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

23 March 2020

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 2019-20 and outlines the work that has been delivered against each of the partnership's strategic priorities since the last report in October 2019.
2. In accordance with requests from the Chair of the Committee, additional information has been provided on Cycle Safety, ASB associated with Saturday afternoon drinking culture, use of redeployable CCTV and ASB in suburbs eg. Foxwood and Acomb.

Safer York Partnership Priorities

4. Safer York Partnership refreshes its priorities on an annual basis. In 2019, the agreed strategic priorities for the Partnership were:

Keeping the City Centre Safer

Counter Terrorism – Protect, Prepare and Prevent

Protecting People from Harm

Improving Quality of Life Through a Multi Agency Approach

Tackling Serious Organised Crime

Reducing Re-offending

Tackling Substance Misuse (including delivery of the community safety elements of the York Alcohol Strategy)

Keeping the City Centre Safer

5. The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team continue to work closely with our partners to manage anti-social behaviour associated with issues such as rough sleeping, street drinking, nuisance selling and busking. Well-established positive relationships allow for effective day to day working with the BID Rangers, Make It York, Homeless Navigators, Salvation Army, North Yorkshire Police and the City of York Council Street Cleansing Team.

5.1 *Operation Erase*

Operation Erase is a multi-agency response to anti-social behaviour in the city centre on Saturdays. Work undertaken by the group has included multi-agency days of action to provide a high visibility presence in the City Centre, deployment of ticket barriers at York Station to deter travel without a ticket, work with licensees to develop and implement a code of conduct for acceptable behaviour in licensed premises and work with the train providers to run “dry” trains.

- 5.2 Operation Erase runs throughout the main tourist season (April-October) and over the Christmas Period and multi-agency presence is focused on the busiest periods eg Race Days and during Christmas Markets. Community days were held in April, July and December. These events were welcomed by the retail community.

- 5.3 Although the group has noted a reduction in actual complaints, including those received via the MP or Chief Constable, there is still a public perception that drinking in the city centre is a problem on a Saturday afternoon. During 2020 the group will be focusing on a more positive communications policy highlighting that York is a good place for families to visit. The plan also includes a family activity to be arranged for one of the Community Days.

- 5.4 Transpennine have produced a Fit to Travel policy, strengthening the message that it is not acceptable for people to be heavily in drink on their trains. Their messaging on this is widely promoted by partners through their respective social media channels.

- 5.5 Due to the turnover of staff in licensed premises, email reminders about the code of conduct are being sent by North Yorkshire Police Licensing.

The importance of displaying the code of conduct is also being reinforced through police visits to licensed premises at weekends.

- 5.6 Calls for service to the police and serious incidents over the Christmas period had reduced on the previous year. This is felt to be due to the good engagement between the police and licensees and the presence of extra door staff.

Business Crime

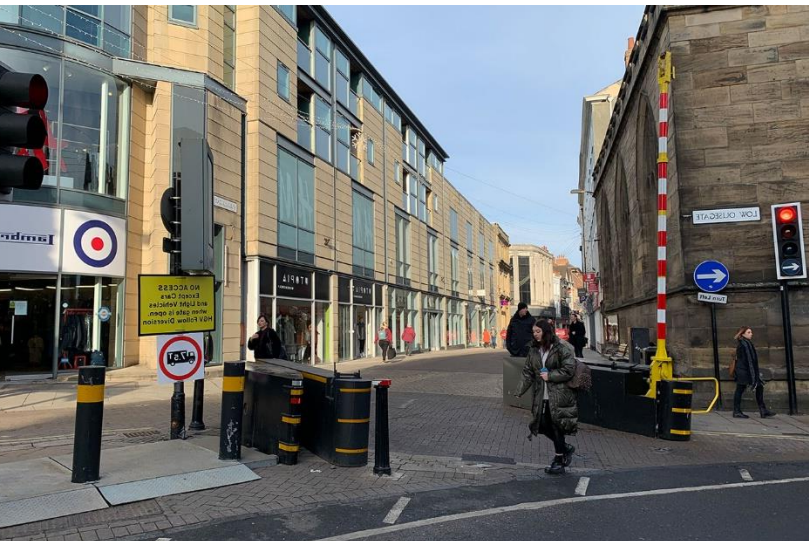
- 6.4 York Business Against Crime (YBAC) introduced a new digital radio system which provides greater functionality and the ability to isolate talk groups by location in June 2019. Training sessions have taken place with all users and a number of handsets have been distributed to key partners including the police, Minster police, Street Angels and other partners who provide support to both daytime and night time economy. The isolation function would be valuable if a major incident occurred at a particular location within the city enabling businesses to communicate between themselves and with the police and CCTV control room. In response to changes in the retail economy of the city, YBAC has broadened its remit to focus on information and intelligence sharing in relation to all types of crime and anti-social behaviour within the city. It is also involved in work on Counter Terrorism, promoting its information sharing and communications systems to the wider business community. This is ahead of national guidance which will be issued this year in relation to the security of open spaces.

