



Safer Sunderland Strategy

2008 – 2023

Foreword

I am pleased to be able to introduce the Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023.

Everyone, no matter who they are or where they live in Sunderland, has the right to be and feel as safe as possible without the concerns of being a victim of crime or being harmed.

We have had a history of effective partnership working in Sunderland for over a decade and there is much to be proud of. We have successfully delivered three previous strategies that have contributed to significant reductions in all major categories of recorded crime with excellent improvements in access to drug treatment. We will build on these achievements, which include a 27% reduction in recorded crime since 2002/03, equating to over 10,000 fewer victims.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership is a mature and robust partnership. We feel we are now in a strong enough position to move away from short bursts of activity towards tackling the causes of crime. The development of a longer term 15 year strategy will help us achieve this.

Despite being one of the safest cities in the north, we know there are challenges that still need to be addressed. These include tackling the misuse of drugs and alcohol and reducing anti-social behaviour. We also know that there is a small group of people who cause the greatest problems and some groups who suffer disproportionate levels of victimisation. We recognise the impact that this can have on our communities so the toughest challenge is making sure everyone actually feels safe.

The causes of crime, disorder and substance misuse are complex and we will look to address these by taking a problem solving approach rather than simply responding to the symptoms. However, we cannot tackle these issues alone and so we will work across a wide range of agencies and partnerships and call on the support and commitment of all of our communities to achieve this.

You will see that the outcomes we have set are ambitious. This is necessary if we are to continue to improve upon the successes of the last ten years. In so doing we are confident that this Strategy offers the

right approach for achieving sustained reductions in crime, disorder and substance misuse and the harm it causes as well as improving feelings of safety for everyone.

This document sets out what we believe will make Sunderland the safest it has ever been and will give you a real expectation of what we can do by working together to make Sunderland be safe and feel safe.



Cllr Thomas Foster

Chair of the Safer Sunderland Partnership

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Glossary of acronyms

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Executive summary

The Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) has successfully delivered against its key targets in the Safer Sunderland Strategy 2005-2008. We have closed the gap between the local and national crime rate and we are currently performing better than the national average. We have exceeded our 20% crime reduction target and residents' worry about crime has seen a significant improvement. Access to and retention in drug treatment has also significantly improved. At a national level, the public are also less likely to fall victim to crime than at any time in the last 25 years.

However, a number of challenges and repeat problems have been highlighted through a comprehensive assessment of a wide range of crime, disorder and substance misuse information. This data has been backed up by the views of local residents, gathered using a number of different community engagement methods. This has given local people an opportunity to comment on the issues that directly affect them.

Over the last ten years, the SSP has developed in such a way that it feels able to take a new approach to its strategy development. The Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023 is an annually renewable fifteen year strategy that will give a longer term focus to our activity whilst still meeting the statutory three year requirement.

The overall outcome of the Safer Sunderland Strategy is that everyone in Sunderland will be and feel safe and secure.

The supporting outcomes to be delivered during 2008-2023 focus upon:

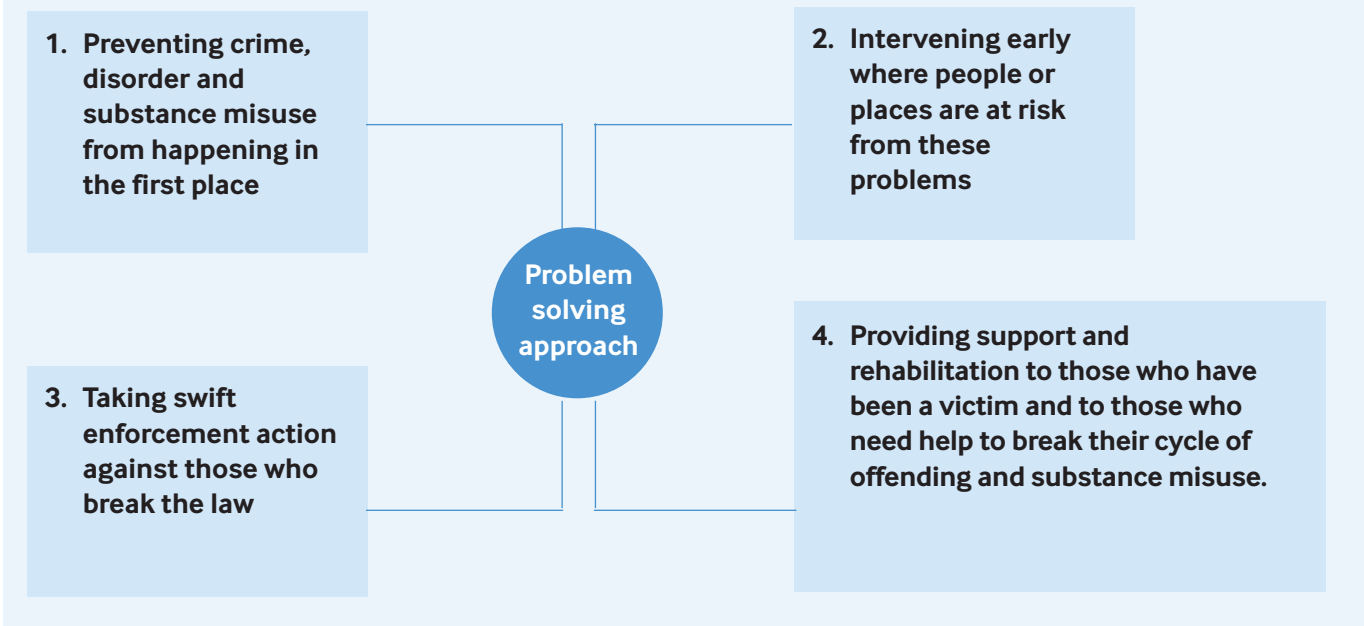
- **Being and feeling safe and secure**
- **Being free from harm**
- **Creating a safe environment**
- **Being free from crime, disorder and substance misuse**
- **Creating active citizens**
- **Creating a supportive family environment**
- **Creating cohesive communities**
- **Embedding a problem solving approach**
- **Creating an effective partnership**

In terms of what this will mean for local people, by 2023¹

- **Feelings of safety will be at their highest ever level and no one will feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood**
- **Residents will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime rates**
- **Perceptions of anti-social behaviour will be at their lowest ever level and better than the national average**
- **More people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children**
- **There will be the lowest ever levels of drug related (Class A) offending and proven re-offending by adult and young offenders**
- **Levels of repeat incidents of domestic violence and assault with injury will be at their lowest levels. Hospital admissions due to alcohol will be within the 20% best performing Local Authorities across the country and there will be fewer repeat substance misusers accessing treatment.**
- **No one will perceive attacks or harassment because of race, colour, religion or sexual orientation to be a very serious problem in Sunderland. Feelings of safety amongst vulnerable groups will more closely reflect those of other residents across the city.**

¹ Unless stated, baselines will be set using 2006/07 data and continuous improvements will be sought from this baseline

This Strategy will be delivered by adopting a problem solving approach. It will deliver a balance of interventions by:



In the shorter term, the issues that require continued effort and prioritisation are around:

- A stronger focus on reducing re-offending, especially for adults, and also strengthening transitional arrangements between youth and adult offending services
- Reducing repeat victimisation, especially domestic violence
- Reducing alcohol misuse and the harm it causes, including alcohol related crime and disorder
- Reducing drug misuse and the harm it causes, including drug related crime and disorder
- Reducing the problems in those communities experiencing disproportionate levels of crime compared to the city average²
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and perceptions of it
- Improving feelings of safety, especially amongst more vulnerable groups
- Embedding a problem solving approach throughout the SSP and measuring the effectiveness of this
- Meeting the six hallmarks as required under the minimum standards for partnership working to ensure the SSP is the most effective it can be in delivering better outcomes for residents.

Delivery of the strategy will take place through a combination of partners’ mainstream resources and externally funded initiatives. It will also be supported by a range of other national, regional and local plans and strategies that strengthen and complement the work we do, such as the Sunderland Strategy. It will be backed up by a robust performance management framework setting out relevant one, three and fifteen year measures against which to monitor progress.

² as evidenced in the Partnership’s Strategic Intelligence Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 The Structure of the Strategy

The strategy is structured around 5 key chapters.

Chapters 1 and 2 explain the purpose of the Safer Sunderland Strategy and the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) as well as highlighting some of our key achievements over the last three years.

Chapter 3 provides the national, regional and local context in which the partnership operates and describes the key issues and challenges that remain.

Chapter 4 takes the findings of our assessment of local need and outlines the strategic priorities and key outcomes for the next fifteen years. It also highlights the cross cutting issues and related plans and strategies that will support the achievement of these outcomes.

Finally, chapter 5 sets out our strategic approach and priorities for the next year, and explains how we will deliver the new strategy and monitor our performance.

1.2 Our Long Term Outcome for a Safer Sunderland

The SSP has set a long term outcome for this strategy of “being and feeling safe and secure”. To reach this goal, we will first need to achieve the supporting outcomes that are set out in section 4.3.

1.3 The Purpose of the Safer Sunderland Strategy

Working through the SSP, different agencies, sectors and communities have come together to share

Long term outcome

By 2023, Sunderland will be a city where people are, and feel, safe and secure where they can enjoy life without the concerns of being a victim of crime or being harmed.

information and experiences about the safer communities challenges facing Sunderland, and to consider the best way of tackling these.

By setting out the key challenges and priorities for the future, this document provides the strategic framework for the members of the SSP (and indeed all individuals, groups and organisations) to work towards making Sunderland safe and secure. It sets out the focus of our work and resources, and gives our stakeholders and those people outside of the city a flavour of how safe Sunderland is now, and how safe it will be by 2023.

This strategy demonstrates our commitment to making a positive difference to the lives of local people so that they see, hear and feel that Sunderland is one of the safest cities in the North of England.

1.4 Developing the Strategy

The SSP has a statutory duty to develop and implement a local three yearly (annually renewable) strategy to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse³.

Sunderland has already successfully delivered three successive strategies that have improved community safety over the last decade. However, the landscape in which we operate now has changed considerably since 1998 and as new challenges emerge, so must our approach to dealing with

them. The SSP has therefore decided to produce an annually renewable fifteen year strategy 2008-2023 that will give a longer term focus to our activity whilst still meeting the statutory three year requirement.

This fifteen year ‘Safer Sunderland Strategy’ sets out the long, medium and shorter term activity and step changes that need to take place in order to achieve our long term outcome.

The strategy has been developed using a ‘Theory of Change’ approach (see Appendix 1).

The Theory of Change is a process of backwards mapping starting with where we want to be in fifteen years time and then figuring out what is necessary to bring about that change. This is supported by a number of outcomes (or preconditions) that need to happen to achieve other outcomes. Clearly defining each outcome and the relationship between them greatly increases our ability to identify and time the appropriate activities that are necessary to achieve these outcomes. The approach also includes a description of the types of activities that will help achieve the outcomes and specific, measurable indicators that signify their successful achievement. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 4.

³ S6, Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by s97 and s98 Police Reform Act 2002 and s1, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005)

This strategy will also be supported by a number of local sub-strategies. These are all areas of core business that have been given a greater priority over the next three years.

- **Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

Strategy: The work already undertaken through the 'Together' programme and RESPECT agenda will be embedded and progressed specifically within a citywide ASB Strategy. It will progress the excellent work already done around supporting families; parenting work; activities for children and young people; improving behaviour and attendance in schools; tackling environmental crime and effective enforcement and community justice. It will set out the co-ordinated, strategic approach to tackling ASB (and perceptions of it), based around prevention, early intervention, enforcement and support and rehabilitation. It will be supported by a number of key outcomes in the Safer Sunderland Strategy including: creating active citizens, a supportive family environment and cohesive communities; being free from harm; being free from crime, disorder and substance misuse; and creating a safe environment.

- **Alcohol Strategy:** This strategy and accompanying action plan will seek to address the impact alcohol misuse has in Sunderland from an individual, family and community perspective. It will aim to reduce the harm caused by alcohol, control the illicit supply of alcohol and will be aspirational in its intention to offer alternative lifestyle choices for individuals away from alcohol. It will be supported by a number of key outcomes in the Safer Sunderland Strategy including: being free from harm, being free from crime, disorder and substance misuse, and creating active citizens, a supportive family environment and cohesive communities.

- **Reducing Re-offending**

Strategy: This will build upon Sunderland's Beacon Status and will improve the strategic co-ordination and delivery of services based around the seven strategic pathways to reduce re-offending. Within its first year, it will strengthen the approach to tackling offending – with adults being given early priority and transition arrangements once young offenders become adults. It will be supported by a number of key outcomes in the Safer Sunderland Strategy including: creating active citizens, creating a supportive family environment; being free from harm; and being free from crime, disorder and substance misuse.

- **Domestic Violence Strategy:**

This strategy will set out the co-ordinated community response needed to reduce repeat victimisation and repeat offending. In its first year it will progress a number of key developments such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and a Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC). It will be supported by a number of key outcomes in the Safer Sunderland Strategy including: being free from harm, being free from crime, disorder and substance misuse, creating a safe environment and creating active citizens and a supportive family environment.

Each of the sub-strategies will set out the detail of how we will tackle these key strategic priorities and who is responsible, including key performance measures.

2. The Safer Sunderland Partnership

2.1 The Purpose of the Safer Sunderland Partnership

In April 2005, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and the Drug Action Team (DAT) merged to form the SSP. However, there has been a history of partnership working in this field since the early 1990s, prior to a statutory duty to do so in 1998.

The SSP brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to deliver the Safer Sunderland Strategy.

There are 5 'responsible authorities' on the SSP and they have the legal duty to work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse, and to prepare and implement a strategic assessment and partnership plan.

The 5 responsible authorities are:

- Sunderland City Council
- Northumbria Police
- Northumbria Police Authority
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) / Authority
- Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT)

There is a wide range of other agencies on the Partnership who are committed to actively support the responsible authorities in delivering the Safer Sunderland Strategy. These include:

- National Probation Service Northumbria
- Sunderland Youth Offending Service (YOS)
- Sunderland Victim Support
- Gentoo
- Wearside Women in Need (WWIN)
- Nexus
- Sunderland Community Network
- Government Office North East (GONE)
- Plus a range of other agencies who are commissioned to deliver services that support the delivery of this strategy

The SSP is responsible for ensuring the Safer Sunderland Strategy is implemented, and also for reviewing and evaluating progress to ensure that it is achieving what it set out to do – i.e. making Sunderland safer.

The SSP is one of a number of 'thematic partnerships' under the Sunderland Partnership (Sunderland's

Local Strategic Partnership – or LSP). The SSP is responsible for delivering the 'Safe City' priority in the LSP's Sustainable Community Strategy.

The structure of the SSP is set out in Appendix 2 and its delivery and governance arrangements are detailed in section 5.4.

2.2 Key Achievements so far

The three key targets of the 2005-2008 strategy have all been achieved.

This has been supported by excellent reductions in all of the major recorded crime categories since 2002/03 and the successful delivery of the 'Together' programme and RESPECT agenda on tackling anti-social behaviour.



