

**Housing & Community Safety Policy &
Scrutiny Committee**

28 October 2019

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 first report for 2019-20 and outlines the work that has been delivered against each of the partnership’s strategic priorities.
2. The Community Safety Strategy 2017-20 was refreshed and approved by Safer York Partnership in May 2019. A new strategy is due to be drafted for implementation in April 2020 and work is currently under way with partners to identify the priorities that will be included in the new strategy.
3. North Yorkshire Police no longer supply crime figures directly to the local authorities. As a result, we now rely on national sources such as iQuanta to obtain updated data sets. Data on the Council’s KPI machine is due to be updated in November. As part of the Community Safety Partnership’s work to develop a new Strategy, consideration will be given to how best to capture performance information in future.

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
Keeping the City Centre Safe	North Yorkshire Police
Counter Terrorism	CYC Community Safety
Protecting People from Harm	CYC Safeguarding Adults & Children

Improving Quality of life through a multi-agency approach	CYC/NYP Community Safety Hub
Serious Organised Crime	North Yorkshire Police
Reducing Reoffending	Probation & Youth Offending
Tackling Substance Misuse	Public Health

Keeping the City Centre Safe

5. Work has continued through the City Centre Hotspot group with Operation Erase tackling alcohol related anti-social behaviour and Operation. There have been very few complaints from residents or visitors over the summer this year in relation to alcohol related anti-social behaviour or crime. This has been captured by the Operation Erase group as a success measure for the continued close working and joint days of action between the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team, BID Rangers, Police and British Transport Police.
- 5.1 It has become apparent that there are many multi-agency forums where various aspects of the City Centre are discussed, from community safety to specific events and economic growth. With the changes to retail shopping habits focusing more on-line and less on the high street, York is likely to evolve into a very different place over the next ten years. It is therefore essential for Safer York Partnership to be part of future planning to ensure that whatever the City looks like, it remains a safe place for residents, visitors and those who work there.

Business Crime

6. York Business Against Crime has introduced a new Digital radio system. This brings in enhanced technology that enables the Co-ordinator or the Police to establish separate talk groups, manage incidents by location and identify individuals who are misusing the system. The new radios are part of a planned approach to join up communications between key sites across the city in order to support work on counter terrorism and to improve information sharing across a broader range of crime and community safety issues.

Counter Terrorism

7. The Counter Terrorism Task Group has continued to hold monthly training and awareness sessions. Dates have been booked throughout 2020 to continue this work, delivering new national packages as they

area developed and to ensure that all key stakeholders across the city have access to regular refresher training.

- 7.1 The group is also overseeing the delivery of a programme of permanent security measures in the City Centre and played a key role in advising the Safety Advisory Group in relation to CT safety for the Christmas and New Year events in the City
- 7.2 York is widely referenced by the North East Counter Terrorism Unit as an example of good practice in developing and delivering a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to Counter Terrorism.

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 An Independent Review of Multi-agency Domestic Abuse Processes was commissioned by North Yorkshire Police. This review has acknowledged the success of the Pilot Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process in York and recommended that this model be adopted by North Yorkshire.
- 8.2 Throughout the two year pilot, York MARAC has been held by conference call twice weekly. Information is shared on the cases to be discussed by the MARAC co-ordinator prior to the meetings so that Partners can interrogate their systems and identify their actions in relation to each case. The system has resulted in streamlined meetings and better participation across all partners. The proposal will see a Single York & North Yorkshire MARAC taking place twice weekly broken down into two sections with a break between to hear York and Selby cases and then the remainder of North Yorkshire.

Prevent

- 8.3 York Channel Panel currently has three live cases where a Home Office Intervention provider is working with the individuals concerned. The Panel meets monthly and takes the format of a case by case timed agenda to ensure that all agencies working with the individual can

contribute to the discussion on their case. There are consistently around three to four cases being managed within Channel. Since April four cases have been dismissed from the process with the panel satisfied that the risk of radicalisation of those individuals has been mitigated.

- 8.4 Common factors with Channel referrals in York are that they have been exclusively males, all with mental health issues and focused on Far Right Ideology.

Improving Quality of Life Through a Multi-Agency Approach

9. Since April, the main focus of the Community Safety Hub has been in tackling problems associated with County Lines Activity in the City. This has resulted in three premises closure orders (two full closures and one partial closure in which only the tenant has been allowed to remain. The Hub has also evicted one tenant, persuaded another to terminate their tenancy and currently has two further cases where they are seeking possession. During this period the team has worked with colleagues across the local authority, voluntary sector and the police to carry out reassurance visits to the local neighbourhood. They have also improved CCTV surveillance in the area and supported increased patrols in affected streets.
- 9.1 The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team have issued 64 Community Protection Warnings, one full notice and have prosecuted for a breach of a notice resulting in a fine. They have issued two notices for inappropriately presented commercial waste and 174 notices for inappropriately presented domestic waste. In relation to animals, they have issued 4 written undertakings in relation to dangerous dogs, two fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and 10 micro chipping notices.
- 9.2 The team has continued work on tackling unlawful waste carriage, issuing 17 notices requiring production of waste information, three notices requiring production of a waste carriers licence and two fixed penalty notices for failure to comply.
- 9.3 Campaigns to tackle flyposting, fly tipping and litter have also resulted in the issuing of fixed penalty notices. The team also work closely with North Yorkshire Police to tackle street urination with the neighbourhood policing team supplying names and addresses of those who they identify as responsible and the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team prosecuting.

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 May, Safer York Partnership commissioned the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, a small national team of gang/county line/community safety experts to undertake a Locality Review of County Lines in the City. This involved a full day of focus groups involving a range of Council services and key partners. The Review identified some areas of good practice but also identified the need for a more co-ordinated approach.
- 10.2 In October Safer York Partnership approved the establishment of a multi-agency Joint Co-ordinating Group to oversee local responses to Serious organised crime including Modern Slavery, County Lines and Exploitation.

Reducing Reoffending

11. This priority captures the contribution of the Probation Service and Youth Offending Services in supporting the wider priorities of the partnership. Both agencies report their performance through separate Board Structures rather than through the Community Safety Partnership.
- 11.1 The Youth Offending Service and Probation are key partners in relation to all areas of the Partnership's business and are well engaged with the meetings that support delivery activity.

Tackling Substance Misuse

12. 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.

12.1 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

13. 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

14. 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

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

Conclusions

16. 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

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

Reason

18. 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