Counter Terrorism

7. The National Threat level was reduced from SEVERE (meaning an attack is highly likely) to SUBSTANTIAL (meaning an attack is likely). This does not reduce the need for increased vigilance, training and the installation of physical measures as we have seen from further attacks that have taken place in London. What has changed, is the nature of attacks with more focus on 'lone wolf' individuals disrupting busy locations and often using weapons to cause harm. Attacks are not just an issue for London and Metropolitan Boroughs. Terrorists will act where they can cause maximum disruption and impact on a large and diverse group of people. York's popularity as a tourist destination therefore heightens the risk.
 - 7.1 The Counter Terrorism task group has delivered a programme of Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) training and awareness sessions throughout

the year. Further training sessions on See, Check and Notify and white powder have also taken place. The group also has oversight of the programme of physical measures being installed within the city centre, communications in relation to counter terrorism and the security of major events.

7.1 Following advice from NE Counter Terrorism Unit, significant additional measures were put in place during the Christmas Market and for New Years Eve 2019. Robust physical measures were put in place on the boundary of these events to protect the public from a potential hostile vehicle attack. These were welcomed by the public and visiting market stall holders working at the events.





- 7.2 A full debrief of the Christmas and New Year events has taken place and an action plan developed to build on the success of last year.
- 7.3 The CT Task group approved a new action plan in December for 2020. This plan is ambitious and looks at providing security in open spaces across the city, learning from the Borough Market and London Bridge incidents. York has been widely used by Counter Terrorism Policing as an example of National good practice for the considered multi-agency approach that has been taken.
- 7.4 *Prevent*
The Prevent Local Delivery Group has met quarterly throughout the year. The group brings a range of partners together to translate the recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) produced by North Yorkshire Police into a local action plan. Actions delivered throughout the year have included a review of the Channel Referral Process and practice guidance for practitioners, delivery of training and awareness, including the Voluntary Sector, action to deal with the increase of evidence of extreme right wing presence in the city. A new CTLP has been produced and subject to approval by the strategic Prevent Partnership Board, will inform the next local action plan.
- 7.5 Channel Panel is a multi-agency panel that meets monthly to assess the risk associated with any individuals referred to the panel as vulnerable to radicalisation and put an action plan in place to mitigate that risk. The Panel is chaired by Head of Community Safety and has representation from Children and Adults Social Care, Police, Mental Health, CCG, Youth Offending Team, Education, Probation, York

University and North East Counter Terrorism Unit. The Panel has had up to four live cases per month. The majority have been dismissed from Channel, however the process has enabled the wider safeguarding needs of those individuals referred into the programme to be addressed.

Protecting People from Harm

8. Operational Lead Officers and the Chairs of the Community Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Boards meet regularly to look at where themes overlap across the business of strategic boards. Closer working arrangements have been established between the Community Safety Hub and Safeguarding (Adults and Children) teams ensuring that all interests are represented in key meetings that are led by the individual services.

Domestic Abuse

- 8.1 The York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-2022 was launched at a practitioners conference at The Pavillions Harrogate on 25th March 2019. This was well attended and included presentations on the holistic package of services that was commissioned in 2018.
- 8.2 An Independent Review of Multi-Agency working arrangements for Domestic Abuse highlighted the York Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) process as good practice. A multi-agency Operational Group is looking at how this could be implemented more widely across North Yorkshire. The York arrangement is for cases to be heard twice weekly by conference call. This has proved a more effective and efficient way of conducting MARACs and ensuring all key partners are fully engaged in the process.

