



MAKING YORK A SAFER CITY

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

2023-26

VERSION	DRAFT REFRESH 2024
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DATE PRODUCED/UPDATED	11/07/24

Making York a Safer City

Introduction

This is the 9th Community Safety Strategy produced by Safer York Partnership since it was established in 1998 under the Crime and Disorder Act. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that Community Safety Partnerships are required to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder and to have in place partnership plans setting out their priorities.

The priorities contained within this strategy have been identified through a Safer York Partnership Development Session and are aligned to Home Office National Priorities, the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan and City of York Council plan priorities. They also take into account community intelligence and information. Some of these priorities are delivered through joint structures with our Neighbouring Local Authority, North Yorkshire Council recognising that one police force (North Yorkshire) covers both local authority areas. Using a Public Health approach, the partnership will look holistically at the community safety issues identified within each priority and using an approach based on early intervention and prevention, and where appropriate, enforcement, will work with partners to develop innovative and effective solutions.

Throughout its existence, the partnership has developed and changed to ensure that it is addressing those issues of community safety which impact most significantly on quality of life for those who live in, work in or visit the City of York. Each year the strategy will be reviewed to ensure that it has the flexibility to address new and emerging trends, ensuring that we are continuing to use local resource to best effect in addressing local needs. The priorities within this strategy are not exclusive and many are linked. The role of Safer York Partnership is to coordinate organisations to address the links and ensure that the correct powers and capabilities across the Partnership are utilised. It can then help organisations focus on ensuring the available resources are focused on the priorities so that the partnership delivers in the most effective and efficient way.

Supt Jon Aldred, Chair Safer York Partnership

Our partners

City of York Council

North Yorkshire Police

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Probation

York and North Yorkshire Office for Policing, Fire, Crime and Commissioning (OPFCC), part of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (HNY ICB)

Make It York

York BID

Our priorities

- **Keeping the City Centre Safe**
- **Counter Terrorism: Protect, Prepare, Prevent**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Safe and Supported Communities**
- **Serious Organised Crime: County Lines, Modern Slavery, Exploitation**
- **Serious Violence**



KEEPING THE CITY CENTRE SAFE

Keeping the City Centre Safe is a priority for Safer York Partnership. York City Centre is an international tourist destination, attracting over 8 million visitors per annum. The City Council has adopted the My City Strategy which recognises the tensions between a tourist destination as well as a city centre which serves its residents. At the heart of this strategy is a family friendly city centre. York has a compact mix of residential, commercial and licensed premises. This can result in conflict between different user groups and lead to a negative perception of the city as a safe place. This is not borne out by the actual crime figures and York is one of the safest cities in the UK.

Like many cities, York is changing as consumer shopping habits have changed but it's small independent shops, festivals and events and extensive hospitality offering continue to keep it vibrant and attractive to both visitors and local residents. This will be further enhanced through the delivery of some major development plans which will ensure that York remains a popular and thriving city into the future.

Working through the BID Safe Partnership, the Council, Police and other key stakeholders work together to ensure to address emerging community safety issues in the city centre including hate crime associated with the night time economy.

SYP Board Lead: The York BID

Contributing Groups:

My City Centre
BID Safe Partnership
NYP Operation Safari
York Water Safety Group
Purple Flag
Pubwatch
YBAC Board and Steering Group
Make It York
Safety Advisory Group
Guildhall Ward Committee
Hate Crime Working Group
York Drug and Alcohol Partnership

Aims:

- To contribute to the Board and Working Groups of My City Centre to ensure that Community Safety is considered within future planning and development
- Work in partnership with the BID & Make It York to ensure that the City Centre remains an attractive and prosperous location for visitors
- Contribute to delivery of the York Homelessness Strategy by tackling the community safety aspects of begging and rough sleeping

- Contribute to the work of the York Water Safety Group to prevent serious incidents associated with York's rivers
- Rebrand York Business Against Crime to harness a wider sharing of information and intelligence that will assist in reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and contributing to the delivery of Counter Terrorism Aims
- To work with the York BID Safe Partnership to deliver a multiagency response to crime and antisocial behaviour in the City Centre
- To work with partners to ensure that the work in relation to safety in the city continues to meet the principles outlined by Purple Flag
- Develop a closer working relationship with the SAG to ensure that the CSP is aware of the community safety impact of events which take place in the City of York Council
- To work with the York Drug and Alcohol Partnership to deliver outcomes related to the unwanted impact from the use of drugs and alcohol aligned to the night time economy

How will success be measured?

