

## Safer Sunderland Partnership: Annual Report 2015-2016

This report provides a high level summary of the headline recorded crime data for the 12 month period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016 together with some of the progress against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2015/16.

### 1. Recorded Crime 2015-2016

Below is a summary of the changes on key recorded crime categories for the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016.

- Total crime has increased by 29% during 2015/16. There had been a rise in the number of crimes from rising from 15052 to 19455, an increase of 4403 recorded crimes.
- In 2015-16, Sunderland is the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest for total recorded crime in its Most Similar Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership group (out of 15 similar partnerships with 1<sup>st</sup> being best performing i.e. with the lowest levels).
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership is still the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in its family group for burglary dwelling, despite a 9% increase (57 crimes) from April-March 2016 when compared to the previous year.
- For Criminal Damage, the Safer Sunderland Partnership has improved from being the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in its family group even though there have been 689 more recorded incidents of criminal damage (a 21% increase) in 2015-16.
- Theft from Motor Vehicles has continued to fall, and has dropped by 7% in 2015-16 (63 fewer crimes) and is now 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in the family group (previously 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest).
- Theft of Motor Vehicles however has risen by 63 crimes (28%) during 2015-16 but is still 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in its family Group.
- Serious Acquisitive Crime has improved from being 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest to 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in 2015-16 despite a small rise of 4% (83 crimes).
- One of the largest increases has been in The Theft and handling, with 1438 more crimes, equating to a 35% increase. It is 9<sup>th</sup> in its family group
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership has declined in performance compared to its peers for Violent Crime, and has dropped from 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest to 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in its family Group. The 65% rise in 2015-16 is a significant change (2,061 more violent crimes). The same is seen for 'Violence against the Person (VAP)', which has experienced a 71% rise although the majority of VAP does not include injury.
- Robbery has experienced a rise of 28%, increasing from 81 incidents to 104 incidents, but Sunderland is still 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in its family group.
- For Shoplifting, the Safer Sunderland Partnership is 9<sup>th</sup> lowest in group. There has been an 8% increase of 151 incidents in 2015-16.

Table 1 below has been included to illustrate how the recorded crime stats have changed in 2015/16 compared to the previous year.

<b>Table 1: Change in Recorded Crime in Sunderland 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016</b>				
	<b>Recorded Incidents: Sunderland</b>			
<b>Measure</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Total crime	19455	15052	+4403	(+29%)
Violent Crime	5215	3154	+2061	(+65%)
Violence against the person	4581	2685	+1896	(+71%)
Violence against the person – with injury	2187	1637	+550	(+34%)
Most serious violence against the person	93	87	+6	(+7%)
Less serious violence against the person	2094	1550	+544	(+35%)
Violence against the person without injury	2394	1048	+1346	(+128%)
Robbery	104	81	+23	(+28%)
Sexual offences	530	389	+141	(+36%)
Vehicle Crime	1231	1271	-40	(-3%)
Vehicle Interference	95	135	-40	(-30%)
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (TFMV)	846	909	-63	(-7%)
Theft of a Motor Vehicle / TWOC	290	227	+63	(+28%)
Burglary	1601	1656	-55	(-3%)
Burglary dwelling	673	616	+57	(+9%)
Burglary Other than a Dwelling	928	1040	-112	(-11%)
Criminal damage	3943	3254	+689	(+21%)
Drug crime	667	910	-243	(-27%)
Other crime	6798	4807	+1991	(+41%)
Theft and handling	5502	4064	+1438	(+35%)
Shoplifting	2043	1892	+151	(+8%)
Theft from the person	124	82	+42	(+51%)
Theft of pedal cycle	314	302	+12	(+4%)
Other theft and handling	3021	1788	+1233	(+69%)
Fraud and Forgery	27	11	+16	(+145%)
Public disorder	1042	563	+479	(+85%)
Miscellaneous crime	227	169	+58	(+34%)
Serious acquisitive crime	1913	1832	+81	(+4%)
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	131	103	+28	(+27%)

