



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

2017-2020

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce Safer York Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together the local Council, North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Public Health, Probation and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Collectively, the agencies of the CSP work with one overriding objective – to make York a safe place to live, work and visit.

Safer York Partnership published its first Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 17 years ago. During that time, we have achieved significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour. We are proud of these achievements and are committed to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, protecting people and bringing offenders to justice. However, we know that more needs to be done.

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour is an important element in improving the lives of York residents. We will achieve this through partnership working, particularly through early intervention and prevention and challenging and changing behaviour.

We are keen to work with local people to make York safe and this strategy contains information on how residents can further get involved in volunteering.

Dave Dryburgh, Chair Safer York Partnership

ABOUT SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are required to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder and reduce reoffending in the area and to have in place, partnership plans setting out their priorities.

To ensure that the partnership is proactive and well informed, we carry out an annual Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment in order to review existing priorities and identify any new or emerging priorities that the partnership should focus on. This is not undertaken in isolation and is cross referenced with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken by Public Health and consultation carried out to inform the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

The Community Safety Strategy sets out the priorities identified through the above process and sets out how the partnership will work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and achieve its priorities. It is underpinned by a joint Police and City of York Council Community Safety Unit based within City of York Council Headquarters and a delivery structure of thematic sub-groups reporting to the Safer York Partnership Board. This structure also recognises the input of existing and relevant groups which contribute to the delivery of the CSP priorities.

OUR PARTNERS

City of York Council
North Yorkshire Police
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
City of York Council Public Health
Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group

THE CITY OF YORK

The City of York is a Unitary Authority covering 272km² and is surrounded by seven district councils that make up the county of North Yorkshire. The arterial routes of the A19 and A64 pass through the area and direct train services include destinations such as London and Edinburgh via the East Coast mainline and Leeds and Manchester on the TransPennine line

The population of the city is estimated to be 202,447. Population estimates forecast an increase in the older population in York, most notably in those over 85 years old.

York has a rich heritage having adapted from being a railway and confectionary making city into an international tourist destination, hub for science and technology and a national centre for education, financial and business services. As a world-famous historic city it attracts around seven million visitors every year, making it one of the UK's most visited tourist centres. York is also home to the University of York and York St John University and two higher education colleges. More than 20,000 students attend these higher education establishments and this affects the overall population profile with a higher percentage in the 15-24 age bands. The city is also home to a number of Military establishments including Imphal Barracks and Queen Elizabeth Barracks. Events such as York City League football matches, the festive St Nicholas Fayre and large race meetings significantly boost the number of people in the city.

York is a relatively prosperous city, however, there are pockets of deprivation with parts of the city amongst the most deprived in the country. Lower super Output Areas (LSOA) with the highest index of multiple deprivation within the city are concentrated within Guildhall, Hull Road, Clifton and Westfield Wards.

OUR PRIORITIES

Introduction

Each year North Yorkshire Police produce a Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA). This year's JSIA has been compiled utilising the National MoRILE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) threat matrix. In order to support the delivery of an evidence based and comprehensive assessment, a large number of thematic research reports have been generated to support the scoring process and these incorporate the full range of harm likelihood, confidence and organisational position measures. In addition, reference has been made to York's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which identifies substance misuse and mental health as issues in York

Information has been obtained from NorthYorkshire Police data bases, existing intelligence products, internal and external subject specialists, partners' reports and from a broad range of open and closed information sources including multiple local authority partners. However, it must be noted that the remit of a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is broad and needs to reflect, not just those themes which pose threat, risk and harm from a policing perspective but also those of our partners and communities. The results of the Council's Talk About Survey and the York results from consultation carried out by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have been analysed to ensure that the strategy addresses those priorities identified by our communities. Chosen priorities are those which impact most significantly on the city and those who work, live and visit there.