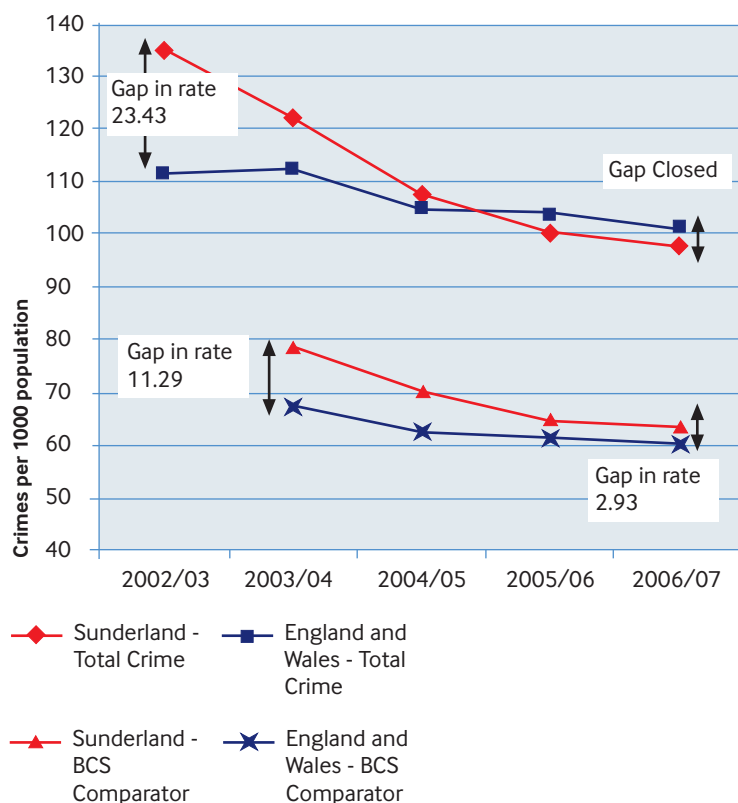
Overall Targets 2005-2008	Was this Achieved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce crime in Sunderland by 20% from 2003/04 to 2007/08 Public Service Agreement (PSA) 1 based on British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crime Categories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. A -32% reduction had been achieved by February 2008 – exceeding the target.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow the gap between the total recorded crime rate in Sunderland and the national average by 2007/08 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. The gap was closed a year ahead of target and Sunderland's crime rate is currently better than the England and Wales average (see figure 1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce from 47%, the number of residents who said they felt more worried about crime in the last year (2004 fear of crime survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. In September 2007, worry about crime had significantly dropped to 34%.

There have also been significant improvements in the provision, access and numbers in drug treatment.

However, we recognise that a number of key challenges to achieving our long term outcome remain. These are set out in Chapters 3 and 4 and form the basis of this new strategy.

The rest of this chapter considers what the SSP said it would do in its last Safer Sunderland Strategy (2005-2008) and compares this against what has been achieved.

Fig.1 Total Crime and BCS Comparator Rates (PSA1) for Sunderland and England and Wales



What we said we'd do

1. Reduce offending

What we achieved

- There is now better support and end-to-end management of offenders through the alignment of the Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme (PPOS), the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) and the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR). This has contributed to a -35% reduction in crime convictions and a -62% reduction in their risks of offending of those on the PPO scheme (October 2004-2007). There has also been an -18% reduction in drug related trigger offences since the DIP Programme started in 2005. The DIP is also showing a significant reduction in the number of positive tests for arrests for trigger offences. From April-Dec 2007, there were 41% fewer people testing positive for drugs when arrested for trigger offences compared to a 17% reduction the year before.
- The YOS is consistently in the top five best performing out of 155 youth offending teams in the country with an 8.5% reduction in youth re-offending since 2003.
- Sunderland was awarded Beacon Council status for Reducing Re-offending in March 2008.
- Initiatives such as Wear Kids, On Track, Phoenix, Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme, Tackle It and the DIP Sports and Physical Activity programme are successfully working with offenders and those at risk of offending to help them become free from crime, disorder and substance misuse.

Case Study: Rehabilitation and Aftercare Programme (RAP)

The RAP scheme is run by the YOS and commenced as a programme targeted specifically at those with substance misuse needs resettling into the community after a period of custody but has been extended to offenders on community based sentences. It enables young people with identified substance misuse issues to access mainstream substance misuse services. It also ensures continuity from custody to community and manages the transition to adult substance misuse and Probation Services. A key aspect of the RAP is a small flexible fund, which can be used to support children and young people with emergency finance and budget

issues. The fund is operated on a financial incentive and reward basis, thus finance provided to young offenders is encapsulated in a RAP behaviour agreement. This ensures young offenders and their families are aware that the financial support will be withdrawn where there is further offending behaviour or where the RAP programme requirements are not adhered to. The scheme has been particularly effective in supporting young people to obtain stable accommodation and to maintain Education, Training and Employment placements. Further case studies can be found in Appendix 6.



What we said we'd do

2. Reduce victimisation, tackle the fear of crime and support victims

What we achieved

- The Safer Homes Initiative has provided free home security for victims of house burglary, domestic violence and hate crime in order to reduce levels of repeat victimisation. In its first year it has helped make the homes of over 1300 residents more secure and 97% said they felt much safer as a result. Levels of repeats are at their lowest since the project began (See Appendix 6).
- The Safer Homes Initiative has helped residents who were more worried about crime than they were the year before. In 2007, only a third of residents were more worried.
- Safer Sunderland Partnership TV is improving feelings of safety. This is part of a wider package of improved marketing and communications work, such as the 'Not in Our City' fear of crime campaign, aimed at making residents feel safer.
- Reparation schemes have helped adult and young offenders make amends to their victims and their community (see Appendix 6).
- Worry about crime in Sunderland has seen a significant improvement. In 2004, almost half of all residents said they



Case Study: Safer Sunderland Partnership TV (SSPTV)

SSPTV is a network of 10 plasma TV screens in community venues across the city (e.g. in hospitals, supermarkets, cafes, post offices, and libraries). The screens are used to promote a wide range of community safety services and reassurance messages. For example, they promote the work done by offenders on community payback schemes. It also provides contact numbers for residents to call with ideas on the type of work

they'd like those on community payback to carry out in their neighbourhood. SSPTV is making a difference. Between 51%-71% of people who watched the screens said they felt safer having seen the content. Some have taken up the advice they've seen including making use of crime prevention tips, reporting anti-social behaviour and parking in secured car parks. In 2006, the TV system was commended as part of the National

Good Communication Awards recognising the network as an innovative way to deliver positive messages to residents.



What we said we'd do

3. Reduce volume crime in priority areas especially house burglary, car crime, criminal damage and robbery

What we achieved

- Sunderland's crime rate has been better than the national average since 2005/06 and the SSP has consistently been in the best performing half of its family group of 15 similar partnerships as a result of effective multi-agency working.
- Our performance against the BCS Comparator PSA1 target was exceeded a year early and performance is better than our peer group.
- Total recorded crime fell by -20% from 2003/04 to 2006/07 (around 10,000 fewer victims of crime) and this has continued to fall by a further -14% from Apr-Dec 2007.
- Domestic burglary and car crime have fallen by -38% and -36% since 2003/04 to 2006/07. These reductions are continuing with a -36% and -15% reduction respectively (April-Dec 2007).
- Criminal damage reduced by -6.5% (2003/04 to 2006/07) with continuing reductions of -19% so far this year.
- Violent crime and robbery have both reduced by -7% and -12% (2003/04 to 2006/07) and have continued to reduce by -16% and -21% respectively from April-Dec 2007.
- Every community is now patrolled by its own dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team tackling volume crime and repeat problems
- Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups are tackling local safer communities issues in their areas.

Case Study: Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Group

Every area of Sunderland is supported by its own LMAPS Group. A range of agencies attend (including the Police, Council and Gento) who are able to identify, analyse and effectively resolve crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues at a local level. In 2007, over 30 residents from Shiney Row attended a local community engagement meeting to raise the issue of youth disorder. The Coalfields LMAPS group responded and partners worked collectively to resolve this problem. This included:

- Additional evening foot patrols by Police Officers and Community Support Officers (CSOs)
- Seizing alcohol from underage drinkers

- Visits to off-licenses to remind them of their responsibilities around underage sales
- Visits to the homes of those misbehaving, formally warning them, in front of their parents, about their behaviour
- Referring those causing problems to 'Wear Kids' who deal specifically with the consequences of their actions

on their community and provide one-to-one supervision to help divert them away from future offending.

These achievements were fed back to everyone affected by the problem and most said they felt it been successfully resolved.



What we said we'd do

4. Achieve a sustainable reduction in anti-social behaviour

What we achieved

- The City received RESPECT action area status in 2006 in recognition of its innovation and performance in ASB reduction. The Sunderland RESPECT plan built upon the earlier drive on anti-social behaviour enforcement, embedding stronger focus on prevention. This has resulted in: activities for children and young people; improving behaviour and attendance in schools; supporting families; a new approach to the most challenging families; strengthening communities and effective enforcement and community justice. Significant progress has been made with the completion of over 90% of the 2007/08 RESPECT Plan actions.
- The ASB and RESPECT initiative has led to a 21% reduction in public perception of ASB between 2003/04 and 2006/07.
- A citywide Targeted Youth Engagement (TYE) project has been successfully reducing youth related disorder in hotspots and at peak disorder times. It deploys outreach workers to engage with young people and divert them away from problem behaviour and into more positive activities. A range of other activities are also in place across the city, such as Positive Futures, Kickz, Football and Fitness Fridays and Saturdays and other youth development and voluntary and community work. This has helped contribute to a significant reduction in people's perceptions of young people hanging around as a serious problem – falling from 52% in March 2004 to 48% in September 2007.
- Gentoo and the Council's Neighbourhood Relations Team (NRT) work in partnership with Northumbria Police to tackle ASB and neighbour problems. In 2006-07, Gentoo dealt with 1,325 cases and the NRT dealt with 311.
- The Council and YOS have continued to offer a range of parenting advice, support and guidance over the last three years at a universal, targeted and specialist level. This has included statutory parenting courses. On average, 3,500 parents have attended programmes. In the last year Sunderland has successfully bid for three new parenting initiatives: one for work in schools, the second for parenting work linked to ASB and the third for work with parents whose children are looked after who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan. The latter project has been extremely successful and Sunderland is judged as delivering one of the top 10 projects in the UK.
- A new Families Intervention Project (FIP) is challenging the behaviour of problem families by supporting them to address the causes of their ASB. It has 12 floating support places and 5 dispersed housing places and works with around 17 families at any one time - all of who have retained their tenancies.

Case Study: Positive Futures

The Positive Futures social inclusion programme has been attracting young people into positive activities since 2002. The Fitness Friday initiative at the Raich Carter Sports Centre in Hendon has helped more than 120 young people keep out of trouble by offering them a wide choice of fitness, dance and sports activities, all of which are

delivered by qualified coaches. It has been effective in reducing youth related ASB and crime within the area and is just one of a wide range of activities across the city that are helping to positively channel young peoples' energies. By focussing on 'hot spots' for youth disorder, Positive Futures has helped to prevent problems from occurring.



What we said we'd do

5. Tackle hate crime

What we achieved

- ARCH was launched to improve the reporting and recording of racist crime, improve the support available to victims, and effectively deal with the perpetrators.
- A multi-agency hate crime problem profile and action plan has been developed. There is still scope for closer working between the SSP and the Inclusive Communities Partnership on tackling hate crime and improving feelings of safety amongst more vulnerable groups.
- The Safer Homes Initiative has provided additional home security to 14 victims of hate crime during 2007/08 making them feel safer in their own homes
- Tackle It is a partnership between the YOS and Sunderland Premiership Football Club. It works with young people to tackle racism and anti-social behaviour and promotes good citizenship.



Case Study: ARCH

Racism of any form is unacceptable and nobody should suffer or receive abuse of any kind because of who they are. That is why the Sunderland Partnership introduced ARCH, a system designed for reporting, recording and monitoring racist incidents across the city. It ensures that residents, students, asylum seekers and other visitors to the City have a quick and efficient way of reporting racist incidents through a variety of sources, agencies and locations. It enables organisations to work in a more strategic and coordinated way to help ensure that the victim gets the most appropriate support and that effective action is taken against perpetrators. Victims and witnesses of racist crime can report an incident 24 hours a day by either calling a free phone number -

08000 778 378 - or by visiting one of the organisations who are partners in the scheme (see www.sunderland-arch.org.uk).

ARCH is:

- Increasing the number of racist incidents that are reported and reducing the number of repeat incidents
- Increasing the support available to victims of racist harassment
- Improving action taken against perpetrators
- Increasing the understanding of racist incidents in Sunderland in order to develop a multi agency approach to preventing racist incidents
- Delivering a customer focussed approach

REPORT RACISM

Together we can beat it

To report a racist incident call free 08000 778 378

What we said we'd do

6. Tackle domestic violence

What we achieved

- WWIN have continued to provide excellent services to domestic violence victims, from refuge provision and a 24 hour helpline through to outreach and resettlement support. In 2007/08, a third refuge has been built
- A domestic violence sanctuary scheme (part of the Safer Homes Initiative) has been supporting victims to remain in their own home should they wish to do so by providing additional home security.
- An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is now in post, providing specialised support to high risk victims.

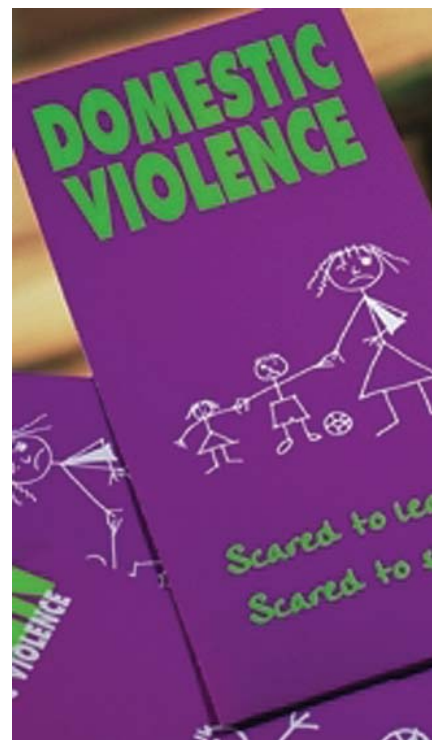
- There has been a reduction in repeat victimisation from 50% to 47% but this figure still remains too high.
- 4 levels of domestic violence training are delivered, which supports effective practice in this area across the city.



Case Study: Domestic Violence Perpetrator Hostel

We continue to look to tackle domestic violence from a variety of angles with fresh new initiatives. WWIN have secured funding to run a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Hostel – one of the first of its kind in the country. The project will support victims of domestic abuse by offering treatment to the perpetrators and by relieving pressure on those victims who do not wish to leave their homes and uproot their children. The hostel will provide accommodation and treatment for up to 10 perpetrators

at any one time and will be staffed 24 hours a day. It will allow self-referrals as well as mandatory ones through conditional cautioning, enhanced use of bail conditions and potentially arrest referral routes. This is being backed up by a range of other developments including the new IDVA and MARACs for high risk cases. Sunderland will also have its own Specialist Domestic Violence Court from April 2008. All of these interventions will help to reduce levels of repeat victimisation.



What we said we'd do

7. Tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder and the social and physical harm it causes

What we achieved

- The city's PubWatch and taxi marshalling schemes are helping reduce alcohol-related disorder and improve feelings of safety, making the city centre a safer place to enjoy a night out.
- Trading Standards and the Police continue to educate licensees about underage sales and enforce legislation where appropriate. There were 7 successful prosecutions for underage sales in 2007. A 'Challenge 21' scheme is also proving successful in helping reduce underage sales to young people on weekends.
- The Dare2Differ Project has increased opportunities for young people to access drug and alcohol education and build resistance to reduce drug and alcohol misuse.
- The SSP was presented with the Association of Town Centre Management Award for its Safer City Centre Strategy
- The A&E and Alcohol Arrest Referral workers are offering screening and brief interventions in health and criminal justice settings.