It is important to note that the changes seen in Sunderland are mirrored across the rest of the Force area and also across most of the police forces nationally. This was explored more fully during 2015-16 looking at data to November/December. Northumbria Police advised that the increase in recorded crime is in the main is attributable to National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) compliance (across all crime types to varying degrees). The impact of NCRS can be explained as follows: the average number of reports that may relate to a crime during 2014/15 was 498 per day; this reduced (to Nov 2015) by 5% to 472 per day. Only a proportion of these reports amount to a recordable offence. Following an increased focus on compliance with NCRS, the number of crimes recorded per incident reported has increased from 40% during 2014/15 to 51% during April to November 2015. So, whereas the number of incidents has reduced slightly over the last year compared with 2014/15, a larger proportion of those incidents are now resulting in crimes recorded (due to increased focus on and compliance with NCRS). This is sometimes referred to as the conversion rate. As a result, although crime related incidents reduced by 5%, total recorded crime increased by 21.6% force wide and 20% in Sunderland (to Dec 2015). The total recorded crime rate for the 12 months ending October 2015 was 56.3 crimes per 1,000 population, placing Northumbria 21st nationally. A total of 34 out of 42 forces have recorded an increase in crime since the previous 12 months.

In January 2016, Operation Verify was also implemented to further improve NCRS compliance.

Increased confidence to report is also likely to have influenced some of the recorded crime increases, especially around some elements of violent crime (e.g. sexual violence and domestic abuse). Since HMIC published its review of every police force's handling of domestic abuse (Everyone's business), there has been a 31% increase in the number of domestic abuse related crimes recorded in England and Wales. The ONS suggests that this is due, in part, to police forces improving their recording of domestic abuse incidents as crimes and forces actively encouraging victims to come forward to report crimes.

In 2016, there will also be the introduction of front-end crime recording. Front-end crime recording involves the crime recording decision being made at the initial point of contact in the Police's Communications Department. At present, when a victim, witness or third party reports a crime or possible crime, an incident is created, to which an officer is dispatched to make a crime recording decision and to investigate the incident. The Home Office have recently revised the NCRS so that crime recording 'must not routinely be delayed to facilitate deployment of resources or to enable further investigation to take place'.

## **2. Summary of Work Undertaken to Support Safer Sunderland Partnership's Delivery Plan for 2015-16**

The SSP had 2 key strategic priorities for 2015/16

- Priority 1: Reduce crime and disorder and improve feelings of safety
- Priority 2: Prevent and reduce harm to our most vulnerable people and places

Underneath this, there were 5 key work areas around which the delivery plan was structured.

- Work Area 1: Substance misuse
- Work Area 2: Domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Work Area 3: Citywide and local area problem solving
- Work Area 4: Safeguarding and feelings of safety as cross-cutting issues with a key focus on child sexual exploitation (and trafficking) as primary work area
- Work Area 5: Partnership development – focusing on the SSP contribution to Prevent/radicalisation, cohesion, serious organised crime, and new and existing statutory duties

The remainder of this report provides a summary of progress against some of the key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan and is structured around the priority work areas that the Partnership had in place during 2015-16.

### **2.1 Substance Misuse**

Work was taken in the first half of the year to establish an Improvement Board to oversee the **re-commissioning of adult substance misuse treatment services** and implement improvements in practice to address the performance issues. This was done by monitoring and supporting the actions in the improvement plan tackling areas of greatest risk; and checking that improvements were embedded through quality assurance, challenge and

scrutiny. The Improvement Board met regularly prior to commencement of the evaluation of tender. Commencement of the new service is due to take place in July 2016.

There have been 45 deaths in treatment in the last 2 years (35 alcohol, 6 heroin, 4 other drugs). Some progress was made around the **Drug Related Death (DRD) Review Panel** which was set up in 2014 to ensure the process links to statutory Safeguarding Adults Board processes (through the Lessons Learned and Improvement In Practice - LLiP -sub-committee). Public Health England (PHE) was also supporting a regional group on drug related deaths and a PHE audit report into DRD procedures across the North East was completed which needs to be considered as key areas of good practice are identified to enable improvements to the local process. Due to the delays in the substance misuse service re-commissioning, the remaining work has been rolled forward into 2016-17 to ensure the process does not stand in isolation from the adult safeguarding LLiP process.