- Retain Purple Flag
- North Yorkshire Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour within the City Centre
- Measurement of perception through surveys and consultation
- Counts of rough sleepers
- Qualitative feedback from the community and partners



COUNTER TERRORISM: PROTECT, PREPARE, PREVENT

Protect & Prepare

Since 2017, York has had an active multi-agency Protect and Prepare Group which has undertaken extensive work to increase security in the City Centre and for all major events hosted within the City. This work has achieved National recognition and has contributed to a North East Regional pilot working to develop guidance that will support the implementation of the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law) which comes into effect in 2023.

The partnership acknowledges that the introduction of physical Counter Terrorism measures which include installation of barriers, and restriction of access to certain areas of the city will cause some community tensions. There is a need to ensure that visitors and residents understand the National threat risk and importance of protective security measures and how this links to both the priorities of Keeping the City Centre Safe and Safe and Supported Communities. Research evidence has shown that community intelligence and vigilance plays a key role in defeating terrorism.

The Protect and Prepare group has developed an action plan which includes a range of interventions designed not only to strengthen the visual deterrent to terrorism in the city but also includes training and awareness for staff working in local businesses to be vigilant and able to recognise suspicious behaviour. The group organises regular FREE training throughout the year and is working closely with Safer York Business Partnership to improve communication with the business community that could be essential in the event of an attack (or indeed any major incident).

Prevent

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on the Local Authority play a wider role in the Prevent agenda, leading on the Channel Process to assess the risk associated with radicalisation and put in place measures to mitigate that risk. Membership of the Channel Panel includes a range of services with the council and partners including Health, Probation and Police. York's approach ensures that the wider safeguarding needs of individuals and their families are also considered alongside Prevent concerns and ensures that these needs are also being addressed in tandem with any interventions prescribed by the panel. When cases are closed to Channel, assurance is always sought to ensure that wider safeguarding support continues.

Prevent is strategically managed at a sub-regional level through a York and North Yorkshire Prevent Partnership Board whose agenda is led by the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). Recommendations contained in the CTLP are delivered locally through the Prevent Local Delivery Group which has an established annual action plan. A recently published Independent Review of Prevent Nationally will further develop the way in which the Prevent agenda is delivered locally. Work undertaken through the Hate Crime Working Group also contributes to the Prevent agenda as the two issues are not discrete.

SYP Board Lead: CYC Head of Community Safety

Contributing Groups:

York and North Yorkshire CONTEST Board
York and North Yorkshire Prevent Partnership Board
Local Resilience Forum
York Protect and Prepare Group
Safety Advisory Group
YBAC Board and Steering Group
York Local Prevent Delivery Group
York Channel Panel
Hate Crime Working Group
Safeguarding Adults Board
Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

Aims

- Support local businesses, organisations and event organisers who will fall within the legislative requirements of Martyn's Law
- Continue to work with the Safety Advisory Group to ensure that Counter Terrorism is considered within the safety planning for all major events taking place within the City
- Deliver the Protect and Prepare Action Plan
- Deliver regular training and awareness for partners to ensure that they are vigilant to suspicious activity and know what action to take in the event of a terrorist incident
- Consider the impact of the Independent Review of Prevent and what that means for Prevent delivery in York
- Develop local Prevent Champions to engage with communities in order to promote a better understanding of the Prevent agenda
- Continue to develop the City's approach to Prevent in accordance with Regional and National Home Office guidance
- Develop and deliver a programme of accessible training for partners to raise awareness of Prevent and how to make referrals to the Channel process
- Linking the work of the Hate Crime working group with the Prevent Local Delivery to engage better with communities and understand where tensions exist
- Ensure that residents understand the importance of protective security and how they can play a role in defeating terrorism through vigilance and reporting suspicious activity

How will success be measured?

- Delivery of the Counter Terrorism Task Group and Prevent Local Delivery Group Action Plans

- Reduction in number of non permitted vehicles accessing the city centre
- Increase in number of Project Servator deployments in York
- Increase in referrals to Channel Panel
- Increase in number of cases adopted and dealt with through Channel
- Case studies on outcome of Channel cases



DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places statutory requirements on local authorities to improve governance of Domestic Abuse, whilst ensuring the appropriate and accessible provision of safe accommodation for victims. In York, the Domestic Abuse agenda is delivered through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. In addition, a York and North Yorkshire Joint Commissioning Group ensures a collaborative approach between City of York Council, North Yorkshire Council and the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, ensuring an equitable access to provision of support across both authorities. This joint commissioning group reports to both the York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards.

Prevention is a significant element of the Domestic Abuse programme, ensuring that there is a close working relationship with schools, colleges and young people to focus on developing healthy relationships and raising awareness of unhealthy behaviours.