Case Study: Taxi Marshalling Scheme

An innovative taxi marshalling service is helping people get home safely from the city centre after a night out. It consists of three fully licensed and trained marshals being on duty at the taxi ranks on Green Terrace and West Street on Friday and Saturday nights. Their job is to help keep the taxi queues moving, resolve any problems that might arise and ensure that all members of the public feel safe in and around the taxi ranks. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of incidents of disorder and queue-jumping. People were also reporting

feeling safer whilst queuing at the ranks. The marshals still work very closely with the Police and are in radio contact with them should any assistance be required, but even when difficult situations do arise, the

marshals' training and expertise means they are usually able to resolve them without any problems. The marshals are recognised and respected by people enjoying an evening out.



What we said we'd do

8. Tackle drug misuse and the harm it causes

What we achieved

- The drug treatment system has been re-designed across the city making it much easier for people to access treatment when they need it. The new Approved Preferred Provider Scheme (APPS) was developed to improve services for clients ensuring they are configured in such a way that client journeys become more effective and easier to make. This improves outcomes in relation to reductions in crime, reductions in drug use, and improvements in health.
- There has been a 65% increase in the numbers of problematic drug users in treatment in the city over the last two years, contributing to improved health and less drug-related crime. Drug misusing offenders are also referred onto the DIP programme
- The SSP exceeded the target for engaging with service users in treatment for a minimum of 12 weeks. It also met the national targets for treatment waiting times for the first time since the inception of the National Drugs Strategy 10 years ago. This has been achieved through things like increased prescribing capacity and a single point of contact for all referrals into the drug treatment system.
- Sunderland Area Command has focussed its attention on dismantling and disrupting serious and organised crime as well as addressing street level dealing and has made a number of significant seizures of cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, amphetamine and cannabis.
- Residents' perceptions of 'people using or dealing in drugs' as a serious problem, saw a significant reduction from 43% to 39% (March 2004 to September 2007).
- The Hidden Harm Group was developed as a sub group of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). An action plan is in place which ensures that appropriate links are made between Children's Services and Adult Treatment Providers to identify and address challenges between adult drug use and children.
- Provision for carers of those who misuse substances has increased and two local carers services have been developed.

Case Study: Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)

The DIP is a key part of the Government's strategy for tackling drugs and drug related crime. The scheme has been running in Sunderland since January 2005. The DIP had a Sports and Physical Activity Programme attached to it. The impacts were both health and crime related. Firstly, it acted as a diversion – so whilst they were engaged on the programme (and stay engaged in sport after the programme), then they were not committing crime. 96% said they were less bored and

much less likely to offend. Nine out of ten felt their day was more structured and in control without the need for drugs. Secondly it impacted on healthier lifestyles through increased exercise, improved nutrition, and the opportunity for people to develop other interests and lifestyle changes. It also impacted on harm minimisation as 96% of those on the scheme had been diverted from class A drug use, leading to a reduction in drug-related crime. One individual who accessed the DIP

Sports programme completed football coaching qualifications. Another client said they were alive because of the programme.



3. Issues impacting on Sunderland

3.1 National, Regional and Local Context

Partnership working in Sunderland has contributed to sustained falls in crime and improved drug treatment over the last decade. However, the landscape in which the SSP works has changed considerably during this period. A new national crime reduction framework has been developed which very much fits with the majority of our local issues.

However, not all crime is locally driven. There are links between national and international threats and events which can impact on local communities, for example, terrorism impacts on how safe people feel and the rising price on the world markets of raw materials such as copper makes theft of such material a higher local risk. The SSP monitors these trends closely in its regular assessment and risk processes. We will continue to work with regional and central government on the achievement of our local priorities as well as supporting regional and national priorities.

3.1.1 National Context

There is a strong legislative and policy context around safer communities. This section identifies the issues at a national level that are relevant to Sunderland.

In 1998, the Crime and Disorder Act (CDA) put partnership working on a statutory footing and it remains a key piece of legislation for safer communities. However, over the past ten years partnerships have matured and developed at an extremely rapid rate and this has affected the way partnerships do business. As a result,

close partnership working has become even more critical to the ability to respond fully as new laws and policies unfold. This will continue to develop through the implementation of the CDRP reform programme which will ensure partnerships are in a position to adapt to changing delivery landscapes and take on new challenges. Partnerships have also moved towards developing aspects of specialist delivery of services such as the PPO Scheme with a greater emphasis on operational delivery.

The overarching pieces of legislation relevant to this strategy are:

- Crime and Disorder Act (1998)
- Police Reform Act (2002)
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Act (2003)
- Licensing Act (2003)
- Criminal Justice Act (2003)
- Children Act (2004)
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004)
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005)
- Police and Justice Act (2006)
- Violent Crime Reduction Act (2006)
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)
- The Offender Management Act (2007)

The Police and Justice Act (2006) has been a particularly important piece of recent legislation. It drives forward key elements of the Government's police reform programme and measures contained in the RESPECT Action Plan. One of the key implications for the SSP has been the amendment of the partnership provisions of the CDA 1998 to make CDRPs and DATs a more effective vehicle for tackling

crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in their communities. This included: the introduction of a set of national minimum standards for partnership working; additional Section 17 (S17) responsibilities⁴; and the requirement for three year strategies to be replaced with annual rolling three year partnership plans.

There have also been a number of key national plans, strategies and Public Service Agreements (PSAs) that define safer communities structures, processes and priorities. The SSP has considered these in the development of its Safer Sunderland Strategy. These national developments include:

- The National Community Safety Plan 2008-11
- The National Crime Strategy 2008-11
- The Crime and Disorder Act Review
- The new round of safer communities PSAs
- The new National Drugs Strategy

The National Crime Strategy and National Community Safety Plan set out the Government's overarching strategic framework for crime and community safety for 2008-2011 and are for use by CDRPs, DATs, Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) and LSPs. The plans include a set of national priorities with a stronger focus on violent crime, continued pressure on anti-social behaviour, a renewed

⁴ S17 of the CDA 1998 placed a statutory duty upon all local authorities to do all that they reasonably can to tackle crime and disorder in their areas. The Home Office review of the partnership provisions of the CDA 1998 resulted in new legislation which extended the S17 requirement so that local authorities also take account of the impact they have on ASB, behaviour adversely affecting the environment and substance misuse.

focus on young people, reducing re-offending and building public confidence. These documents are supported by a number of PSAs. There are two PSAs directly relevant to the Safer Sunderland Strategy and these are PSA 23 (making communities safer) and PSA 25 (reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs) (see Appendix 3). Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) were introduced on 1st April 2008. This is covered in more detail in Chapter 5.

Underpinning this are a range of key policies and national sub-strategies relating to specific areas of safer communities work, such as anti-social behaviour, reoffending, substance misuse, and violent crime. These include:

- The Youth Taskforce Action Plan
- The Every Child Matters agenda
- The National Drugs Strategy (Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities)
- The National Alcohol Strategy (Safe. Sensible. Social)
- The Domestic and Sexual Violence Action Plan
- The Reducing Re-offending National Delivery Plan and Regional Plan
- Tackling Violent Crime Action Plan
- The Youth Justice Plan

3.1.2 Regional Context

Sunderland is committed to working with its neighbouring authorities on cross-cutting issues and actively seeks the opportunity to share knowledge and learning on what works.

In delivering the Strategy, there are a number of wider regional issues that impact on the Partnership's work including:

- The Regional Statement of Priorities for Drugs (2004-2008). The 3 key aims are to:
 - o Support and strengthen on going activity to tackle substance misuse
 - o Align the priorities for tackling substance misuse with other regional regeneration strategies
 - o Formulate clear strategic guidelines to accurately direct investment of resources
- The North East Statement of Regional Alcohol Priorities. The 3 key aims are to:
 - o Develop a preventative approach towards alcohol misuse throughout the North East region
 - o Ensure services are provided for harmful, hazardous and dependent drinkers and for their families and careers
 - o Promote public protection through law and policy enforcement
- The work of the Criminal Justice System agencies is co-ordinated by 42 LCJBs. These Boards bring together the Chief Officers in the Criminal Justice System agencies to co-ordinate activity and share responsibility for delivery of criminal justice in their areas. Northumbria LCJB plays a vital role in the fight to reduce crime, bring more offenders to justice and improve community confidence in the justice system. The LCJB and SSP therefore have complementary agendas and at a local level, this work is led by the Sunderland Local Delivery Group.

- The North East Resettlement Strategy: Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan was launched in March 2007. It reflects developments since 2004; outlines what has been achieved and sets out what is planned for the next year in relation to the seven pathways of: accommodation; drugs and alcohol; health; employment, enterprise, learning and skills; children and families; life skills and offending behaviour; finance benefit and debt.

3.1.3 Local Context

The LSP has an overarching role in the regeneration of the City. It has responsibility for producing and implementing a Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out the vision and aspirations for the City until 2025. It includes five strategic priorities (Prosperous City, Learning City, Health City, Attractive and Accessible City and Safe City). The SSP supports the delivery of the Safe City priority.

Other local context issues include:

- The Local Area Agreement (LAA). This is a key element of the delivery plan for the Sunderland Strategy. It sets out the basis on which the LSP will move towards its vision over the next three years and identifies up to 35 related priority improvement indicators and 16 statutory education and early years targets that will be used to set a focus for activity and provide the basis for measuring progress towards the vision in the short term. Within the improvement indicators, there are a number that directly and indirectly support the 'safe city' priority and these will form part of the SSP's performance management framework.

- The outline Multi Area Agreement (MAA) for the Tyne and Wear City Region. The focus on employment and skills within this will impact positively on our outcomes for a safe city by helping create active citizens.
 - The forthcoming Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) will provide the first holistic independent assessment of the quality of life and services for people living in each local authority area and will focus on outcomes for local people where they live. The CAA will look across councils, health bodies, police forces, fire and rescue authorities and others responsible for local public services, which are increasingly expected to work in partnership to tackle the challenges facing their communities. It will also be tailored to the priorities for each area, focusing on those outcomes most in need of improvement.
 - Sunderland's population profile is changing – population projections forecast a significant increase in the 60-74 age group and the over 75s. The services we provide now may need to be very different to what we provide in 15 years time. In terms of migration, the changing profile of Sunderland's population has to be seen in the context of the national debate on immigration and the impact this may have on local community relations as well as the potential newcomers have to contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of the city.
 - Sunderland faces a number of inclusion and community cohesion opportunities and challenges posed by the increasing diversity of our population and its place within fast changing international, national and local contexts. These include increasing migration to the UK and the growing threat of international and 'home grown' terrorism. The LSP has worked with the Institute of Community Cohesion to produce a baseline report with recommended actions. A number of factors influence how cohesive communities are, ranging from economic prosperity, deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour through to the diversity of ethnic and faith background and greater local, national and international mobility.
 - The Council is committed to delivering mainstream services that support delivery of this strategy through its Section 17 responsibilities under the CDA 1998. The process is now embedded within the Corporate Improvement Plan.
 - Sunderland is committed to Neighbourhood Policing which is provided by teams of Police Officers, CSOs and Special Constables with support from partners.
- There are also a number of key related plans and strategies that support delivery of this strategy which are set out in section 4.6 and Appendix 5.

3.2 Key Findings from the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment

The SSP has a duty to carry out an annual Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA). This gathers and examines data from a wide range of sources on crime, disorder and substance misuse problems in Sunderland. It runs alongside the Police Strategic Assessment process, but differs in focus as it uses a wider range of data (from partner agencies and residents) and is aligned around victims/vulnerable groups, offenders, locations and cross-cutting issues as opposed to individual crime types.

Its purpose is to drive the business of the SSP and provide the Board with the necessary information on which to set its strategic priorities and allocate resources.

The key findings in the table opposite have been used to help set the strategic priorities for the SSP for the next 12 months and have informed the development of this strategy.

Offenders	Victims/Vulnerable Groups	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing re-offending for adults and young people is a key issue. This includes preventative work for those at risk of offending. Adults should be given early priority as the arrangement for young people are more robust through the YOS • Focusing on offenders who cause the most harm to our communities can have one of the biggest impacts on reducing crime and substance misuse. Around 80% of PPOs misuse drugs • Further work is needed on developing and strategically co-ordinating the 7 pathways for offenders and on developing the transitional arrangements for young offenders leaving YOS supervision. The greatest numbers of people arrested and charged with an offence were in the 18-24 year old age group and so good work done on tackling re-offending for those aged 10-17 needs to be consolidated to reduce risks of re-offending once they reach 18. • Some areas of the city have higher levels of offenders living there and are also often the most deprived areas. There is a similar geographical pattern for where young and adult offenders live, strengthening the need for a whole family approach to dealing with offending to help break the cycle of intergenerational crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of safety are a top priority. Progress over the last 3 years has moved in the wrong direction despite the excellent reductions in recorded crime and worry about crime. It is known however that there can often be a lag between reality and perception. • Young people hanging around, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse (primarily alcohol, but also drugs) are the top key issues impacting on how safe people feel in Sunderland and their feelings of personal safety. • Some groups of people have lower levels of feelings of safety than the average population e.g. the BME community and those with a disability. Young adults are also more worried than older people. Young people are often most at risk of some types of crime, (violence against the person and robbery are often linked to high value goods such as mobile phones). • 47% of all domestic violence incidents are repeats – the highest of any crime locally. There are strong links between domestic violence and substance misuse, especially alcohol. Service provision for high risk victims (or when victims reach crisis point) is excellent in Sunderland but there is less in the way of preventative work for the higher number of lower risk victims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city centre (and surrounding wards of Millfield, Hendon and St Michael's) continues to suffer disproportionate levels of crime, disorder and substance misuse problems. Clearly, the city centre proximity plays a big part in the crime rates for these wards. Millfield and Hendon are also generally matched by below average feelings of safety and perceptions of crime and disorder problems. In the first 6 months of 2007, the city centre had the highest number of anti-social behaviour incidents, concentrated into two police beat areas. The city centre wards have above average levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder, criminal damage, youth related disorder and wider anti-social behaviour both in terms of recorded data and local survey data. • Hendon, St Michael's and Southwick scored higher than average on the vulnerable localities index indicating a combination of levels of crime and deprivation. In terms of recorded crime, Millfield, St Michaels and Hendon have the highest levels of recorded crime and perception gaps • The city centre will also contain a number of repeat 'corporate' victims of crime, e.g. of shoplifting and theft.
Cross-cutting issues: Substance Misuse		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance misuse is a contributory factor in many different types of crime and disorder, and this impacts on feelings of safety and on the health and safety of individuals, their friends, families, carers and the community. • Sunderland has some of the worst binge drinking levels in the country with clear links to violent crime, domestic violence, criminal damage, ASB and youth disorder. • Substance misuse is a risk factor to 	<p>young offending which increases in prominence as young people progress through the criminal justice system. Lifestyle is also a significant risk factor in all stages of offending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are clear links between drugs and crime, especially acquisitive crime. Investment in prevention, treatment and enforcement can impact on crime. Nationally, research has evidenced that for every £1 spend on drug treatment, £3 are saved in costs to the criminal 	<p>justice system increasing to £9.50 when health costs are included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October 2007, a 'Day to Count' exercise identified domestic violence contacts (by agencies) with victims and/or perpetrators in one 24 hour period. Of these contacts, 18% of victims misused alcohol, 4% misused drugs and 12% misused both. 43% of perpetrators misused alcohol, 10% misused drugs and 19% of perpetrators misuse both.

3.3 The Challenges

Despite the significant achievements identified in Chapter 2, the PSIA is highlighting that a number of key challenges remain.

When asked, residents say they are not feeling safer and this is especially the case for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and people with a disability.