Improving Quality of Life Through a Multi Agency Approach

9. This Strategic Priority replaced Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in the 2019 Strategy refresh to reflect the broader range of issues being addressed through the joint City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police Community Safety Hub.

9.1 *Anti-social behaviour Team*

In April 2019 a multi-agency monthly Complex Case Action Group was established. This was due to the increase in cases coming into the

Community Safety Hub or being managed by Housing where complex mental and physical health needs could not justify enforcement action being taken for anti-social behaviour. The meeting allows partners to explore other options to reduce the behaviour, linking in with voluntary sector support services and safeguarding provision.

9.2 Since October 2019, the Anti-social behaviour team have carried out four evictions and four premises closure orders. The decision to evict is not taken lightly and the team must satisfy a judge that their evidence suggests eviction is necessary and proportionate to the circumstances. Four properties have also been handed back prior to formal action being finished. Two of these were as a result of the tenants receiving prison sentences and agreeing to terminate their tenancy. In the other two cases the anti-social behaviour team worked with housing, legal and other local authorities to facilitate a move and fresh start for the tenants.

9.3 *Neighbourhood Enforcement Team*

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team have purchased three portable CCTV cameras using Proceeds of Crime Act funding. These will be deployed by the team on an intelligence led basis in fly-tipping hotspots identified through data and information provided by the Business Intelligence Unit (BIU) and Public Realm teams. Signage will be installed at all locations. Deployment will commence on 1 April 2020.

There are will be 3 cameras providing each of the Neighbourhood Enforcement area teams with a camera per team. As with all CCTV, they are only as effective as the quality of the evidence they do or do not capture – primarily registration numbers.

- A number of hotspot locations have already been identified across the city using intelligence and data from BIU, Public Realm and NEOs
- Permanent signage will start to be installed at all these locations from 23rd March Signage also acts as a deterrent.
- Cameras will be deployed from 1st April. Knowledge of actual deployment locations at any point in time will be restricted to the NEO team (on best practice advice from other councils). Any evidence captured will be used in enforcement proceedings.
- Hotspot locations will be reviewed annually.

9.4 The team have developed a joint working protocol with the council's new graffiti removal team to provide enforcement support where necessary.

- 9.5 The team carried out an audit of city centre commercial waste presentation between July 2019 and January 2020. This will assist in identifying opportunities for improved working practices and partnership working in this area between Neighbourhood Enforcement, the BID, CYC Waste team and the business community
- 9.6 The team have worked with councillors in the Leeman Road area to reduce rubbish left in the back lanes. Advisory letters were sent to all residents setting out their responsibilities for managing domestic waste and the potential penalties for incorrectly presented or fly-tipped waste. This has led to a significant improvement in the area.
- 9.7 *ASB In Acomb & Foxwood*
A multi-agency hot spot task group has been established to look at an increase in anti-social behaviour involving young people and focused on the library, Front Street and Morrisons. The issues have resulted in increased police patrols and the issuing of dispersals. From experience, issues of this nature tend to increase as the nights become lighter and the weather warmer therefore starting the multi-agency discussion early is providing an opportunity to put in place measures which will prevent the problem from escalating. The group has only met once but further monthly meetings have been set up and detailed data analysis is due to take place to determine whether the issues can be covered by one group or whether the locations require exclusive attention.

Serious Organised Crime

10. Throughout 2019, York has seen significant impact from County Lines. York is an importer of drug lines originating from other parts of the country due to its good road and rail connections with other major cities. In May 2019, the Violence and Vulnerability Unit within the Home Office carried out a Locality Review of County Lines. This involved all partners taking part in focus groups to determine the depth of knowledge of the issue and establish what local action was taking place. As a result of the review, there have been significant developments in the multi-agency working arrangements to tackle county lines.
- 10.1 A weekly intelligence sharing meeting takes place between the Community Safety Hub, Safeguarding and North Yorkshire Police to discuss current county lines activity and put in place joint working arrangements to disrupt lines and safeguard victims.