Domestic abuse specialist services are in place to both support victims of domestic abuse and to work with the perpetrators requiring support in changing their behaviour.

The statutory duty also includes the management and oversight of the Domestic Homicide Review process where cases are approved as meeting the criteria i.e. a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death. The criteria also now includes death by suicide, where circumstances related to the death indicate a link with domestic abuse or controlling and coercive behaviour

SYP Board Lead: Director of Public Health

Contributing Groups:

York Domestic Abuse Board
York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Commissioning Group
York and North Yorkshire Joint Working Group
White Ribbon Accreditation Sub-Group
MARAC and MATAC Steering Group
Joint VAWG Strategy Group
Safeguarding Adults Board
Children's Safeguarding Partnership

Aims

- Contribute to the refresh and local delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy for York and North Yorkshire

- Further strengthen the governance processes ensuring that partners are contributing to the local delivery structure through the York Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- Ensure that York is able to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Adopt a public health approach to domestic abuse, improving prevention and early identification to reduce incidents and the escalation of abuse
- Ensure local services are inclusive and accessible to meet the needs of local victims and survivors of domestic abuse
- Work with the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to contribute to the domestic abuse outcomes identified within the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Contribute to the work for the York and North Yorkshire Serious Violence Duty working group
- Oversight of the Domestic Homicide Review Process and completion of any actions in relation to learning and recommendations.

How will success be measured?

- Utilise the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to ensure effective monitoring of need to develop a coordinated system response
- Ensuring effective delivery of specialist domestic abuse services
- Undertake the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation
- Engage with the victims and survivors who do not engage with the police or specialist services to shape service development
- Implement a comprehensive training package for professionals to have a workforce that is able to identify signs of abuse
- Reduce the incidence of domestic abuse by engaging with perpetrators or those displaying abusive behaviours to provide access to behaviour change interventions



Safe and Supported Communities

This priority is a cross cutting priority with links to all other priorities when considering the need to raise awareness, educate and empower communities to build confidence in reporting neighbourhood crime, antisocial behaviour and community tensions.

City of York Council Ward committees provide the platform for two way engagement between partners responsible for delivering community safety outcomes and residents, and this relationship can be developed also through the Resilient Communities Strategy Group.

Where community safety issues impact on communities, a multi agency problem solving approach based on early intervention and prevention is used with the council working closely with the police and wider partners to deliver holistic problem solving plans. This includes ensuring that the safeguarding needs of victims are met through the inclusion of a wide range of support services and community connectors in the problem solving process.

Anti-social behaviour is addressed through an escalating approach with enforcement action as a last resort. A dedicated team of police and council officers make up the Community Safety Hub. The remit of this team is to ensure that where enforcement action is required, it can be taken efficiently and effectively through joint working. The team also has specific powers to tackle environmental antisocial behaviour, also using an escalated approach based on advice, education and behaviour change with enforcement as the final stage. The team work closely with York's Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify emerging anti-social behaviour early and put in place proportionate measures to address it. This approach will also involve a wider range of partners through a multi-agency problem solving model.

A multi-agency York Hate Crime Partnership has been established for York and is working to deliver the Hate Crime Action Plan. This group reports to Safer York Partnership.

SYP Board Lead: CYC Director of Housing and Communities

Contributing Groups:

Resilient Communities Strategy Group
Ward Committees
York Hate Crime Partnership
Community Safety Hub, Problem Solving Groups
Community Harm Meeting
Safeguarding Adults Board
Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Aims

- Increase the profile of the Hub to ensure that services within City of York Council, partners and the community understand the remit and work that is delivered
- Develop stronger links between the Community Safety Hubs, Ward Committees, partners and residents (community connectors) to allow for emerging issues to be identified at the earliest opportunity and related actions build into Neighbourhood Action Plans linking to Ward Funding priorities
- Identify other partners who could contribute to the overall remit of the hub and improve service delivery
- Develop the multi-agency problem solving approach to ensure that Problem Solving Plans are developed in partnership with all relevant agencies
- Deliver the Hate Crime Action Plan
- Create stronger links between the Community Safety Hub and Ward Teams

How will success be measured?

- Number of cases dealt with by the Community Safety Hub
- Outcomes of cases
- Number of prosecutions where enforcement action is taken
- Feedback from communities affected by serious anti-social behaviour
- Measurable improvements from Neighbourhood Action Plans
- Reduction in incidents of Hate Crime
- Increase in successful prosecutions for Hate Crime Offences



SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME INCLUDING COUNTY LINES, EXPLOITATION AND MODERN SLAVERY

Serious Organised Crime (SOC) whilst often associated with regional, national or international criminals impacts most within local communities. Organised Crime Groups will deploy intimidation tactics, exploit individuals and use violence for unlawful gain. A Serious Organised Crime Board for York and North Yorkshire focuses on how the National Serious Organised Crime Strategy is delivered across the City and County. It is supported by a multi-agency Disruption Panel which brings together intelligence from a range of partners to disrupt the most prolific groups operating locally.