Action was taken to support the delivery of the partnership actions in the **Scrutiny Review on Novel Psychoactive Substances** (2014-15). The SSP continued to monitor the Psychoactive Substances Bill as it passed through parliament, identifying implications for partners and preparing for these. Discussions around enforcement activity and potential Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) started with a workshop on Sunderland's approach to PSPOs. Action in February 2016 led to a successful 3 month closure order on the "Hippodrome" premises in the City Centre and action was also pursued on another novel psychoactive substances (NPS) outlet in the City Centre. The specification of the new treatment service includes consideration of NPS both within structured treatment and harm reduction services, and training was made available for staff via the health champions scheme. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 implementation was delayed from April 2016 to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

There was an improvement action to seek ways in which the responsible authorities under the Licensing Act (police, council, fire, public health and safeguarding) could come together to maximise responses to licensing reviews where there are concerns around the licensing objectives for crime and disorder, public safety and safeguarding children. The Safer Sunderland Partnership and Public Health responded to the **Statement of Licensing Policy (SOLP)** consultation asking for a number of changes to be made which were incorporated. Public health colleagues also pulled together a multi-agency alcohol delivery clinic on 1st February 2016 with the aim of exploring how the SOLP could be most effectively implemented to ensure the maximum positive impact in reducing the harmful effects of alcohol consumption and the negative impact it can have on children and young people, health and the economy of Sunderland. This has led to a Whole City Approach to Alcohol Harm Reduction Task and Finish Group being set up - the improvement actions for this will be included in the 2016-17 SSP delivery plan.

## **2.2 Domestic Abuse and other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls**

Three levels of face-to-face **domestic violence and abuse training** were procured in May 2015 and delivery of the courses in July 2015 and will run for 2 years. The training offer has been widely promoted by the key partnerships. There has been very positive feedback from levels 1 and 2 training throughout 2015-16 (level 3 began in February 2016).

- For the level 1, a total of 176 people have completed between 30th July and 13th November 2015. In order to understand the impact of the training, attendees were also asked to rate their knowledge/skills/confidence, at the beginning of the training and upon completion – ranking 1 as having a low level through to 6 being ranked the highest. By the end of the training, 83% of participants assessed that their level of knowledge, skills and confidence was high, compared to only 12% (21 people) at the start of the training.

- For the level 2, a total of 69 people have completed between 30th July and 13th November 2015. 96% of them graded their level of knowledge, skills and confidence as high by the end of the training, compared to only 20% at the start of the training.
- 652 staff also who completed the domestic abuse e-learning and numbers have remained high given that the e-learning is a pre-requisite for the face-to-face training.

The number of **domestic and sexual abuse champions** in the workplace in Sunderland dropped from 75 to 66 as a result of 20 champions either taking severance / leaving their agency or changing roles but which was partly mitigated by 11 new champions being recruited in the last 6 months. There are champions across 19 agencies in Sunderland, some of which have multiple champions in a range of services (e.g. 15 champions within different services across the Council). On-going training and development sessions for champions took place in June/July on coercive control; and in November on sexual violence and also domestic abuse in LGBT relationships. This has helped to enhance Champions knowledge of the issues and the support available to aid signposting to services.

**Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)** are responsible for safety plans for those victims at risk of serious harm or death and meets on a fortnightly basis. The volume of referrals has been increasing and so a self-assessment on how MARAC operates and an action plan was developed. In the 12 months to December 2015, Sunderland had 586 high risk referrals to MARAC against a recommended number of 470. The high volume issue was evident across all of Northumbria and so it was identified that a strategic response was improve the operation of MARAC which began with a meeting in February 2016 to discuss MARACs at a forcewide level. There were around 40 attendees from most of the key MARAC partners. One of the key areas raised by partners was around the escalation criteria from police referrals which have resulted in some cases coming to MARAC that are not high risk. As a result a short pilot has been carried out in the Northern Area Command, looking at the 'escalation' and 'repeat' cases. Findings have shown a reduction in cases and have therefore been extended the other local authority areas including Sunderland.