Our priorities are:

River & Road Safety

Keeping the City Centre Safer

Protecting People from Harm

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

Tackling Serious Organised Crime

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

River & Road Safety – Lead Agency North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

York's Rivers

York is located at the confluence of two rivers: The River Foss and the River Ouse. It is prone to flooding from the River Ouse and has an extensive network of flood defences with walls along the river and a liftable barrier across the River Foss where it joins the Ouse at Blue Bridge. Until 2015 these defences had largely been effective but in December of that year severe flooding caused extensive damage to both residential and commercial properties in the city. In addition to the danger posed by flood water, both rivers have been the scene of a number of drowning fatalities. The circumstances of these fatalities range from suicide to accidental death, however, more recently a high proportion of fatalities have occurred where alcohol has been a contributing factor. In 2014, four deaths within a very short period of time at the start of the year, led to the commissioning of an audit of York's rivers by RoSPA. The resulting report made recommendations for increasing the security and safety measures along the rivers and these have been implemented by City of York Council in a programme of work which concluded in 2016. However, despite these improvements, there have been further fatalities, suggesting that work needs continue to educate and promote personal safety messages as an ongoing priority for Safer York Partnership.

Community Impact

Significant levels of concern are raised by residents in the city whenever an incident involving York's rivers receives media attention. Rivers are inherently a hazard but the impact increases significantly when combined with other risky behaviour and factors such as excessive consumption of alcohol. Following implementation of the RoSPA recommendations, the rivers and banks have been made as safe as is practical with the installation of additional grab rails, chain fencing, additional lifebuoys and better illumination. However, the issue of their danger remains when combined with additional factors such as alcohol consumption, risky behaviour and the low water temperature particularly during the colder months.

York's Roads

The historic centre of York is characterised by narrow pedestrian streets within the boundary of ancient city walls. Visitors are encouraged to use one of the Park and Ride Facilities located on the Ring Road as traffic congestion within the city is problematic at peak times. The main routes in and out of the city include the A1 and A64 with an outer ring road creating easy access to the surrounding towns and villages and into the popular tourist destinations within North Yorkshire.

In 2004 North Yorkshire County Council took the lead in establishing the 95 Alive Partnership together with North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and City of York Council. The partnership aimed to save 95 lives between 2005 and the end of 2010. At the conclusion of the campaign in 2011, 126 lives had been saved. But as casualty reduction remains a significant priority for the North Yorkshire County partners, the partnership has remained in place to continue its programmes of education and road safety advice across the county and city.

Although speed is less of a significant factor in road collisions in York due to the nature of the road network, other safety factors such as inexperienced drivers, use of mobile phones, correctly fitted child seats, high numbers of cyclists and exceeding speed limits in built up areas are all relevant to York's road users.

Despite many years of sustained campaigning, drink driving still remains a significant factor in relation to road collisions. However, of more concern is the growing tendency for people to drink large, unmeasured quantities of alcohol at home, which place them at risk of exceeding the permitted blood alcohol limit into the following day.

Community Impact

York encourages the use of cycles in the city and as such a large number of residents and employees in the city choose this form of transport. The narrow streets combined with traffic congestion in the city centre, do pose a risk to cycle users. Whilst the roads do not lend themselves to excessive speed, many are subject to a 30mph restriction which is often ignored, particularly within the villages on the outskirts of the city. Mobile technology has increased significantly with large numbers of the population owning and using smartphone technology, using their phone to access email, internet and music. However, using a mobile device whilst driving poses a significant risk if a driver's attention is taken away from the road. Changes to drinking habits, with more people consuming large volumes of alcohol at home also pose a risk from being 'over the limit' the following day.

We will:

- **Establish an active Water Safety Forum to address the broad issues of water safety and river usage**
- **Work with partners to increase awareness of the risk in, on and around the waterways amongst communities most at risk**
- **Engage with public, private and voluntary sectors with responsibility for waterways to ensure they understand the risks and have appropriate mitigation factors to address them**
- **Develop Stronger links between the Road Safety Task Group, 95 Alive and Safer York Partnership**

Keeping the City Centre Safe – Lead Agency North Yorkshire Police

York city centre is host to a diverse population of residents, employees, businesses and both local, UK and international tourists. It is also temporary home to a large student population. Part of York's charm is the compact nature of the city centre, bringing together both retail and tourist attractions into one easily accessed area. However, this poses other problems where licensed premises exist alongside shops and residential properties.