Within York, the City has seen an increase in Exploitation of both children and adults, examples of Modern Slavery and the impact of County Lines activity. The Community Safety Hub has fortnightly Early Intervention and Prevention Meetings with NYP Intelligence Unit, Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors, City of York Council Housing, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and the Youth Justice Service. This ensures that where there is suspected county lines activity, partners can contribute to evidence gathering and the Community Safety Hub can use their enforcement powers to contribute to disruption of criminal and/or antisocial activity.

Safeguarding the victims of exploitation associated with Serious Organised crime sits at the heart of partnership working and is supported by the work undertaken by the Community Safety Hub to take an early intervention and prevention approach to activity such as county lines.

York is piloting the National Clear Hold Build Policing initiative developed by the Home Office for addressing serious organised crime. This aims to work in high harm areas and to build community resilience.

SYP Board Lead: NYP SUPERINTENDENT AREA COMMANDER

Contributing Groups:

York and North Yorkshire Serious Organised Crime Board
York and North Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership
York and North Yorkshire Disruption Panel
CYC Missing and Child Exploitation Meeting
CS Hub Fortnightly Early Intervention and Prevention Meeting
Serious Violence Duty Working Group
York Drug and Alcohol Partnership
Safeguarding Adults Partnership
Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

Aims

- Ensure that York partners are engaged in the work of the York and North Yorkshire Serious Organised Crime Board
- Continue to improve intelligence and information sharing to disrupt organised crime groups operating in the city
- Engage with communities affected by serious organised crime to provide timely information and reassurance
- Raise awareness of signs and behaviour associated with organised crime and promote national and local reporting mechanisms
- Develop the Fortnightly Intelligence meetings to ensure that action can be taken by appropriate partners to protect those who are vulnerable to County Lines activity
- Reduce Supply of Drugs
- Tackling crimes, bringing offenders to justice and safeguarding those at risk of becoming a victim of Modern Slavery

How will success be measured?

- Reduction in number of county lines operating in York
- Number of major and moderate disruptions against Organised Crime Groups
- Reduction in drug related crime
- Reduction in number of deaths related to drug misuse
- Increase in number of NRM referrals made
- Increase in number of victims supported / safeguarded



SERIOUS VIOLENCE

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced in January 2023 as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty requires relevant partners to work together to share information and collaborate on interventions to prevent and reduce serious crimes within their local communities.

The definition of serious violence for North Yorkshire and York reflects issues found within the local area, and the impact and prevalence of different types of serious violence. Therefore, for North Yorkshire and York, the following crimes are included in our definition of serious violence and were used during the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA):

- Homicide
- Violence with Injury
- Domestic Abuse
- Rape and Sexual Offences
- Weapon Related Violence; including Weapon Possession
- Arson Endangering Life
- Stalking and Harassment; non-domestic

From this SNA, a York & North Yorkshire Serious Violence Strategy and Implementation plan have been produced and Home Office funding provided has been allocated to support a number of initiatives aligned to the implementation of the strategy.

SYP Board Lead: Probation Service Yorkshire and Humber, Head of York PDU

Contributing Groups:

York and North Yorkshire Serious Violence Working Group
York and North Yorkshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Group
York Domestic Abuse Board
CS Hub Fortnightly Early Intervention and Prevention Meeting
Operation Safari
Youth Justice Board

Aims

- Adopt a Public Health Approach to serious violence, improving prevention and early intervention to reduce incidents
- Ensure that relevant York stakeholders are involved in the Serious Violence Working Group
- Contribute relevant partner data to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to ensure that it accurately reflects the needs of York

- Ensure that the work of Groups, sub groups and task groups which are undertaking work that contributes to the reduction of serious violence is taken into consideration in the joint strategic needs assessment and subsequent strategy

How will success be measured?*

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken
- Serious Violence Strategy is written in conjunction with key relevant partners and published by 2024
- Reduction in homicides
- Reduction in knife/weapon offences
- Reduction in hospital admissions for weapon related injuries.

Further Information and Contact Details:

Further information on the work of Safer York Partnership and to obtain advice on aspects of Community Safety can be obtained from the website:

www.saferyorkpartnership.co.uk

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