Reducing repeat problems (for victims and offenders) is still an issue. Some groups and communities continue to experience repeat problems from crime, disorder and substance misuse. Some groups of people also experience higher than average levels of victimisation of some crimes. For example, young people are most often the victims of violence against the person and robbery. There are also a small proportion of adult and young prolific offenders who are causing the most harm to local communities.

Public consultation has shown that the top two local concerns continue to be anti-social behaviour and perceptions of it (especially youth disorder) and alcohol related crime and disorder (especially underage drinking and perceptions of people being drunk in the street or public place).

Domestic violence is still a hidden crime and has the highest levels of repeat victimisation of any crime type. Many perpetrators have been drinking before committing an assault and many are alcohol dependent. Prevalence of alcohol abuse problems amongst men with histories of intimate partner violence is high. Reviews indicate that rates of alcohol abuse and dependence amongst perpetrators of domestic violence may be 2 to 7 times higher than in the population as a whole. Alcohol can also be used as a coping mechanism for victims of domestic violence. Children are also very often witnesses to domestic violence. Improving services to victims, reducing re-offending and reducing levels of repeat incidents remain a key priority.

Tackling substance misuse is a key challenge. Not only does it cause harm to peoples' health but impacts on local communities in terms of the links to alcohol-related violence, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and crime committed to fund a drug habit. Drugs and alcohol misuse also impact on feelings of safety.

There are also a number of wider challenges to the safer communities agenda such as the prevention of terrorism, reducing serious violent crime (including knife and gun crime), and responding to changing drug markets. Whilst not highlighted as immediate local priorities within this strategy, we will continue to keep a watching brief on these through our links to related partnerships and groups, for example through the local tension monitoring meetings. We will also continue to monitor performance against these issues as part of the annual PSIA.

4. Strategic priorities and key outcomes

4.1 Key Strategic Priorities for 2008 and Beyond

The key challenges identified in Chapter 3 have informed the development of a list of shorter term

strategic priorities for the SSP to focus on for 2008-2011. These priorities will be reviewed annually as part of the strategic and needs assessment processes and support the high level outcomes to

be achieved by 2023. Some of these priorities will be easier to progress than others and some will take longer to embed over the lifetime of the new strategy.

Strategic Priorities 2008-2011	Outcomes by 2023
1. Improve feelings of safety, especially for more vulnerable groups	People will be and feel safe and secure
2. Reduce re-offending for adults and young people, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the risk factors to offending and promoting protective factors • Intervening with the most problematic families to prevent intergenerational crime 	People will be free from crime, disorder and substance misuse People will be free from harm
3. Reduce repeat victimisation (especially domestic violence, house burglary and hate crime)	Sunderland will be a safe environment
4. Reduce drug and alcohol misuse and the harm it causes including drug-related and alcohol-related crime and disorder	People will be active citizens
5. Reduce anti-social behaviour and people's perceptions of it	People will have a supportive family environment
6. Reduce violent crime, including domestic violence	Sunderland will have cohesive communities
7. Narrow the gap between areas of the city with disproportionate levels of crime, disorder and substance misuse problems e.g. city centre and vulnerable neighbourhoods	
8. Provide support to victims and vulnerable groups including young people as victims and offenders	

4.2 How Will We Do This? - The Theory of Change

The Theory of Change approach allows us to identify the step changes needed to achieve our long term outcome of **'Being and Feeling Safe and Secure'** – which in turn supports improvements in the quality of life for everyone in Sunderland. Appendix 1 includes a visual representation of the theory of change.

The PSIA has identified that feelings of safety have not been improving in line with the achievements in crime, disorder and substance misuse. Therefore, the SSP recognises the importance of ensuring that the perceptions of local people relating to their safety, and risk of harm, are transformed. The SSP wants local people to feel safe as well as be safe and part of the solution to this problem comes from the message that local people get. However, perceptions are also based on fact and what people see, hear and feel around them. Therefore, the SSP wants to ensure that people are **'Free from Harm'**, are **'Free from Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse'**, and live in a **'Safe Environment'**. Clearly there are relationships between each of

these three outcomes in terms of how crime and disorder, substance misuse and the environment can work together to create a problem or a solution. The complexity of this relationship is recognised, but being **'Free from Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse'** is a significant precondition to ensuring that people are **'Free from Harm'** and live in a **'Safe Environment'**.

'Active Citizens', a **'Supportive Family Environment'** and **'Cohesive Communities'** are seen as being key to ensuring that the Partnership can tackle the challenges it faces in creating a safe and secure environment and freeing people from crime, disorder and harm.

Finally, and most importantly in the short term, is the need to embed a **'Problem Solving'** approach and ensure the SSP is a truly **'Effective Partnership'** as these are the foundation on which its ambitions will be achieved. These two outcomes require immediate action if the long term outcome is to be realised. Details of each supporting outcome or pre-condition are now set out below.

4.3 Key Outcomes

In the following pages, each outcome listed below is described in terms of what it will mean for the public, together with its definition and the rationale for its inclusion in this strategy.

Outcome A:

Being and feeling safe and secure

Outcome B:

Being free from harm

Outcome C:

Creating a safe environment

Outcome D:

Being free from crime, disorder and substance misuse

Outcome E:

Creating active citizens

Outcome F:

Creating a supportive family environment

Outcome G:

Creating cohesive communities

Outcome H:

Embedding a problem solving approach

Outcome I:

Creating an effective partnership

OUTCOME A: Being and Feeling Safe and Secure

What will this mean to the public?

People in Sunderland will be, and feel, safe and secure. By 2023 feelings of safety will be at their highest ever level.

Definition

Being and feeling safe and secure is about being free to enjoy life without the concerns of being a victim of crime or being harmed.

It is recognised that a healthy concern for safety and worry about crime and harm can be positive if it drives behaviour that ensures that the individual takes greater responsibility for their own safety and security, remembering however that “a fearless life would be exciting but short”.

However, when that worry or fear takes control and inhibits an individual from maximising their potential it is seen as having a negative impact. Awareness and understanding of risks and what individuals and

communities can do to minimise it need to be addressed. Solutions to improving feelings of safety and reducing harm must therefore be designed with this concept in mind and look to build the capacity of individuals to withstand crime, substance misuse and fear of crime by empowering individuals to make rationale choices based on what is factually taking place within the community.

Our communities will be less concerned about crime and safety and their confidence will have been secured through engagement, prevention and results



Rationale

- Some communities and groups of people experience disproportionate levels of problems. An approach targeted at those people and places in greatest need / most at risk is needed.
- Whilst people are safer in Sunderland, they are not ‘feeling’ safer.
- The top 3 issues which make people feel much less safe in Sunderland are: ‘young people hanging around’, ‘people drinking or being drunk’ and ‘people using or dealing drugs’.
- The top 3 reasons for worrying about crime are: ‘A lack of a visible police presence’; ‘people having

- experienced it before’, and ‘people feeling vulnerable because of their age’. Whilst the latter increased with age, it also peaked for the under 24s. ‘Reports in the local media’ were ranked 8th out of a list of 16 reasons for worry.
- Action that residents say would make them feel safer includes ‘reducing access to alcohol for underage children’; ‘stopping people drinking in public/enforcing alcohol restrictions in public places’ and there being ‘more police officers based in the community’ (fear of crime survey 2007). Analysis of community engagement questionnaires on

- what would make residents feel safer also identified ‘an increase in police presence’ - in particular an increase in foot patrols and high visibility policing. An increase in the number of CSOs and improved lighting was also frequently identified as interventions that would make residents feel safer.
- To improve feelings of safety it is necessary to raise awareness and understanding of the truth behind improvements in crime, disorder, and substance misuse reinforced by visible and tangible improvements in local neighbourhoods.

OUTCOME B: Being Free from Harm

What will this mean to the public?

People in Sunderland will be free from harm. By 2023, levels of repeat incidents of domestic violence and assault with injury will be at their lowest levels. Hospital admissions due to alcohol will be reduced to that of the 20% best performing Local Authorities across the country and there will be fewer 'repeat' substance misusers accessing treatment.

Definition

Harm can include the effects of substance misuse, domestic violence and fire.

There is recognition that this is not an inclusive definition of harm and reflects the SSP's current programme of activity.

Links with other partnerships (e.g. LSCB, Safeguarding Adults, Local Road Safety Partnership etc.) need to be further developed to ensure that individuals are fully free from all forms of harm and that the most vulnerable adults and children are protected (e.g.

those who experience or witness domestic violence, those with mental health problems, and those who misuse substances).



Rationale

- Drugs and alcohol misuse are significant contributors to issues including: ASB, night time disorder, violence against the person, domestic violence and acquisitive crime. It also has a negative impact on people's physical and mental health and well-being.
- The National Crime Strategy highlights that alcohol is a key driver in nearly half of all violent crime and is a key cross-cutting issue. The National Alcohol Strategy states that up to 70% of A&E admissions at peak times are alcohol related, 47% of violence victims described the assailant as being drunk and alcohol is a factor in 30% of city centre arrests. In Sunderland, the majority of violent crime is committed in and around pubs and on a weekend evening and is backed up by local A&E data on assaults. Most admissions are weekend nights and are males and young adults between 16-30 years.
- The Local Alcohol Profiles (2007) lists Sunderland, like some other big cities, as having one of the worst records for binge drinking in the country, ranked 349 out of 354 authorities. Alcohol related hospital admissions are also considerably worse than the country average, ranking 343 for males and 334 for females. Alcohol related violent offences ranked Sunderland 242.
- Underage drinking and public drunkenness are top priorities in all our community engagement mechanisms and impacts on feelings of safety. Young people's access to alcohol is still an issue despite education and enforcement work.
- Reducing repeat incidents can minimise the harm caused on the health of victims. 47% of domestic violence incidents are repeats and it is still under reported. Many perpetrators have been drinking before committing an assault and many are alcohol dependent.
- Drug misuse is a key driver of crime. There are an estimated 1,937 Problematic Drug Users in Sunderland of which it is believed 1,242 are problematic opiate and / or crack / cocaine users. A national arrestee survey (2003/04) found 38% of those arrested for any offence reported having taken heroin, crack or cocaine in the previous year, rising to 55% for those people arrested for acquisitive crime.
- Nearly one in two current injecting drug users have been infected with hepatitis C. Local analysis of the reporting of drug related deaths shows a minimum of 27 deaths from 2003-07.

OUTCOME C: Creating a Safe Environment

What will this mean to the public?

Sunderland will have an environment that promotes safety and feelings of safety. By 2023 no one will feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood.

Definition

A safe environment is one that protects the safety and promotes the security of all those who make up the community. The environment can include parks, houses, streets, roads, transport interchanges, the city centre, and schools or anywhere where people live out their lives.

A safe environment is one that is well designed (with safety in mind), well managed and under control. It is a place where identified problems are responded to and dealt with quickly and positively.

A safe environment is one that encourages maximum usage by communities.

Safe movement around Sunderland is also considered as being integral to achieving a safe environment.

In addition, there is also a need to consider the softer aspects around behaviour and how this interacts with the physical environment to ensure that there is appropriate use of public spaces.



Rationale

- ASB is a local and national priority. Nationally, it is estimated to cost the public £3.4 billion a year. It is regularly raised by residents through all our local community engagement mechanisms.
- Some wards have higher than average levels of recorded alcohol related incidents and ASB.
- Perceptions of ASB are driven by a range of behaviours from youth disorder, underage drinking and substance misuse through to enviro-crime, arson and criminal damage. In Sunderland it is particularly linked to teenagers hanging around and drunk or rowdy behaviour.
- 12% of total crime during 2006/07 occurred in the city centre. The wards with the highest

crime rates were those that make up the city centre area in Sunderland i.e. Millfield, St. Michael's and Hendon. One of the main offence types affecting the city centre is damage to buildings other than a dwelling. These mainly occur overnight, providing a strong indication that the offences are linked to the evening economy and therefore, it infers that the majority of damage in the city centre is related to alcohol consumption.

- Some areas of the city had above average levels of service requests for removal of graffiti, litter, abandoned vehicles and needle syringes. Hendon had the highest levels of service request for needle syringes to be removed. During

2006/07 the highest number of requests for graffiti to be removed was in the North and Washington and the highest number of requests to remove abandoned vehicles was in the East.

- 'Youths throwing missiles' and 'criminal damage to bus stops' are a particular issue in some areas of Sunderland. This impacts negatively on feelings of safety on public transport and in neighbourhoods as well as risks of injury to passengers and bus staff.
- Deliberate fires are a key component of anti-social behaviour and Sunderland has the highest level of ASB fires within Tyne & Wear particularly wheellie bin fires and deliberate fires involving vehicles.

OUTCOME D: Being Free from Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse

What will this mean to the public?

People in Sunderland will be free from crime, disorder, and substance misuse. By 2023 residents will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime rate and perceptions of anti-social behaviour will be at their lowest level and be better than the national average. There will be the lowest ever levels of drug related (Class A) offending.

Definition

This is about effectively reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse to such an extent that all citizens are able to lead productive lives 'free' from being a victim.

This outcome also recognises the cross-cutting links between substance misuse and crime and disorder.



Rationale

- Based on recorded crime rates per 1000 population, Sunderland is one of the safest cities in the North with a crime rate that has been better than the national average since 2005/06. There have been over 10,000 fewer victims of crime in the last 4 years. However, the PSIA has identified a number of key challenges remain around reducing re-offending, reducing repeat victimisation, narrowing the gap in hot spots, tackling drug and alcohol misuse and the crime it causes, improving feelings of safety and reducing ASB and perceptions of it.
- In 2006/07, the Home Office (HO) estimated that Sunderland had 1,937 problematic drug users. In 2006/07, 1038 people accessed structured drug treatment which is an increase of 32% from 05-06. The challenge is to ensure that access to treatment is swift, meeting the needs of the client and is such that it prevents people returning as a repeat client.
- Despite excellent reductions in violent crime, it is also closely linked to alcohol misuse and if binge drinking trends continue in Sunderland then this is likely to have an impact on violence against the person rates and assaults with injury.
- Some people are more at risk of some types of crime than others. Older people are generally at the lowest risk. The risk of being a victim of violence against the person is significantly higher for the younger age groups. Of all violence against the person victims, 45% are under 24 years old. The risk was particularly low for older age groups (60 years and over). Robbery shows an even more significant bias towards younger age groups with almost two thirds of robbery victims being aged under-24.
- In 2007/08 (April-Jan) 27% of those arrested for trigger offences tested positive for Class A drugs. This increased to 49% for PPOs.
- Whilst enabling problematic drug users into effective treatment is a key priority, the SSP is also continuing to work to reduce the availability of illicit drugs in line with the National Drug Strategy. Breaking the supply of illicit drugs, in particular Class A drugs, is important in order to prevent individuals from developing into problematic drug users, keeping individuals in treatment and to minimise the impact of drug supply on local communities.

OUTCOME E: Creating Active Citizens

What will this mean to the public?

Sunderland will be a city where people are supported to be active citizens and be free from involvement in crime, disorder and substance misuse. By 2023, there will be the lowest ever levels of proven re-offending by adult and young offenders

Definition

Being an active citizen in this context is defined in terms of individuals being encouraged to engage with, and play a positive role, in the development of their community as a safe, healthy and prosperous place in which to live.

Citizenship is about an individual being respectful and tolerant of other individuals, communities of interest and cultures and makes a positive

contribution to the development of a fairer society with strong civic pride.

Being an active citizen includes an individual rejecting crime and anti-social behaviour as options and encourages others to do the same.

It is about creating an environment where aspirations are valued and achievable.