According to Crime Statistics, York is one of the safest cities in the UK with lower than average crime for a city that attracts so many visitors. However, due to the consequences of its layout and attraction as a weekend destination for large groups of males and females, tensions have been created between residents and visitors where alcohol consumption has led to behaviour which is deemed to be anti-social. Whilst much work has been undertaken by Safer York Partnership to tackle these issues, working with North Yorkshire Police, City of York Council, the rail providers and British Transport Police it is an ongoing issue which needs continued attention to ensure that the problem does not increase to levels experienced by other UK cities.

During the summer tourist season, two issues regularly increase in the city centre and cause conflict with local businesses, residents and visitors. These are begging and anti-social behaviour associated with street drinkers. Due to the presence of Designated Public Place Orders and Alcohol Restriction Zones, the problem regularly becomes displaced to various locations across the city when enforcement action is taken.

York has a vibrant economy with many business and retail premises located in the City Centre and out of town retail/business parks. York Business Against Crime was established in 2015 to facilitate the exchange of intelligence in relation to offenders and provide advice and support in relation to combating travelling criminals and shoplifters.

As a major tourist destination, York attracts large numbers of both International and British visitors who come to view the iconic buildings and attend key events such as St Nicholas Fayre at Christmas and the Races. With the national security level remaining SEVERE, the risk to the city of terrorist attack is highly likely and as such mitigation of the threat from terrorism is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership.

Community Impact

Whilst York has low levels of crime, the fear of crime and perception of crime is much higher. Positive perceptions of York are important to the city's status as a major tourist destination. The unique layout of the city with its mix of residential, commercial and

licenses premises makes it difficult to avoid conflict between different user groups. Excessive consumption of alcohol can lead to anti-social and violent behaviour but equally raises issues of personal safety and links closely to the work that is being undertaken to prevent river deaths

The summer of 2017 has seen terrorist attacks take place in London and Manchester therefore the risk of a future attack taking place in a provincial city is increased, making York a likely target due to the high numbers of visitors who come to the city each year

We will:

- **Work in partnership to address issues of anti-social behaviour concentrated within the city centre**
- **Develop information and intelligence sharing between members of the business community and the police**
- **Develop scalable multi-agency counter terrorism control measures in order to protect city centre locations from possible terrorist attack**

Protecting People from Harm – Lead Agency CYC Safeguarding (Children & Adults)

Some communities, groups and individuals are more likely to be victims of crime because of specific vulnerabilities. Protecting vulnerable people through safeguarding and prevention helps to reduce crime and increase confidence, building safer and stronger communities.

Occurrence types with the highest potential victim harm include cyber enabled sexual crime, fraud, trafficking and slavery, domestic abuse and child abuse/neglect. Other categories of abuse include Hate and Mate crime, physical , sexual or psychological abuse, FGM, forced marriage or organisational abuse. Identifying, preventing and investigating the exploitation of the vulnerable, particularly in the adult safeguarding arena, remains a significant challenge. The publication and dissemination of information to the public about recognising abuse and knowing how to seek help, either for themselves or others must therefore be a priority

The national threat level remains at Severe due to an increase in the threat of international terrorism arising from the conflict in Syria. Engagement with a range of vulnerable and hard to reach communities is essential to ensure that community concerns and risk, including under-reporting, are effectively identified.

Community Impact

Cyber Crime

Focus on victims is key to tackling cybercrime as it is often difficult to track down and arrest offenders. Targeting those with internet access and those who are more at risk due to identified vulnerabilities including social isolation, loneliness, poor mental health or those that may be exploited due to age-related vulnerabilities may assist in preventing further or repeat crimes.

Fraud

According to the most recent findings of the Crime Survey, fraud and cybercrime are now the most prevalent crimes committed against people in England and Wales. Whilst large scale fraud continues to be committed against businesses, there is an increasing level of reported targeting of individual and often vulnerable victims within communities. Locally, older people are particularly at risk of scams such as doorstep fraud, bank and card account takeover, pension liberation and investment fraud. Younger people are more likely to be victims of online purchase related fraud relating to retail or auction websites.

Domestic Abuse

The numbers of both domestic abuse with and without injury reported to North Yorkshire Police continues to rise and are both at their highest recorded levels since 2008/9. This trend is linked to a focus on encouraged reporting. Independent Domestic abuse Services (IDAS) report that they are experiencing an increase in the number of parents presenting because of domestic related issues with their children. Nationally there is a growing recognition of children being abusive towards family members. Domestic abuse, either committed against or witnessed by children and young people is a key push factor in them going missing from their home address. This then exposes them to a wider set of vulnerabilities including sexual or criminal exploitation.

