesses in the event of any serious incident or terrorist attack taking place in York.

Counter Terrorism

7. The Counter Terrorism Task Group (CTTG) has revised its monthly meetings to quarterly in recognition that much of the work is now embedded in core services. Monthly training and awareness events took place throughout 2018 and will continue over the next twelve months. To date these events have been targeted at Education, Health, City of York Council, Businesses, Retailers, Tourist Attractions and hoteliers. Future events will include public transport providers.
- 7.1 The CTTG is overseeing the implementation of a programme of physical security measures in the city centre. It is also focusing on the risk associated with all major events which take place in the city and which attract large crowds. Working closely with the North East Counter Terrorism Unit, all visitor attractions and businesses which have a high footfall have been engaged with and support given to carry out risk assessments and produce emergency plans.

Protecting People from Harm

8. Operational Lead Officers and the Chairs of the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Boards meet regularly. Work has continued to identify shared themes and training opportunities particularly in relation to PREVENT and Modern Slavery.

Domestic Abuse

- 8.1 The York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy has been approved by Safer York Partnership. It will be officially launched at a practitioners conference taking place at The Pavillions Harrogate on 25th March 2019. The Domestic Abuse Operational Group (sub-group to the York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Joint Co-ordinating Group) has drafted an action which has also been approved and is now being

implemented. This action plan includes new areas of work in relation to supporting couples who wish to remain together, overseeing the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and focus on Stalking and Harassment as a key factor in many domestic abuse cases.

- 8.2 A new commissioning process has been implemented which has streamlined service provision. New services started on 1st March and will be monitored through the Joint Co-ordinating Group.

Prevent

- 8.3 Work has been undertaken to review the Channel Process for York. A standing Channel Panel comprised of key agencies now meets monthly to monitor and review cases. The referral process has been streamlined to dovetail with existing Safeguarding referral practices rather than being managed as a separate process.

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

9. The Community Safety Hub has successfully dealt with a number of complex anti-social behaviour cases which have resulted in positive enforcement action being taken. Joint working between the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team, Anti-social Behaviour Team and the police is continuing to work well and is enabling the highest risk and vulnerability cases to be dealt with quickly. Enforcement action has resulted in four premises closures, and a number of evictions and possessions being granted. This work is supported by multi-agency hot spot groups in the locations where anti-social behaviour levels are highest enabling partners to deliver a multi-agency problem solving approach. As new hot spots are identified, multi-agency action days are arranged to provide the police, community safety, housing officers and other partners with the opportunity to engage directly with the community through door to door visits. This approach has been welcomed and has enabled residents to discuss with partners their particular concerns about the area in which they live.

9.1 *#Binit Campaign – Dog Fouling and Litter*

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team launched the above campaign in January 2019. It aims to encourage residents to 'bin' litter and dog waste. The team is working with colleagues in the Communities and Equalities and Housing teams to role this out to wards. In order for the team to increase opportunities for enforcement action, communities are

being asked to assist by providing officers with witness statements or information on hot-spot times and locations to enable officers to target enforcement patrols more effectively. In Westfield Ward the team have been able to contribute to work undertaken by the Good Gym to highlight hot-spot areas and were able to patrol and letter-drop a number of streets where dog fouling was prevalent.

9.2 *Crime Not to Care*

Work is ongoing through the above campaign to educate York residents of the requirement to ensure that anyone they use to remove waste on their behalf is licensed to do so. A Fixed Penalty Notice for this offence will also be introduced to support this.

9.3 *Operation Eyeball – Joint Working to tackle fly tipping across York & North Yorkshire*

Joint work with the police, partner organisations and local authorities across North Yorkshire and East Riding continues. Co-ordinated Stop and Search operations were held in partnership with North Yorkshire Police during September and November 2018. Twenty three vehicles were stopped and checked for waste in York in September as part of this operation with 17 notices served requiring evidence of the authority to carry waste or provide waste documentation. In November, 14 vehicles were stopped with 7 notices being served. Further operations are planned during 2019.

9.4 *Working with the Youth Offending Team*

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team has recently worked with the Youth Offending Team and North Yorkshire Police to develop a proportionate and escalating approach to anti-social behaviour enforcement, with encouragement for increased early intervention and information action in the form of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. The Youth Offending Team's triage system and Diversion scheme are utilised prior to consideration of the use of more formal enforcement through the issuing of Community Protection Notices. This work is ongoing.

Serious Organised Crime

10. 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. Partnership work to share information and intelligence that may assist in disrupting organised crime groups has strengthened throughout the last twelve months.

10.1 County Lines has been an emerging issue for York. Gangs are progressively found to be involved in drug lines within York which brings the associated risk of increased violence, the use of weapons, the criminal exploitation of children and the cuckooing of vulnerable people. In an attempt to raise awareness and understand the true scale of this issue, Safer York Partnership has recently engaged with the Home Office Violence and Vulnerability Unit, a small national team of gang/county line/community safety experts who have been commissioned to deliver targeted support to local areas who are being adversely affected by county lines and the associated violence and exploitation of vulnerable people. This support will take the form of a locality review which will be carried out in April 2019, generating a report and recommendations to inform local multi-agency action.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

10.2 The Modern Slavery Partnership continues to meet quarterly. Modern Slavery is a theme at the York and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Conference taking place in June during Safeguarding Awareness Week. Training has been delivered to front line services in how to recognise signs of Modern Slavery and how to report suspicious activity or concerns. The Chartered Institute for Environmental Health are holding a conference on Modern Slavery in York on 11th March at which we will be presenting on local initiatives.

Tackling Substance Misuse

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

Work is ongoing with Changing Lives and Public Health to reduce the number of discarded needles. This includes the distribution of needle bins and signposting to needle exchange schemes.

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