Rationale

- In England and Wales, HO research states 100,000 offenders (10% of those on the offenders index) are responsible for over half of all crime, and an estimated 5,000 (0.5%) of these offenders are responsible for around 9% of all crime, with their actions having enormous effect on crime and feelings of community safety. Targeted work with prolific offenders impacts on crime convictions and re-offending.
- The volume of offences committed by young offenders increases with age. Locally, arrest levels were highest for 18-24 year olds followed by the 10-17s. This supports the need for robust transitional arrangements for the management of offenders once they reach 18.
- The challenge is to give our young people the best possible start in life and to transform those who do offend into law-abiding citizens. Evidence from NOMS shows that the vast majority of offenders serving a community sentence have a complex range of social problems. Nearly two thirds are below the literacy and numeracy level expected of an 11 year old; more than half are unemployed; just under a third have an accommodation problem; nearly half have mental health problems; nearly a quarter have a drug problem; and almost half have an alcohol problem. The end to end management of offenders and supporting them to reject offending behaviour can be achieved by addressing the 7 strategic pathways to reducing re-offending.
- Local analysis shows links between where offenders live and some of our most vulnerable communities. Targeted and co-ordinated support and interventions with the most problematic individuals (and their families) in these communities will help impact on reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse.
- Only 5% of young people in the city get into trouble with the Police and most is for low level offending. For most of this 5%, their behaviour stops at this first point of contact through early intervention to prevent the escalation of offending behaviour. There is also a range of interventions available to work with the small numbers causing the most harm.
- People won't be active citizens if they are in fear of leaving their homes. Supporting the most vulnerable will reduce their risks of victimisation and improve how safe they feel.

OUTCOME F: Creating a Supportive Family Environment

What will this mean to the public?

People in Sunderland will have the supportive family environment they need to help them stay free from harm and crime and disorder. By 2023, more people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children.

Definition

A supportive family is one where individuals are respectful, positive, and tolerant. Here, it is defined as citizenship within the family.

protect an individual from involvement in crime and can counteract the negative effects of risk factors.

It is an environment that provides a range of protective factors that can



Rationale

- The Home Office RESPECT Action Plan states that poor parenting, lack of parental supervision and weak parent/child relationships all increase the risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- A You Gov poll for The Daily Telegraph in 2005 found that the public believe that parents are a priority – 85% of people in the UK think that parents not bringing up their children properly is the biggest reason for the perceived rise in anti-social behaviour.
- According to MORI Surveys conducted on behalf of the Esmee

Fairbairn Foundation in 2004, better parenting is valued by the public more highly than more police officers as a way of reducing crime.

- A supportive family environment can help provide young people with the best possible start in life by providing the supporting factors needed to resist involvement in offending behaviour. Work under the RESPECT agenda has made significant progress around parenting support and support for the most problematic families through the FIP. A targeted and co-

ordinated multi-agency approach to working with the most problematic families in the city (taking a whole family approach) will help impact on inter-generational crime.

- The YOS has undertaken research which identified children at risk of offending as a result of their association with an adult under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and worked with those families to help reduce inter generational crime.

OUTCOME G: Creating Cohesive Communities

What will this mean to the public?

Sunderland will have cohesive communities. By 2023, no one will perceive 'attacks or harassment because of race, colour, religion or sexual orientation' as a very serious problem in Sunderland. Feelings of safety amongst vulnerable groups will more closely reflect those of other residents across the city.

Definition

A cohesive community is one in which there is a sense of mutual respect, tolerance and shared values and where specific communities can fully contribute to the wider community of Sunderland.

A community will be cohesive when it is enabled and empowered to help positively resolve its own problems. All residents will have a stake and say in their community and there will be equality and equity.



Rationale

- Perceptions of 'attacks or harassment because of race, colour, religion or sexual orientation' as a serious problem in Sunderland has increased from 12% to 21% in the last 3 years. Perceptions of this are greatest for younger adults, BME residents and those living in Hendon, Washington North and Millfield.
- Respect for the cultural diversity of the city is vital to community cohesion and wellbeing.
- Sunderland's BME population has higher levels of risk of victimisation than the rest of the population and experience disproportionate levels of violence against the person compared to the population as a whole. They also have higher fear of crime, especially in the city centre (Sunderland BME residents' survey 2005) due to their greater concern about race relations.
- An increase in racist crime in 06-07 was primarily due to the increase in reports of racist and abusive language most commonly in the street or in takeaways and off licenses.
- Race crime offenders are predominantly male and young people / young adults – with a peak age of around 16-17 and most aged under 20.
- Victims of racist crime are mainly shopkeepers, students, unemployed or schoolboys
- Reported homophobic crimes/incidents remain very low and under reporting is a key issue for all types of hate crime. There is a clear data and intelligence gap in this area.
- Hate crime due to disability mainly involves verbal abuse, assault, harassment and threats.
- People with a disability generally felt less safe in Sunderland than those without. They also have higher than average perceptions of ASB in Sunderland, especially young people hanging around.
- There is a lack of data on fear of crime among young people. Young people are more likely to be victims of some types of crime than adults, especially violence against the person and robbery.
- Community neglect, the availability of drugs and deprivation can all undermine cohesive communities.

OUTCOME H: Embedding an Effective Problem Solving Approach

What will this mean to the public?

The SSP will have embedded an effective problem solving approach in all that it does. By 2023 there will be fewer repeat problems and more problems will be resolved at the first point of contact to the satisfaction of residents

Definition

Problem solving is the agreed process for dealing with local concerns and working towards agreed outcomes.

A problem is defined as an issue of a community safety nature which is impacting negatively on public satisfaction, confidence or feelings of safety, and cannot be resolved by the activities of one agency alone. There should be some evidence of it being a repeat issue.

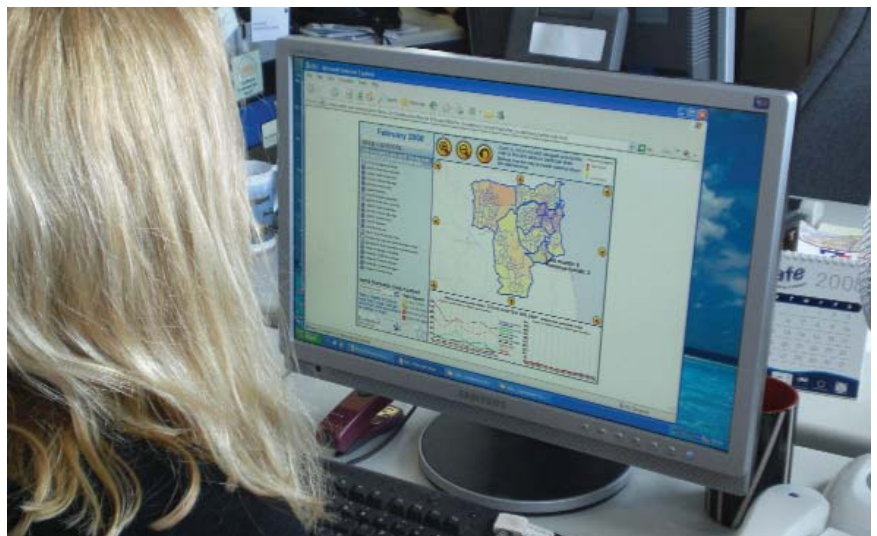
Effective problem solving includes good systems to make it work.

The process involves proactively seeking views and information that enables the identification of the cause of problems. It then involves

constant analysis of that information and the collective development of appropriate responses (or solutions) to the problem.

It will be effective as an approach when individuals and organisations know who is responsible for dealing with particular problems and that they are enabled to feed into the process. A key element is that the problem is solved at first point of contact.

A problem will be solved when the causes of the issue are negated or reduced to such an extent that it is unlikely the issue will arise again and that there is a level of resident satisfaction.



Rationale

- Preventing repeat problems is critical to the work of the SSP if a sustained impact is to be made.
- A problem solving approach will support the foundations of effective partnership working
- In the context of safer communities the Partnership will aim to understand the nature of the problem in the context of information/data on victims/vulnerable groups, offenders and location.
- It must ensure appropriate solutions and consider a balance of interventions around prevention, early intervention, enforcement and support/rehabilitation. These interventions will need to respond to the nature of the problem being addressed.
- Going to the causes of issues rather than just the surface symptoms is critical otherwise the problem will return which will work against the building of confidence and satisfaction and won't improve feelings of safety. The time taken to do this is viewed as important in improving satisfaction and confidence.

OUTCOME I: Creating an Effective Partnership

What will this mean to the public?

The SSP will be an effective partnership that is able to create a safer city. By 2023 the SSP will be one of the best performing partnerships in the country and will have successfully delivered its 15 year Safer Sunderland Strategy by making residents be and feel safe and secure

Definition

An effective partnership is one where the right organisations and individuals are working together to make sure that the right things happen, in the right ways, at the right time to achieve the desired outcomes. An effective partnership will also be successful in resolving local problems to the satisfactions of residents by addressing causes not merely symptoms on crime, disorder and substance misuse.

In order to achieve an effective partnership, the group need to have a shared vision and ambition and recognise the importance and need of partnership working.

Partners need to be committed to, and feel ownership of, partnership working with commitment being demonstrable within all levels of the partnership. Although joint working is possible with little trust amongst those involved, the development and

maintenance of trust is the basis for the closest, most enduring and most successful partnerships.

Partnerships need to create clear and robust partnership arrangements which are as lean as possible, with generally time limited and task orientated joint structures. Within the context of partnership arrangements, two other essential requirements are: a prime focus on processes and outcomes rather than structures and inputs; and clarity about partners' areas of responsibility and lines of accountability. Collective monitoring, measuring and learning is an essential part not just of assessing performance but, in so doing, of cementing commitment and trust and driving improvement. Finally, the partnership will be defined as effective if it tolerates risk, innovation and new thinking and takes a proactive approach to self challenge.



Rationale

- National minimum standards have been issued to partnerships. The 6 Hallmarks represent the key aspects of partnership working that underpin effective delivery in tackling crime, disorder, fear of crime and substance misuse through partnerships. These hallmarks are:
 - 1 Empowered and effective leadership
 - 2 Visible and constructive accountability
 - 3 Intelligence led business processes
 - 4 Effective and responsive delivery structures
 - 5 Engaged communities; and
 - 6 Appropriate skills and knowledge
- Each partner also has a clear role to play in being as effective as it can in its day-to-day responsibilities and service delivery as well as working in partnership to bring added value to creating a safer Sunderland. Collective partnership performance is linked with the performance of individual partner agencies.

4.4 Supporting Measures and Targets

The outcomes in this strategy will be supported by a series of 1 and 3 year performance measures, some of which will have targets attached.

It will not always be appropriate to set reduction targets, especially for hidden crimes, as we will want to encourage people to report. Getting a more accurate picture of the nature and extent of the problem will improve the ability to be able to respond to it appropriately.

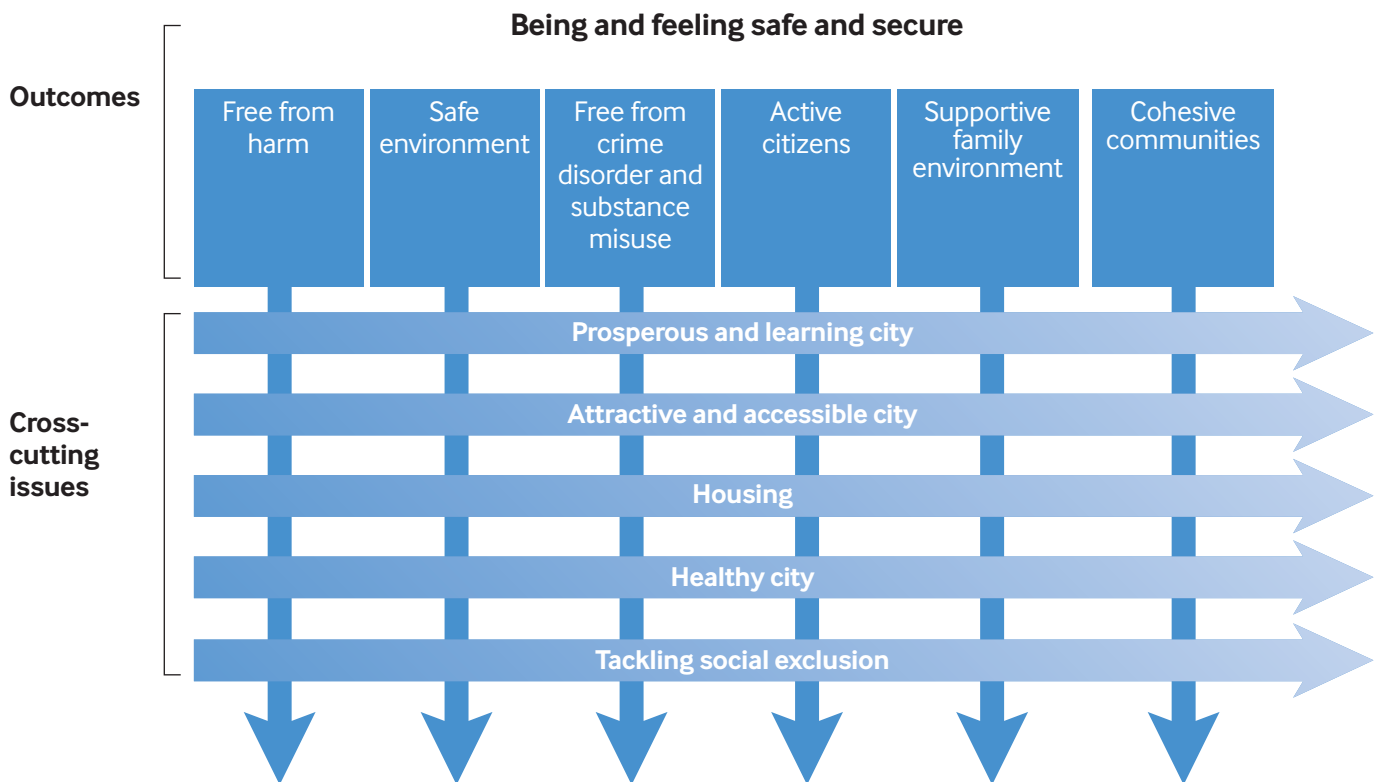
Appropriate measures will be included in a robust performance management framework (see section 5.5) and will be refreshed annually as part of the strategy review and LAA process. Under the LAA, key targets will be set around ASB, violence (including domestic violence), alcohol, drugs and reducing re-offending.

The measures needed to monitor progress against the strategy will be chosen from the range of national and local indicators in Appendix 4.

4.5 Cross Cutting Issues

Crime, disorder and substance misuse and their causes are extremely complex and cut across many other regeneration issues.

Tackling social exclusion through the delivery of the Sunderland Strategy and LAA will help support the achievement of outcomes in this strategy.



4.5.1 Housing

Housing has a significant role to play in helping create a safer city through the provision of well-designed and safe homes and communities that people want to live in. The role that the Supporting People programme can play is in providing stable and supported accommodation which is often critical in helping offenders and substance misusers become free from harm, crime, disorder and substance misuse. Safe and secure accommodation for offenders released from prison custody is crucial to reduce their risk of re-offending. Such accommodation is also critical for victims of domestic violence at a time of crisis when backed up with appropriate outreach and resettlement support. The Safer Homes Initiative and the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) also assists by providing a joined-up service that will be available to help all vulnerable people to live safely and independently in the home of their choice for as long as possible.

4.5.2 Prosperous and Learning City

The economy has a strong influence on crime rates and when the economy performs well, crime generally falls. However, deprivation and disadvantage exist for many communities regardless of how the economy is performing. There is a correlation between the area in which people live and their involvement in crime. For example, over 67% of prisoners were unemployed in the 4 weeks before their imprisonment compared to a 5% unemployment rate for the general population (Social Exclusion Unit 2002). Getting offenders and substance misusers into employment, education and training can help them stay free from crime,

disorder and substance misuse and the harm it causes.