Child Abuse and Neglect (Including CSA and E)

Protecting children and young people from significant harm (as a result of abuse or neglect) remains a key priority of the partnership. Close working between all agencies (in line with 'Working Together' and the local children safeguarding board

(CYSCB) is critical to this. The scope of child abuse is broad and incorporates physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect. It has the potential to occur in any geographic, social or economic group. Current multi-agency analysis of child abuse and neglect is seeking to better understand the profile within York and North Yorkshire.

Prevent

Incidents across Western Europe in 2016 and recent attacks on the UK Mainland demonstrate the continued willingness of people to give up their lives for a cause. The diversification of approaches from the destruction of commercial airliners to the use of co-ordinated shooting incidents and low-technology methods such as hostile vehicle attacks demonstrate the need for intelligence and law enforcement agencies, as well as a broad range of public, private and third sectors to be involved in the identification and response to vulnerable sites, routes and people. Social isolation, poor mental health as well as violent tendencies are becoming more understood as relevant factors to vulnerability to radicalisation alongside the traditionally seen element of religion. It is crucial that all partners work to raise awareness of Prevent within their own organisations and that staff are well informed and confident to identify those potentially at risk from radicalisation and know who to report their concerns to. Prevent is a safeguarding issue whereby the specific counter terrorism risks are identified and addressed alongside other support needs of individuals brought to the attention of the Community Safety Team.

We will:

- **Work collaboratively to ensure that domestic abuse becomes socially unacceptable and that the harm caused to victims and their families is reduced**
- **Take effective preventative and enforcement action to protect children from sexual exploitation**
- **Provide a multi-agency approach to support and reduce the vulnerability of people with multiple and complex needs from becoming victims or perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **Work proactively to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and reduce the likelihood of extremism**
- **Work with partners to ensure that staff are well informed in relation to Prevent and confident to raise concerns and make referrals through the appropriate channels**
- **Raise awareness of Prevent both within organisations and communities to ensure that concerns are reported and the community risks from terrorism are reduced**

Tackling Serious Organised Crime – Lead Agency North Yorkshire Police

Although Serious Organised Crime (SOC) is often thought of in a regional, national or international context, its impact is most felt by local communities. It harms individuals, families and local businesses alike with rippling implications for even the smallest most rural communities. However, it is not a crime itself, SOC is controlled and led by organised crime groups (OCGs) that use intimidation tactics and corruption for unlawful gain. OCGs are deceitful and unscrupulous in their pursuit of money, power or personal gratification through the harm of others.

In January 2016, North Yorkshire Police produced a Serious Organised Crime Problem Profile for York and North Yorkshire. This profile was presented to both Community Safety Partnerships and it was agreed that Safer York Partnership would ensure that partners are engaged in supporting the police to gather and share intelligence and disrupt organised crime groups operating in the city.

Community Impact

These hidden crimes take place around us every day. Too often the theft of a mobile phone or possession of drugs for personal use enables a more insidious organised and pervasive criminality such as human trafficking or fraud. SOC has a significant social and economic cost – estimated at £24billion each year to the overall economy. These criminals often prey on vulnerable communities and individuals to profit financially or otherwise. They supply and distribute illegal drugs, commit fraud, tax evasion and facilitate human trafficking and child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Based upon local economic, crime and intelligence profiles, the types of human trafficking and modern slavery most prevalent within York and North Yorkshire are:

- Labour exploitation – being forced to work very long hours, often in hard conditions and to hand over the majority, if not all of their wages. Examples include car washes and nail bars
- Domestic servitude – being forced to work in private households, performing household tasks for long hours for little, if any pay.