- 10.2 The Community Safety Hub and North Yorkshire Police have worked to provide reassurance to communities where county lines activity has taken place by undertaking door to door reassurance visits and providing information on what action is being taken and how to report incidents.
- 10.2 Intelligence is shared between North Yorkshire Police, other local authorities, immigration, prison services and other agencies through a multi-agency disruption panel. Through this partnership we work together to develop a better understanding of the criminality of the most serious clandestine organisation and in particular how the work that the Community Safety hub does in relation to waste crime and antisocial behaviour impacts on disrupting serious organised crime groups. Examples of joint work include mapping of cannabis farm fly-tipping to track those involved in disposal and ultimately production. Multi-agency joint inspections have also resulted in the disruption of suspected human trafficking rings.
- 10.3 We have recently established a local organised crime group to discuss cases that potentially should be discussed more widely at the disruption panel in the hope that emerging organised crime groups can be identified and abated before they are allowed to proliferate.
- 10.4 Training on Modern Slavery and Serious Organised Crime has been delivered to the Voluntary Sector through an awareness event for volunteers hosted by York CVS in October. This is being followed up by further information being made available through their newsletter.
- 10.5 During National Modern Slavery Week (14th-20th October 2019), communications messages were sent out via social media platforms with links to some podcasts detailing the issues and how to spot and report signs of modern slavery. Some multi-agency work also took place to visit premises where concerns had been raised.

Tackling Substance Misuse

- 10.3 Substance Misuse impacts on all strategic priorities contained within the plan. Close working takes place between the Public Health team and Community Safety Hub to ensure that information is shared to assist in developing clear and accurate pictures of crime and antisocial behaviour that is linked to drugs or alcohol within the city.

Reducing Reoffending

11. The Youth Offending Team and Probation work across all of our strategic priorities and are key partners at all multi-agency meetings. Their performance is monitored through their own strategic board structures.

Road and Cycle Safety

12. Within the City Centre the police have taken a tougher line on road safety over the winter and a significant number of traffic offence reports have been issued. The police have noted a significant reduction in the number of cyclists committing offences, in particular executing dangerous manoeuvres. Operation Shimmer is delivered across the city by both Neighbourhood Policing teams targeting cyclists particularly when the nights draw in. This also includes work with both universities to promote safe cycling.
 - 12.1. The Road Safety Team within City of York Council deliver road safety training via schools. This is free to all schools and involves the pupils in real situations where they have to think and make decisions. Annually they deliver Standard bikeability training to 2000 pupils and pedestrian training to 2500 pupils.
 - 12.2 In addition to schools, the Road Safety Team also deliver adult and family sessions called Urban Cycle Skills as well as bespoke training.
 - 12.3 North Yorkshire Police has introduced Operation Spartan where any road user can report instances of inconsiderate or dangerous behaviour via their website.

13. Developments for 2020

Safer York Partnership approved its new Three Year Community Safety Strategy on 2nd March. Strategic Priorities contained within that strategy are:

Crime and Anti Social Behaviour in the City Centre
Tackling High Risk Anti-social behaviour
Serious Organised Crime
Counter Terrorism
Domestic Abuse

13.1 *Crime and Anti-social Behaviour in the City Centre*

This contribute to wider work around the regeneration and development of the city being delivered through the My City Centre Project. It will focus on continuing partnership work to tackle the issues that make people feel unsafe and promote the city in a more positive way as a destination choice for families.

13.2 *Counter Terrorism*

Work will continue to focus on the safety and security of the city, working with locations that attract large crowds and continuing to raise awareness both within the public and private sector and also with major event organisers. Work will continue in delivering the Prevent programme with the establishment of Local Champions to share knowledge, information and awareness.

13.3 *Domestic Abuse*

York will continue to deliver the Domestic Abuse Action Plan that sits under the York and North Yorkshire Strategy and supporting practitioners to continue to improve the services provided for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

13.4 *High Risk Anti-social behaviour*

The Community Safety Hub will be rebranded to reflect the breadth of crime and anti-social behaviour case work. A new Case Management System has been introduced in 2019 that will enable better performance monitoring to be produced and assist with future reports such as this. Links to the voluntary sector are being made to provide a more holistic approach around early intervention and prevention that will hopefully reduce the need for enforcement action in complex cases.

13.5 *Serious Organised Crime*

Intelligence and information sharing will continue to be expanded to contribute to the disruption of organised crime groups impacting on the city. Further guidance is anticipated from the Home Office that will assist in local delivery improvements.

Council Plan

14. 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

15. 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

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

Conclusions

17. 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

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

Reason

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

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

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