4.5.3 Attractive and Accessible City, Culture and Inclusion

Well designed, well managed and clean environments can help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and improve feelings of safety. New developments that are built using 'secured by design' principles can help create a safer environment through the prevention of crime and disorder.

Providing a range of sport, leisure and cultural choices for children and young people can help divert them into positive activities. This can encourage pro-social behaviour and help them to develop as active citizens, thereby lowering the risks of getting involved in offending behaviour.

Promoting an understanding of tolerance and inclusiveness and acknowledging the value of cultural understanding can help communities feel that they get along well together with the potential of reducing attacks or harassment due to race, colour, religion or sexual orientation. Increased community action and the feeling that neighbours are concerned about each other can lead to greater feelings of safety and less tolerance of crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs. Tackling hate crime, domestic violence, and anti-social behaviour helps create more cohesive communities by helping people from all communities feel that they belong to Sunderland and share a common vision for the city.

4.5.4 Healthy City

Fear of crime, or being a victim of crime, is a known cause of stress and anxiety which can impact on peoples' mental health and well-being.

Investment in drug and alcohol treatment can result in significant savings to the criminal justice system and to health costs.

There are also significant health risks around drug misuse. Research carried out in Sunderland (by Hidden Populations 2004) indicated high levels of injecting behaviour by drug misusers. Almost two thirds of the sample said they injected within the last 3 months. This indicates the potential prevalence of blood borne viruses, including hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV as 4 out of 10 of this group reported that they had shared others 'pins' in the last month and 7 out of 10 had shared other equipment.

4.6 Related Plans and Strategies

This Strategy does not stand in isolation. Appendix 5 lists a number of key local plans and strategies that support and complement the work we do in addition to those already referred to in section 3.1.

5. Delivering the Safer Sunderland Strategy

5.1 Our Strategic Approach


In order to deliver a successful 15 year strategy the SSP is committed to being an effective partnership and embedding a problem solving

approach in everything it does. It will seek to ensure problems are fully resolved, especially repeat problems, by developing a detailed understanding of local issues based around:

- Victims and Vulnerable Groups
- Offenders
- Location

Victims/Vulnerable Groups

This will include working with those people, or groups of people who are the most vulnerable or who have already been a victim in the past. We will aim to reduce their risks of being a repeat victim and will support them in making them feel safer in their homes and their communities.



**Victim/
vulnerable group
Offender
Location
Triangle**

Targeting Offenders

This will focus on those people causing the greatest harm to our communities. This will involve addressing the 7 reducing re-offending pathways. It is also about ensuring the right protective factors are in place to help them become active citizens and reject offending behaviour and substance misuse

Locations

We will prioritise areas with higher than average levels of crime, disorder and substance misuse to narrow the gap with the city average. This will be done through intensive, joined-up, area based approaches to maximise the impact. This will need to be supported by strengthening the communities' capacity to resist crime and improved community engagement.

Taking a problem solving approach by looking at 'people' and 'places' will ensure the SSP focuses on supporting victims and vulnerable groups (adults and young people), by keeping them free from harm and making sure their risks of being a victim are reduced and their feelings of safety are improved.

A balance of interventions (long and short term) aimed at tackling the root causes of these problems is needed. Our approach will include activity around:

- **Prevention** – making crime more risky, less rewarding and harder for offenders to commit through situational crime prevention. This is about designing out crime by changing the physical environment of our streets and neighbourhoods including CCTV and other technological developments as well as the presence of capable guardians⁵, improved home security and secured car parks. This also includes social crime prevention such as education and awareness raising, especially around issues such as drugs, alcohol, knives and guns.

- **Early intervention** – tackling the risk factors and enhancing the protective factors to reduce the number of young people becoming offenders and to reduce repeat victimisation to focus efforts on vulnerable people and places. This includes educational work around drug and alcohol consumption by young people and screening and brief interventions. It also includes work to prevent problems escalating, such as the taxi marshalling scheme which intervenes swiftly in disputes at taxi ranks to ensure they don't lead to more serious violence.
- **Enforcement** – ensuring that when people do commit crime, it is detected and there is a penalty appropriate to both the offender and the offence (backed up by reparation where appropriate). This is also about appropriate use of powers available to partners and effective policing and criminal justice processes to increase the risk of offenders being caught and to deter potential offenders. This will include things such as the enforcement of the city's Licensing Policy which can help reduce alcohol related violence.

- **Support, resettlement and rehabilitation** – by not only supporting victims to live safely (e.g. supported accommodation) but by managing offenders in such a way as to prevent further re-offending and ensuring there is swift and effective treatment for substance misuse.



These interventions will be backed up by cross cutting work on tackling alcohol and drug misuse and social exclusion – as key drivers of crime.



⁵ A capable guardian is someone or something other than the victim that is able to keep a watchful eye on a potential victim and may also act as a deterrent to offenders (e.g. patrolling police officers, CSOs, CCTV; Neighbourhood Watch).

5.2 How will we do this? Priorities for the Next 12 months

Over the next six months we will take stock of initiatives currently delivered by the SSP to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

However, there are a number of areas of work that we are committed to and these include:

- Continuing those interventions, identified in section 2.2 and 5.1, that have been having a demonstrable impact on creating safer communities.
- Delivering interventions that support delivery against LAA targets around ASB, reducing re-offending, substance misuse and violence (including domestic violence). This will involve the development and delivery of four key sub-strategies (see section 1.4):
- Continuing the good work started by the Together programme and RESPECT agenda under a new ASB Strategy. This will include work to encourage young people into positive activities and away from harm and involvement in crime and disorder. The focus on good parenting will also have a significant impact on reducing anti-social behaviour. Supporting this at a national level will be the work of the Youth Taskforce. Building on what has been achieved through the RESPECT programme, the Youth Taskforce will work with local areas to ensure that young people involved in or at risk of anti-social behaviour are offered appropriate support alongside use of enforcement action to help change their behaviour.

- Taking a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to tackling domestic violence, including the establishment of MARACs for high risk victims and a SDVC.
- Work to address alcohol misuse within the context of the National Alcohol Strategy whilst reflecting local need.
- Working across the whole of the LSP to tackle re-offending and those at risk of offending. We will strengthen work on the seven pathways (see Appendix 6) and take a co-ordinated approach to the 'whole family' to help tackle inter-generational crime.
- Neighbourhood Policing will continue to respond to local crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse priorities. To find details of your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and to find out more about the work

they are doing in your area, visit www.neighbourhoodpolicing.co.uk Here, you will be able to find out the names of each member of your local team and different ways of contacting them. Their main contact number is 03456 043 043

- Maintaining our resilience and vigilance against any emerging new issues such as gun and knife crime and crack cocaine.
- Better community engagement by improving how we communicate and feedback to local communities on action taken. This will ensure they hear, as well as see and feel, the difference being made to their quality of life.
- Work to address drug misuse within the context of the National Drugs Strategy whilst reflecting local need.

In summary, the issues that require continued effort on over the next 12 months are around:

1. A stronger focus on reducing re-offending especially for adults and transitional arrangement from youth to adult offending services
2. Reducing repeat victimisation, especially domestic violence
3. Reducing alcohol misuse and the harm it causes, including alcohol related crime
4. Reducing drug misuse and the harm it causes, including drug related crime
5. Reducing the problems in those communities experiencing disproportionate levels of crime,

especially the city centre, Hendon, Millfield and St. Michael's⁶

6. Tackling anti-social behaviour and perceptions of it
7. Improving feelings of safety, especially amongst more vulnerable groups
8. Embedding a problem solving approach throughout the SSP and measuring the effectiveness of this
9. Meeting the six hallmarks as required under the minimum standards for partnership working to ensure the SSP is the most effective it can be in delivering better outcomes for residents.

⁶ Consideration will also be given to any new priority areas emerging from the PSIA



Appendix 6 provides further examples of the types of interventions that we will deliver around prevention, early intervention, enforcement and support / rehabilitation.

5.3 Resources

Strategy implementation will primarily take place from within the existing mainstream resources of partner agencies.

It will require financial support from the non-ring fenced Area Based Grant (ABG) which combines previous ring fenced funding support from the HO via Safer and Stronger Communities,

ASB Funding and Drug Co-ordination funds.

The resources needed to deliver this strategy, beyond extensive mainstream activity include:

- Support for the YOS
- Funding of the Safer Communities core team and partnership infrastructure
- ABG resources allocated for safer communities activity
- Major contributions to community safety through the capital programme (e.g. the Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative scheme) and initiatives to improve

educational attainment and employment opportunities.

In addition to partner agency mainstream resources, the SSP is also able to draw upon substance misuse funds (in excess of approx £3.4m in 2008/09), the Basic Command Unit Fund in 2008/09 and the new ABG.

Beyond these resources, the Strategy will depend, for added value, on implementation based upon:

- Improving significant and existing mainstream activity (e.g. effective demonstration of compliance with the Section 17 duty under the CDA 1998)
- New, more focused and therefore more efficient approaches (e.g. through lean commissioning and reducing repeat problems by smarter working and the identification of and action on for example PPOs).
- The current commissioning of a range of drug services via its Joint Commissioning Group. Over the next strategy cycle, the SSP will extend this commissioning framework to cover a wider range of safer communities activity.

5.4 Delivery Mechanisms

This strategy will be delivered right across the city and will potentially involve many hundreds of staff, residents and volunteers from a range of organisations and communities at any given time.

To ensure this occurs, the SSP Board brings together the most senior partners of the 'responsible authorities' which is a legislative requirement. The Board oversees resources and partnership performance as well as setting the strategic direction for the SSP and responding to new challenges. The Board also acts as a

key link to the Sunderland Partnership, which brings safer communities into a broader context of improvement of conditions across the City (for example economic regeneration, health and learning). Appendix 2 sets out the structure of the SSP.

The Board are supported by the Business Support Group (BSG), an independently chaired executive that meets monthly to implement and oversee delivery functions on behalf of the Board. The BSG brings together the responsible bodies represented on the Board with a wider range of 'co-operating' agencies and organisations who can contribute to delivering a safer Sunderland. They act as an interface between the relevant delivery groups who develop and implement plans to deliver key areas of the strategy such as drugs and alcohol and domestic violence. Both the Board and BSG can establish time limited or permanent sub groups as appropriate to deliver on particular areas of the strategy.

The SSP is also represented on the Police Tasking and Co-ordinating Group which demonstrates the levels of strong partnership co-operation.

In addition to a number of themed delivery groups, eight Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups or LMAPS provide a specific locality and neighbourhood approach to delivery. Chaired by the Inspectors from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams the groups bring together local frontline agencies responsible for key safer communities services such as policing, environment, housing, youth offending and fire service. In addition an elected member representative attends to provide a community perspective. The LMAPS consider local problems ranging from individual cases of anti-social behaviour and offending through to resolving neighbourhood

crime and disorder using environmental improvement and design. Meeting some 80 times across the year the LMAPS demonstrate a significant commitment to problem solving and neighbourhood policing.

The SSP is also supported in its delivery by a core team who carry out all of the support and secretariat roles required to deliver the Strategy. This includes a wide range of functions from production and co-ordination of strategies and plans, performance management, financial management, analysis and research through to commissioning substance misuse services.

External accountability of the SSP Board for performance in previous strategies was primarily to the Home Office with individual partners also accountable to their relevant national Inspectorate. This accountability however will be significantly enhanced locally by the Police and Justice Act 2006 which requires Sunderland City Council to establish a specific scrutiny and overview function to review delivery of the strategy from 2008. This scrutiny function made up of elected City Council representatives has the ability to call evidence of delivery from all responsible authorities within the SSP. Recommendations are referred to the SSP or partner agency concerned and a response must be made if requested regarding actions that are proposed to be taken.

In addition local accountability will be further increased via a "Call For Action" introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This in effect provides a statutory mechanism for local elected councillors to raise local crime and disorder concerns where a resident, visitor or business in a locality considers that the SSP is not delivering against its strategy.

The implementation of this legislation is expected in 2008 and is welcomed by the Partnership which already routinely involves partner agencies such as the Police at existing Local Authority Scrutiny and Area Committees and responding to requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

Regular "Face the Public" sessions are also required under legislative minimum standards. Wider community engagement is covered in section 5.6.

5.5 Performance Management

Performance management is an important part of the work of any partnership. It helps sustain the focus on improving safer communities outcomes and provides a valuable basis for feeding outcomes back to local communities, as well as reflecting local and national concerns.

Within a national context, there is new phase of performance management for the Police and partners with the introduction of the Assessment of Policing and Community Safety (APACS). It reflects the priorities in the National Crime Strategy and the PSAs (see Appendix 3) and will cover key headline areas such as confidence and satisfaction, tackling crime, and serious crime and protection.

The SSP will also routinely monitor performance against its LAA targets on anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, alcohol, drugs and re-offending⁷ – as these cover 6 key issues that the SSP has identified as needing improved performance on.

⁷ The Youth Justice Board has aligned the Youth Offending Team (YOT) performance framework to the LAA process through identifying 6 YOT performance indicators which are included in the national indicator set.

In order to do this, the Strategy will be supported by a performance management framework (PMF) that allows the Partnership to demonstrate to key stakeholder the difference that we are making. The measures included in the PMF will be chosen from a list of relevant national and local indicators (Appendix 4). The appropriateness of these measures will be regularly reviewed.

Progress against key outcomes will be routinely reported to the SSP Board as well as to other key stakeholders such as the LSP, GONE and local residents.

This framework will ensure that the SSP:

- Continues to focus on priorities and outcomes
- Is accountable for its actions; and
- Remains clear about the roles and responsibilities of partners.

The PMF is supported by a Partnership Information Sharing System (the Vault) and Information Sharing Protocol which supports the continual process of improved partnership data, intelligence and information exchange. This is critical to the work of the SSP as good information allows us to check that we are having the right impact, on the right problems, in the right places at the right time. New regulations⁸ came into force in October 2007 which made sharing of certain electronic data sets amongst partners mandatory, such as information held by the TPCT on persons admitted to hospital as a result of assault or domestic abuse.

5.6 Community Engagement

The Police and Justice Act 2006 places a much stronger emphasis on community engagement. The SSP already uses a range of community engagement and feedback mechanisms to highlight action taken in response to residents' priorities and also to consult on priorities and proposed actions. These include:

- The Annual Safer Sunderland Partnership Forum
- LMAPS Groups
- Neighbourhood / Community Engagement Meetings
- Community Engagement Questionnaires
- The city-wide postal survey of 6,000 households on fear of crime
- Independent Advisory Groups
- Service User and Carers' consultation
- A range of engagement mechanisms used by partner agencies such as Area Partnerships, Area Committees, Community Safety Roadshows, Viewpoint (YOS), residents meetings and the Police & Community Forums.

We will continue to build upon how we engage with our residents and stakeholders as we are committed to ensuring local people are involved in decision making on the safer communities issues that affect them. We will continually improve how we keep people informed on action taken and will establish clear lines of communication and feedback that will allow input into decision making at a local level.

⁸ Crime and Disorder (Prescribed Information) Regulations 2007 as part of Schedule 9 (5) of the Police and Justice Act.