The **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)** service continues to have high caseloads and capacity issues. This is exacerbated by the volume of high risk victims referred in for support. Funding from the CCG for an additional **IDVA in A&E** and an admin worker was secured but this won't necessarily reduce caseloads as the A&E IDVA is more likely to identify new high risk victims not already know to agencies such as the police, but they should identify victims at a lower risk level before escalation to high risk. The IDVA service has reported that it supported a total of 863 victims for the period April 2015 to December 2015 of which 536 were new referrals. The repeat referrals already known to the service within 12 months are not included in the figures as they are allocated to the same worker. The service also received 18 referrals for male victims which are not included in the figures. Some victims do not engage after initial contact and some only engage in telephone support but the majority engage in appointments and support. Case study examples and outcomes data has been collated for those cases with closed files (e.g. number no longer living with the perpetrator, those with safety plans in place, those in structured group work, those who accessed civil and criminal justice outcomes etc.). Outcomes achieved for victims include:

- improved health and wellbeing, by supporting victims and their children to access services that support their physical and mental health need;
- helping victims to stay safe, by supporting them and their children to reduce/avoid harm from others and improve feelings of safety;
- supporting victims to access leisure / faith / informal learning activities and contact with external services / groups and reconnection with family / expanded network of friends;

- helping victims make a positive contribution, by supporting them to engage in the running of the service and take part positively in their local community;
- helping them achieve economic wellbeing, by being supported to access welfare benefits, training and/or education or employment.
- Wider outcomes also include reduced costs to the public sector such as criminal justice costs and reduced physical and mental health costs.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has changed its Court Listing Schedule, The overall objective is to demonstrate the commitment to running an effective efficient and accessible court system making the best use of court and human resources and of the time available. This has resulted in the merging of the **Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)**. As work at all sites has been reducing and those courts are often cancelled, due to lack of business, and the work merged with other types of court. This situation did not adhere to the principles of the SDVC. It was agreed that the current listing arrangements were no longer suitable and did not fit the needs of the business. Centralising the SDVCs at Gateshead for South Northumbria (and Bedlington for North Northumbria) has the aim of ensuring that the courts can run at an optimum capacity, making best use of the IDVA, Magistrate, legal adviser and CPS resources and the court estate, but also retaining the principles of the specialist court model for DV across Northumbria.

Prior to the start of the **Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC)** pilot, Northumbria Police developed a tool to assist with the analysis and identification of serial and high risk perpetrators. This is based on an approach by Police Scotland. It is a new method of identifying harmful perpetrators using the recency, frequency and gravity (RFG) analysis. Funding secured through the Police Innovation Fund is paying for a dedicated analyst to produce target lists along with subject profiles for each target. This analysis is then used to identify serial domestic abuse perpetrators to be discussed in a monthly multi-agency meeting for tasking and coordination of resources to tackle these perpetrators effectively. Prior to the launch of MATAC, Northumbria Police consulted with partners and the first MATAC was held in Sunderland in January 2015. Options around targeting for example include overt and covert policing methods, as well as multi agency prevention methods, diversion, disruption and enforcement options.

**BIG** is a voluntary perpetrator project for adult men who reside in Sunderland and admit they have used abusive behaviour in an intimate relationship. BIG is a partnership between Barnardo's, Impact Family Services, Gentoo and Wearside Women in Need and has been funded by Northumbria Police from February 2015 to March 2016. Sunderland was chosen as the location of the funding by the police because it is one of the largest localities within the force area, had no voluntary perpetrator programme, yet one of the highest numbers of DV call-outs. The programme operates 2 days per week. During the year the partnership worked with statutory partners and the Big Lottery Fund in an effort to identify on going funding for 2016-17 and beyond. Funding for a part-time children workers to support the children of the men attending BIG was been secured from October 2015. Since its launch mid February 2015 to the end of January 2016 BIG received 131 referrals. This is the highest number of referrals to any of the perpetrator programmes across the region. Over half of the referrals have been received from Children's Services. Up to January 2016, approx. 8 men had completed the full programme (6 weeks for 1-2-1 sessions and pre-group sessions then 26 weeks of group work over 7 modules):

- Up to 4 x one-to-one sessions: these cover risk assessment, motivational enhancement, and engagement (suitability), facilitating behaviour change, diagnostic assessment of treatment need, challenging abusive behaviours and familiarisation with the programme concepts;