- Criminal exploitation – involving forcing victims to engage in criminal activities such as cannabis farming, forced begging, pickpocketing and benefit fraud.
- Sexual exploitation – Includes prostitution, pornography and escort work. Men women and children can all be victims and many will have been groomed or deceived with promises of a better life before being controlled through violence and abuse

We will:

- **Work in partnership across the county and city to increase the sharing of intelligence relating to organised crime groups in order to bring those involved to justice**
- **Increase awareness of staff in order to improve the gathering of information and intelligence relating to human trafficking and modern slavery**
- **Work to in partnership to embed a programme of support to victims of Serious Organised Crime, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

Tackling Anti-social behaviour – Lead Agency, CYC Community Safety

In 2014 City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police established the Community Safety Unit essentially to tackle anti-social behaviour in a more joined up way. A team of City of York Council ASB Officers and six police officers work together to risk assess on a daily and weekly basis and facilitate partners to work together to address the most serious cases in the most effective and efficient way. In addition a Neighbourhood Enforcement team tackle environmental ASB such as graffiti, littering and flytipping, operates the council's domestic noise nuisance service at weekends and works proactively with police safer neighbourhood teams on planned operations to tackle local issues of ASB in the community.

Community Impact

Anti social behaviour is activity that impacts on other people in a negative way. It can include a variety of behaviours covering a whole range of unacceptable activity that can blight the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. Anti-social behaviour is most often defined as behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress to one or more people not of the same household as the person responsible (perpetrator).

If anti-social behaviour is allowed to continue unchallenged, the effects for individuals and the community can be devastating. The Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act provides a community trigger which allows victims and communities the right to demand that anti-social behaviour is dealt with.

Hate crime is any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by hostility towards someone based on their disability, race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. Whilst levels of recorded hate crime in York are low, we have anecdotal evidence from a range of agencies working with communities of interest that the true extent may not be known. This may leave vulnerable individuals who feel unable to come forward and report issues which impact significantly on their own and their family's quality of life. Hate crime cases are dealt with by the Community Safety Unit and are addressed through discussion and action planning at the weekly multi-agency meetings.

We will:

- **Prevent anti-social behaviour and reduce the impact that it has on people's lives through using our collective resources to target offenders and address issues based on threat, harm and risk**
- **Help to reduce ignorance and prejudice by helping people to get to know each other and challenging myths and racism**
- **Defuse community tensions when they arise by recognising the signs early and having the right tools and skills available to reduce them.**
- **Tackle issues of environmental crime through programmes of education and enforcement action, empowering communities to tackle issues themselves**

Substance Misuse – Lead agency CYC Public Health

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 aim of the York Alcohol Strategy is for stakeholders to work together to reduce and prevent the alcohol related harms that people might experience within their lifetime. This will be achieved by encouraging responsible drinking and positive behaviour. By providing those who are drinking at risky and harmful levels with the right information, effective support or treatment, alcohol related harm will be reduced. As a major tourist destination, many visitors choose to come to York because it is such a vibrant, compact city with many venues offering food and alcohol. However, this can result in conflict with other tourist and resident groups within the city, particularly where alcohol is involved and anti-social behaviour becomes a consequence of excessive drinking. The strategy is supported by a vision for safe alcohol use. It will be delivered in collaboration with local stakeholders and will promote a whole life approach towards alcohol through encouraging positive behaviour, responsible drinking, reducing and preventing the harms associated with alcohol and providing effective interventions and treatment for those who are drinking at risky and harmful levels.

Community Impact

A large amount of resource is required to deal with alcohol related issues. The ambulance service, accident and emergency department, police, fire and rescue service and members of the public routinely deal with the consequences of alcohol. Harm to families, such as domestic abuse, child abuse and neglect as well as violent crime, binge drinking, absenteeism from work, drink driving, alcohol related accidents and anti social behaviour are all issues associated with alcohol.

We will:

- **Commission holistic drug and alcohol services to encourage, support and empower individuals to take control of their lives and minimise the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse**

- **Work in partnership to drive the delivery of the Alcohol Strategy for York, connecting those areas of the community safety plan where alcohol has an impact**

Monitoring Performance

The Community Safety Plan is a living document and will be refreshed annually throughout its lifespan. Detailed action plans will be owned by the relevant leads and will be monitored by the Safer York Partnership Board.

How can you get involved?

You can have more direct involvement in the work of Safer York Partnership by interacting with us on Social Media. Find us @saferyork on Facebook and Twitter or visit our website www.saferyorkpartnership.co.uk You can also join the North Yorkshire Police Volunteer scheme or become a member of Neighbourhood Watch in your area.

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