Glossary of acronyms

ABA

Acceptable Behaviour Agreement

ABG

Area Based Grant

ANPR

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

APACS

Assessment of Policing and Community Safety

APPS

Approved Preferred Providers Scheme

ARCH

See www.sunderland-arch.org.uk

ASB

Anti Social Behaviour

ASBO

Anti Social Behaviour Order

A&E

Accident and Emergency

BCS

British Crime Survey

BME

Black and Minority Ethnic

BSG

Business Support Group

CAA

Comprehensive Area Assessment

CAF

Common Assessment Framework

CCTV

Closed Circuit Television

CDA

Crime and Disorder Act (1998)

CDRP

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CJS

Criminal Justice System

CSO

Community Support Officer

DAT

Drug Action Team

DCLG

Department of Communities and Local Government

DIP

Drug Interventions Programme

DRR

Drug Rehabilitation Requirement

DV

Domestic Violence

ETE

Education, Training and Employment

FIP

Families Intervention Project

GONE

Government Office North East

HO

Home Office

IDVA

Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

JCG

Joint Commissioning Group

LAA

Local Area Agreement

LCJB

Local Criminal Justice Board

LI

Local Indicator

LMAPS

Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving

LSOA

Lower Super Output Area

LSP

Local Strategic Partnership

MAA

Multi Area Agreement

MAPPA

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements

MARAC

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

NI

National Indicator

NOMS

National Offender Management Service

NPT

Neighbourhood Policing Team

NRT

Neighbourhood Relations Team

PMF

Performance Management Framework

PPO

Prolific and Other Priority Offenders

PPOS

Prolific and Other Priority Offender Scheme

PSA

Public Service Agreement

PSIA

Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment

RAP

Rehabilitation and Aftercare Programme

SDVC

Specialist Domestic Violence Court

SHI

Safer Homes Initiative

SSP

Safer Sunderland Partnership

SSPTV

Safer Sunderland Partnership Television

S17

Section 17 (of the CDA 1998)

TPCT

Teaching Primary Care Trust

TWFRS

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

TYE

Targeted Youth Engagement

WWIN

Wearside Women in Need

YJS

Youth Justice System

YOS

Youth Offending Service

Appendix 1: The Theory of Change approach

Theory of Change acts as a guide for planning, implementation, and evaluation. Core to Theory of Change practice are a number of elements:

- **Outcome:** An outcome is a state, or condition that doesn't currently exist which must be put in place in order for the proposed change to occur. Depending on their position within the outcome framework, an outcome can represent an ultimate outcome, long-term outcome, or supporting outcome (precondition)
 - **Ultimate outcome:** An outcome that represents a long-term goal that is driving the theory but which the partnership is not solely accountable for.
 - **Long-term outcome:** The goal you want to reach which is the purpose of the partnership.
 - **Precondition** (Supporting outcome); All outcomes, except the ultimate outcome, are also preconditions. They are called preconditions because they are conditions that must be put in place in order for the next outcome in the outcome pathway to be achieved
- **Outcome framework:** A visual depiction of the sequential pathway of outcomes showing which outcomes are preconditions of other outcomes. This is also known as a Pathway of Change.
- **Backwards mapping:** The process of beginning with your long-term goal and working "backwards" towards the earliest changes that need to occur. This is the opposite of how we usually

think about planning, because it starts with asking "what conditions must exist for the long-term goal to be reached?" rather than starting with the question "what can we do to bring the outcome about?"

- **Assumption:** Conditions or resources that the group believes are needed for the success of the program, and that you believe already exist and will not be problematic. Assumptions are important, because if you assume something that turns out not to be true, the program may not work as planned.
- **Rationale:** The evidence base that justifies why we expect one set of outcomes to lead to another – why are the preconditions necessary for the outcome to be achieved? Rationales are often based on research, but may also come from past experience, common sense, or knowledge of the specific context.
- **Indicator:** Measurable evidence of meeting the goal. Indicators are visible signs that demonstrate that the outcomes are achieved. Often, indicators can be counted (quantitative), but sometimes evidence will be something more descriptive (qualitative). (See Appendix 4).
- **Intervention:** The activities that the programme or group of stakeholders will undertake to bring about outcomes.
- **Narrative:** A summary of the theory which explains the pathway of change, highlights some of the major assumptions, rationales and interventions, and presents a

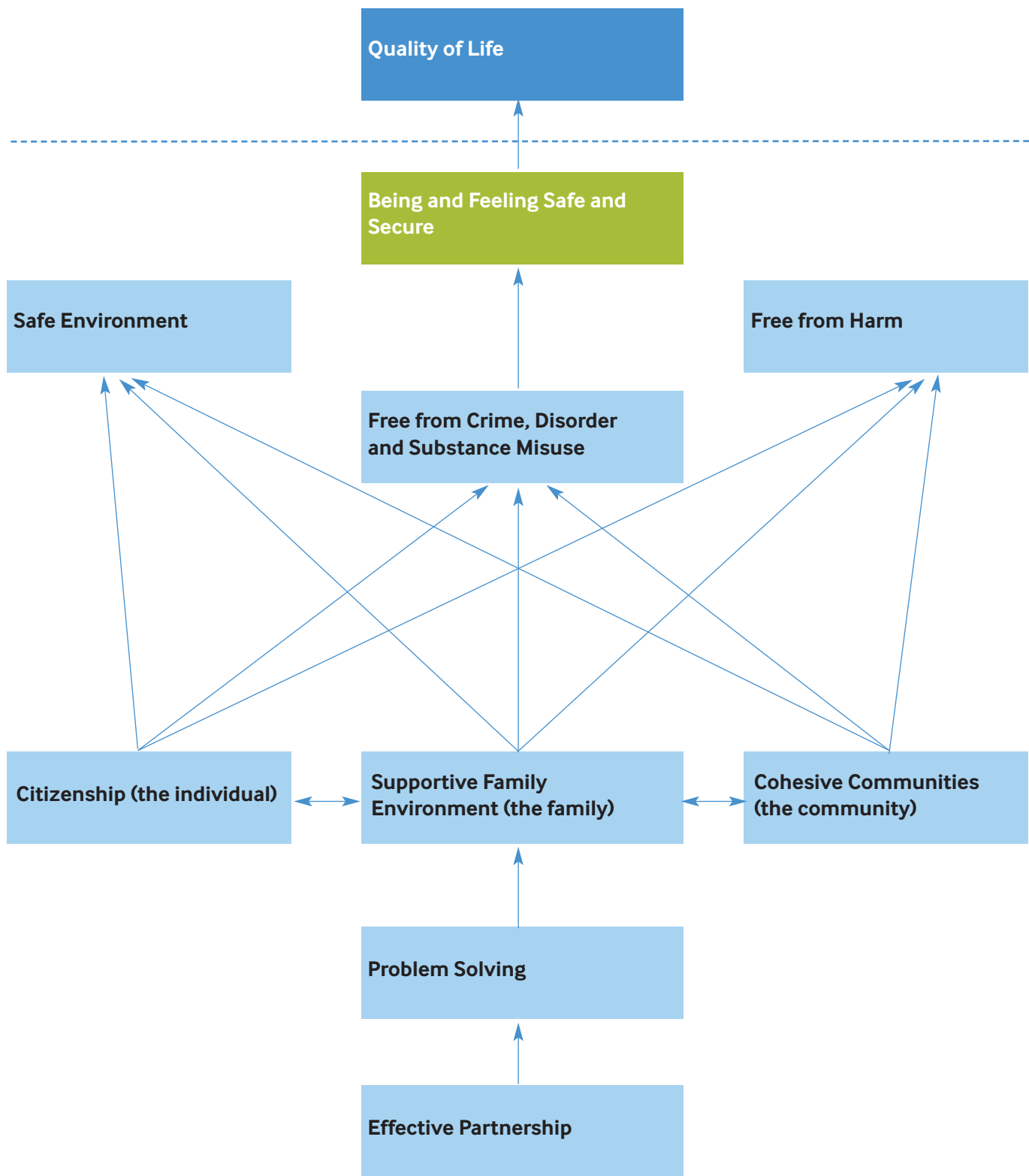
compelling case as to how and why the organisation expects to be successful. The purpose of the narrative is to convey the major elements of the theory easily and quickly to others.

In summary, the ultimate outcome is an outcome that drives the theory, but not one that the partnership will hold itself accountable for. The long-term outcome is the goal you want to reach and which is the purpose of the partnership. A precondition is an outcome that is necessary to achieve another outcome. One cannot unlock a locked door without the key. Possessing the key is a precondition. Backwards mapping is the process of starting with what you want to achieve ultimately and figuring out what is necessary to bring that about. Then you figure out what is necessary to bring those things about, and so on, until you get to a place where you can begin the journey.

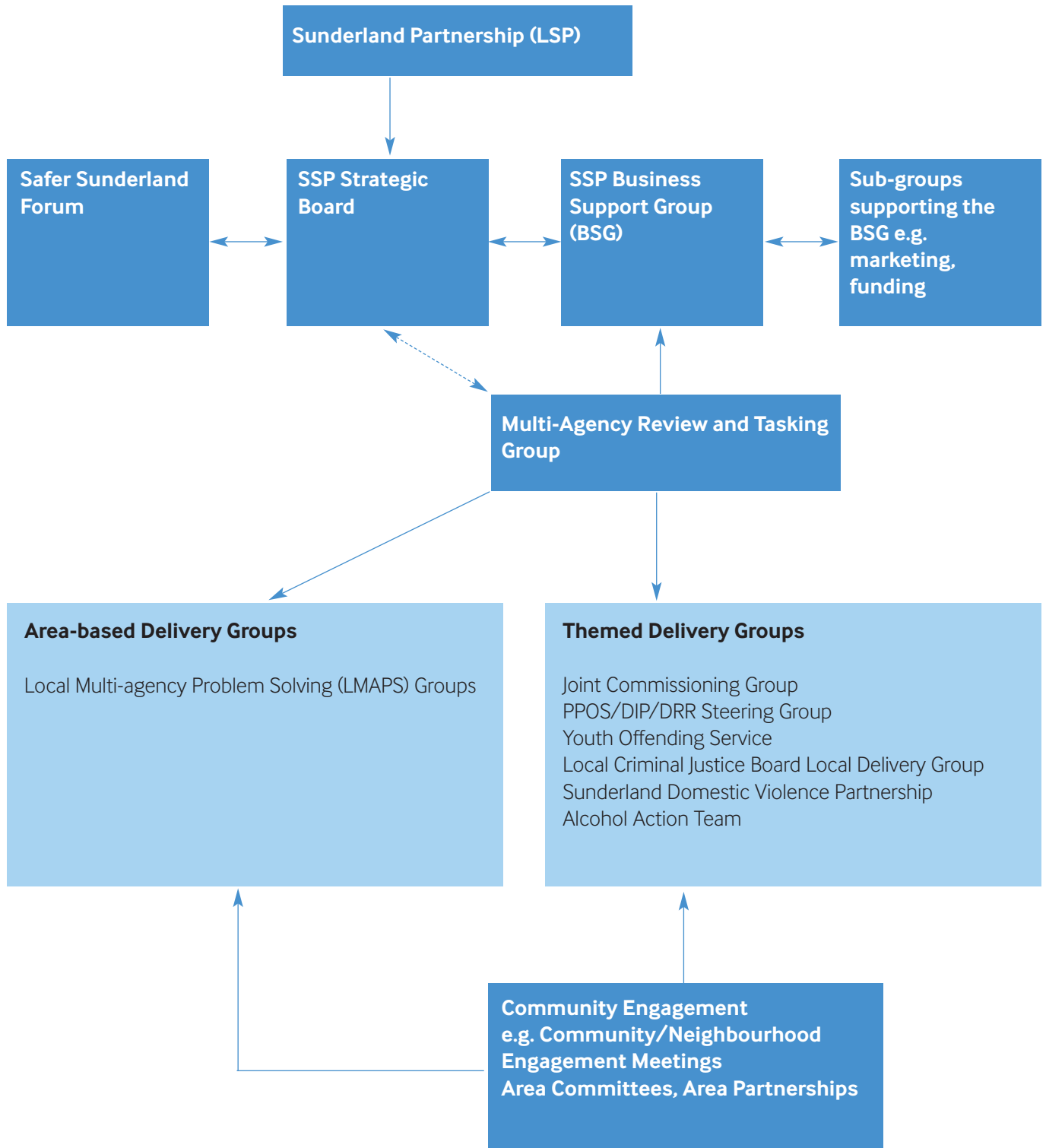
Having specified clear definitions for each outcome and the causal model of their relationships, it greatly increases our ability to identify and time the appropriate activities that are necessary to achieve these outcomes. It also makes it possible to learn from and enhance the model with greater precision and then, to communicate the theory and lessons learned to others.

A Theory of Change also includes a description of the types of activities that will help achieve the outcomes and specific, measurable indicators that signify successful achievement of the outcomes.

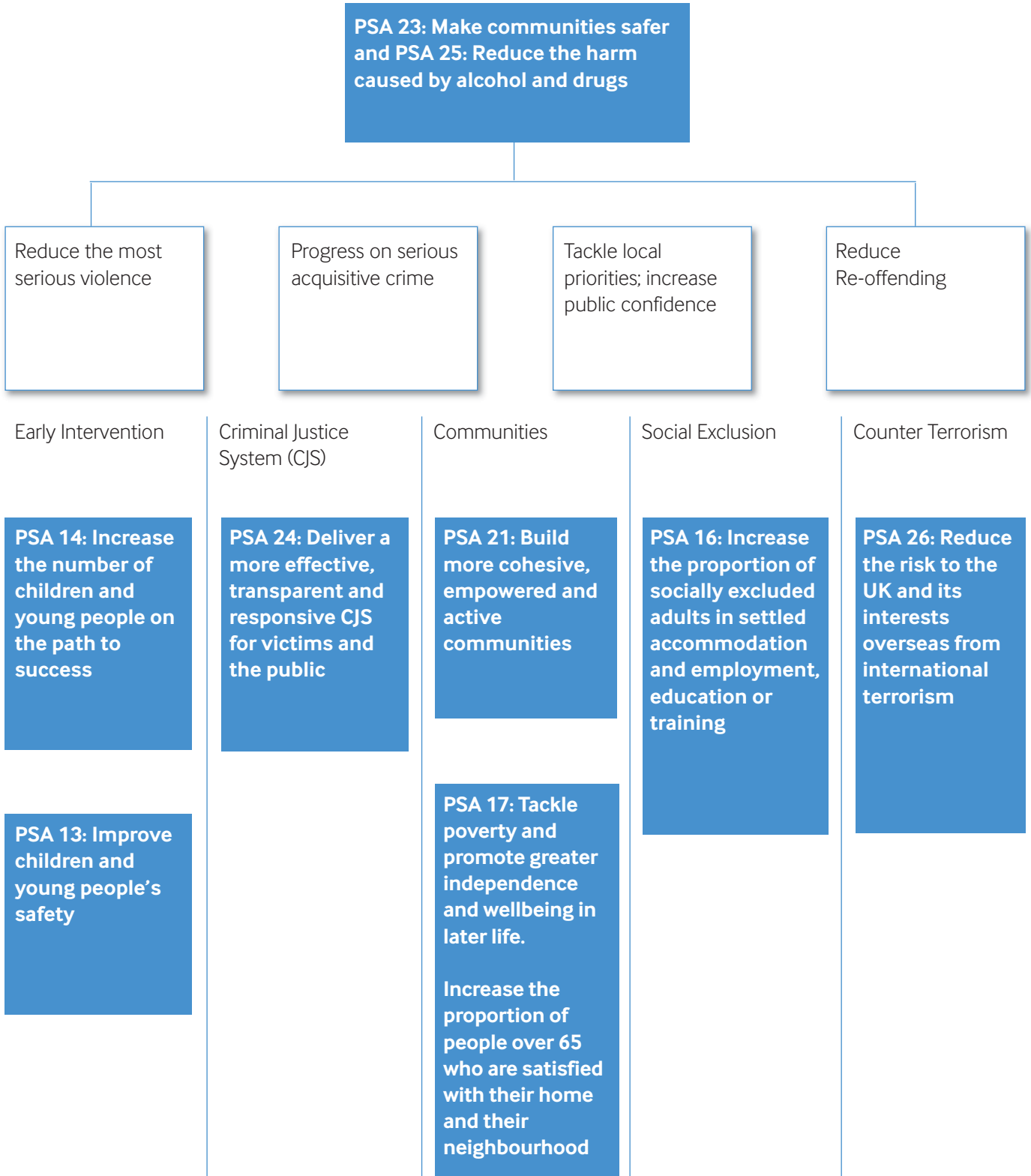
The following diagram presents a visual primer of the Theory of Change as a further aid to understanding the approach.



Appendix 2: Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) structure



Appendix 3: Public Service Agreements 23 and 25



Appendix 4: Safer communities indicators

National indicators

Ref	Indicator	Ref	Indicator	Ref	Indicator
NI 15	Serious Violent Crime rate PSA 23.	NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders HO DSO.	NI 48	Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents DfT DSO
NI 16	Serious Acquisitive Crime Rate PSA 23.	NI 31	Re-offending rate of registered sex offenders PSA 23	NI 49	Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks CLG DSO.
NI 17	Perceptions of anti social behaviour PSA 23.	NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence PSA 23.		
NI 18	Adult re-offending rate for those under probation supervision PSA 23.	NI 33	Arson Incidents HO DSO.		
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders PSA 23.	NI 34	Domestic violence – murder PSA 23		
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate PSA 23.	NI 35	Building resilience to violent extremism PSA 26.		
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police PSA 23.	NI 36	Protection against terrorist attack PSA 26		
NI 22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area HO DSO.	NI 37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area CO DSO		
NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity HO DSO.	NI 38	Drug related (Class A) offending rate PSA 25.		
NI 24	Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with anti social behaviour HO DSO.	NI 39	Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates PSA 25.		
NI 25	Satisfaction of different groups with the way police and local council dealt with anti social behaviour HO DSO.	NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment PSA 25.		
NI 26	Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence PSA 23	NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem PSA 25.		
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police HO DSO.	NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem PSA 25.		
NI 28	Serious knife crime rate HO DSO	NI 43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody MoJ DSO		
NI 29	Gun crime rate PSA 23	NI 44	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals MoJ DSO		
		NI 45	Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, employment or training MoJ DSO.		
		NI 46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation MoJ DSO.		
		NI 47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents DfT DSO		

Other National Indicators that support the safer communities agenda

NI 1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
NI 5	Overall / general satisfaction with local area
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people
NI 143	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or license
NI 144	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or license
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting)
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping

Local indicators

Ref Indicator

L1	Total recorded crime rate per 1000 population	L15	Feelings of safety on public transport (broken down by day and night, and walking, waiting and travelling etc)	L28	% of people who feel attacks or harassment because of race, colour, religion or sexual orientation is a serious problem
L2	% residents who feel safe in Sunderland	L16	Feelings of safety in the city centre during the day	L29	% residents who feel safe in Sunderland by age, gender, disability and ethnicity compared to general population
L3	% of residents who said they were more worried about crime in Sunderland in the last year	L17	Feelings of safety in the city centre at night	L30	Feelings of safety in the city centre (day and night) by ethnicity, disability, age and gender
L4	Repeat incidents of hate crime	L18	Total recorded crime in priority areas – reduce by more than the city average	L31	Community tension monitoring indicators
L5	Repeat incidents of house burglary	L19	Levels of recorded disorder incidents in priority areas – reduce by more than the city average	L32	Levels of all forms of hate crime (e.g. gender, disability, race, homophobic etc)
L6	Narrow the gap between those wards/LSOA and the city average for recorded crime	L20	Levels of escalation of anti-social behaviour from a first stage warning letter	L33	Number and Time taken to resolve LMAPS problems
L7	Alcohol related violent crime		• % that went to a 2nd stage letter	L34	Proportion of LMAPS problems that are repeat issues
L8	Alcohol related violent disorder		• % that went to a home visit	L35	Proportion of young people who do offend monitored by final warning through to custody
L9	• Perceptions of noisy neighbours or loud parties	L21	% of young people who do not offend	L36	Adult re-offending rate of top 200 offenders
	• Perceptions of teenagers hanging around	L22	Proportion of young people who do offend monitored by levels on final warnings through to custody	L37	Recorded convictions of PPOs
	• Perceptions of rubbish and litter lying around	L23	Children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan where domestic violence, drugs and / or alcohol is a factor (CAF)	L38	Matrix scores of PPOs
	• Perceptions of people being drunk or rowdy in public places	L24	Young people on a prevention programme and those on a final warning with intervention, relevant community based penalty, DTO, have a parent/carer receiving a parenting intervention	L39	Recidivism rate of young offenders after 2 years
	• Perceptions abandoned and burnt out cars			L40	Number of Community Calls for Action
	• Perceptions of vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to vehicles			L41	100% compliance with the 6 Hallmarks of effective partnership working.
L10	Levels of binge drinking in Sunderland	L25	% of children of PPOs who go on to commit offences / become known to the YJS		
L11	Speed at which graffiti, reported to the Council, is removed	L26	Looked after children who have been in care for over 12 months who have offended		
L12	Speed at which drug related litter, reported to the Council, is removed				
L13	% of planning applications that consider S17 implications and secured by design	L27	% of families on the Family Intervention Project whose anti-social behaviour ceases		
L14	Levels of criminal damage				

Appendix 5: Related plans and strategies

- The Sunderland Strategy
(Sustainable Community Strategy)
- The Local Area Agreement
- Image Strategy
- Corporate Improvement Plan
- Reducing Re-offending in the
North East: North East Regional
Resettlement Strategy
- Youth Justice Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Local Policing Plan
- Housing Strategy
- Supporting People Strategy
- New Deal for Communities
Community Safety Strategy
- Local Delivery Plan (Health)
- Adult Drug Treatment Plan
- Anti-social Behaviour Strategy
- Domestic Violence Strategy
- Alcohol Strategy
- Reducing Re-offending Strategy
- 50+ Strategy

Appendix 6: Examples of work around prevention, early intervention, enforcement and support/resettlement/rehabilitation

Prevention

- A safer environment can be created by designing out crime at the planning stage. Examples include better vehicle security (such as immobilisers) and secured car parks.
- Neighbourhood policing can lead to positive changes in a range of key outcomes including crime, perceptions of anti-social behaviour and feelings of safety.
- The provision of general crime prevention advice and awareness raising to reduce risks of being a victim can be achieved through targeted marketing and communications work.
- High quality universal services (such as schools and health services) which are accessed by the most vulnerable families and which promote early resilience and support children to avoid risk factors and build protective factors are key to early prevention. Broadly focused parenting support can play a role here.
- Early identification of, and interventions to address things like substance misuse through children's services is critical in preventing young people getting involved in offending behaviour.
- Citizenship work with young people covering respect and responsibilities can help support the preventative agenda and enable young people to become more active citizens.

Case Study on Prevention and Early Intervention: Sunderland Safer Homes Initiative

The Safer Homes Initiative has been running in Sunderland since April 2007. It provides additional home security for victims and those at risk of house burglary, domestic violence and hate crime. The strength of the scheme is that it covers both preventative and early intervention work.



It can prevent crime by reducing the chances of those vulnerable to crime becoming a victim in the first place. It also intervenes early with those who have been a victim to reduce the risks of being a repeat victim. In its first year, approximately 1300 residents have had their homes made more secure and levels of repeat victimisation for all 3 crime types have fallen since the project started. Feedback on the scheme has been very positive with 97% saying it has made them feel safer.

Early Intervention

- Early intervention can prevent issues escalating into more serious crime. This depends on the services recognising individual risk, discussing potential multi-agency solutions and responding in a co-ordinated way. An early intervention approach to anti-social behaviour is already having an impact in Sunderland. Early warning letters to parents about their children's ASB is helping prevent it escalating.
- The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is an important tool for agencies such as schools, health and the YOS to flag up risk. The most appropriate services then need to be put in place depending on need such as diversionary activities through to parenting orders.
- Taking part in sport and leisure activities and volunteering has been shown to impact on levels of anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour e.g. via the Targeted Youth Engagement Project and detached youth work.
- A swift response to victims of burglary (through target hardening / improved home security) can reduce the risk of repeat victimisation.
- An environment that is managed and under control can provide reassurance. A safe environment is a place where identified problems are responded to and dealt with quickly and positively.

Environmental crimes such as drug related litter, graffiti and vandalism negatively impact on how safe an environment can be and feel and the swift response to these issues can prevent the escalation to more serious crime and disorder problems.

- Poor parenting, lack of parental supervision and weak parent/child relationships all increase the risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. Intervening early with those families exhibiting risk factors and by taking a whole family approach can help reduce risks of offending of other family members, e.g. siblings.

Enforcement

- Reducing re-offending can be achieved by targeting the small number of young and adult offenders who cause the most harm to local communities, such as PPO scheme and ISSP. This should not only cover enforcement but should lead onto support and rehabilitation through co-ordinated end to end management of offenders.
- The Drug Interventions Programme has been successful in reducing levels of acquisitive crime by getting problematic drug users into treatment and retaining and supporting them there.
- Fixed Penalty Notices, Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs), ASBOs and tenancy enforcement work can all help impact on offending.
- The use of the latest technologies such as CCTV (mobile, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), headcams, fixed cameras etc) can as a deterrent and also support prosecutions.

Case Study on Enforcement: Community Payback Schemes

Community Payback is a reparation scheme that forms part of the community sentences given to adult and young offenders. It involves unpaid work such as litter picking, graffiti removal and landscape restoration. The benefits are that offenders get a clearer understanding of the problems they have caused and face up to the consequences of their offending by giving something back to the community they have offended against. Local residents then get to see that the damage that was done is being made good. For example:

- Over the last year, adult offenders have carried out over 34,000 hours of unpaid work in the Sunderland area – in working days, that is equivalent to them doing over 17 years worth of free community work.
- The YOS run more than 22 community payback schemes across the city, which can facilitate a range of benefits for all parties.
- The award-winning ISSP's New Directions Project has also been working with the project carrying out internal decorating whilst simultaneously providing work experience and training for young offenders in various trades, such as plastering, painting and decorating.
- A variety of work, including painting of the teen shelter and graffiti removal from the local pub was carried out by young offenders supervised by the YOS and this was arranged in response to requests from the Rickleton Village Residents Association in Washington.
- One 'payback scheme', the BIG Recycle, has proved so successful that it has been recognised with a national award – and it has even resulted in full time employment for three of the young people who took part.



Support / Resettlement / Rehabilitation

- Supported accommodation and resettlement work can help people fleeing domestic violence.
- Dispersed housing / floating support can help those problematic families causing anti-social behaviour to address their behaviour.
- Drug and alcohol treatment can help people to minimise the harm caused to them and local communities.

- Supporting offenders and those most at risk of offending will help enable them to become more active citizens, by rejecting crime, disorder and substance misuse. Reducing re-offending can be achieved by focusing on the 7 strategic pathways which decrease the risk of re-offending ie:
 1. Tackling the high prevalence of drug and alcohol misuse
 2. Dealing with the mental and general health needs of offenders (particularly those in custody or subject to Community Orders);
 3. Improving offenders' basic skills and their ability to get and retain a job.
 4. Ensuring that offenders can access and retain appropriate accommodation, and assist them to tackle debt;
 5. Improving offenders' ability to see the consequences of their actions and to tackle problems without recourse to violence.
 6. Ensuring education, training and employment opportunities for young offenders and raising achievement levels; and
 7. Tackling the intergenerational offending cycle through working with offenders' families and children.

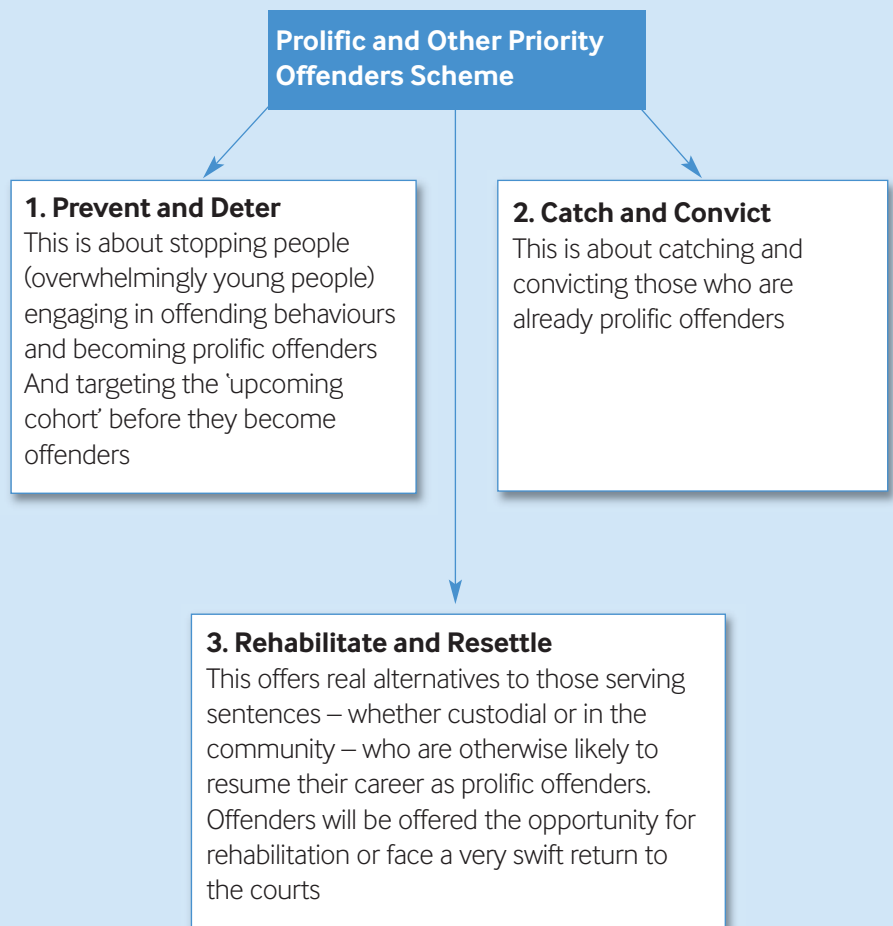
Case Study: Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Scheme (PPOS)

The Sunderland 'Prolific and Other Priority Offender Scheme' was established in September 2004. This actively targets those offenders who cause most harm to our local communities. It concentrates on three strands from prevention through to rehabilitation:

Under the first strand, the YOS and partners work to prevent risks of offending and deter those at risk from getting involved in crime. Under the second and third strand, the police, Probation, YOS and other partner agencies are targeting the 20-30 individuals whose offending is most widespread and are considered as a priority for the scheme. Many of them also have significant drug treatment needs and the scheme has links with the Drug Interventions Programme. It gives offenders the opportunity to break their cycle of offending by encouraging them to look at their attitudes to crime and victims. It offers them a pathway into

rehabilitation, and if they engage with it, then they are less likely to re-offend, reducing crime in the

community. If they don't engage then there is a swift route back into the Criminal Justice System.



Appendix 7: Contact information

To make comments, or for general information about the Safer Sunderland Partnership and its Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023 contact:

Sunderland City Council
Safer Communities Team

Tel: 0191 553 7915

Email: community.safety@sunderland.gov.uk

Web Page: www.sunderland.gov.uk/safersunderland

If you require copies of this booklet in an alternative format or language please contact 0191 520 5555.

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