- 2 x Pre-Group sessions: this part of the programme is aimed at getting the men used to working in a group and beginning to explore difficult issues via active engagement and experiential exercises. This is a further induction towards the programme.
- The main 26-week programme includes:
  - Module 1 - defining, analysing and ending abusive behaviours
  - Module 2 - defining, analysing and ending abusive behaviours, part 2
  - Module 3 - effects on children
  - Module 4 - respect, trust and support
  - Module 5 - sexual respect
  - Module 6 - honesty, accountability and partnership
  - Module 7 - future conduct (2 sessions)

A briefing was provided for Scrutiny Committee in January 2016 around **Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking**. This explained each issue, who is affected, the changing legislative context and new statutory duties, training and awareness raising resources, and action being taken to address it. Other work in this area during 2015-16 has included:

- The Joint Head of the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), Chaz Akoshile, delivered a plenary session on Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence at Sunderland's Whole Family Conference in May 2015. Partners were also given the link to a new film by the FMU to demonstrate the devastating impact of forced marriage on victims and their families. Building on the outreach and education work of the FMU, the film aims to raise public awareness of the impact of forced marriage, and that forcing someone to marry is a criminal offence.
- A range of briefings, guidance and training materials were provided to partner agencies around the new Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) mandatory reporting duty which came into force from 31 October 2015 (this requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report confirmed cases of FGM).
- A new provision in the Modern Slavery Act came into force on 1st November 2015. Partners were briefed and provided with the links to the National Referral Mechanism and the 'duty to notify' forms to ensure they were aware that public authorities including the police, local authorities and the National Crime Agency now have a legal duty to notify the Home Office when they encounter a potential victim of modern slavery, including human trafficking. Other public authorities and non-government organisations are also encouraged to make a voluntary notification despite not being bound by the duty, in order to help build the picture of modern slavery in the UK.

### 2.3 Citywide and local area problem solving

The Partnership has continued to monitor and review the implementation of the **new ASB tools and powers**. In 2015-16, the council secured its first injunction under the new legislation. The Council's Cabinet also endorsed full use of powers in January 2016 from which full use of the powers will start being utilised. A draft ASB policy was developed and consulted on and enforcement policies will need to be updated to reflect the new Act.

The **Sulgrave and Concord Neighbourhood Management project**. 2015-16 saw the project expand in terms of the services offered to the communities of Sulgrave and Concord including a focus on improving management committee standards and resident involvement.

- The project has a seconded full time Anti-Social Behaviour officer who has worked with tenants, landlords and the management committees to prevent ASB using a number of prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement tactics
- The project has a seconded Probation Officer who has worked with the 'high crime causer' individuals who did not meet the criteria of the Prolific and Other Priority Offender (PPOs) cohort, but still needed to be intensively worked (due to the harm

being caused to local communities). They have been supported to help reduce their offending. Feedback from the Police is that whilst Concord and Sulgrave still account for the highest number of Washington PPOs, the offending rates have been maintained at far lower levels than pre-project. They have been managed very effectively and robustly with a range of enforcement and support mechanisms. Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) are currently engaging with 16 offenders on a mixture of both a statutory and non-statutory basis. CRC attend the project base twice weekly and utilise the base as and when required in respect of multi-agency appointments.

- A key challenge facing the project since its inception was being able to engage residents and encourage them to take an active role in matters relating to the local community. Due to a concerted effort by staff a residents group within Wellington and Waterloo was formed in July 2015. The residents felt that the management committee of Wellington and Waterloo Services Ltd was not acting on behalf of their interests and had grown frustrated with a perceived lack of dialogue between the residents and committee. The project has facilitated several meetings with the group, produced reports on their behalf, taken issues and concerns to the management committee on their behalf and initiated the help of the Washington Trust to formalise the group's constitution. A strong and robust residents group that can harness WWSL is essential in developing a long term sustainable community within this complex and help foster a strong community spirit and sense of civic responsibility. This remains at the formative stage and residents feel it is essential to build on this.
- Other key achievements are wide ranging, some of which include:
  - 16 landlords have become accredited; 56 empty properties brought back into use; 80 properties improved to min. standard for renting; and enforcement action against 2 landlords pursued due to non-compliance with inspections
  - Achieving the first Injunction in Sunderland (under the new tools and powers) against a known troublemaker which included conditions to stay out of the housing complexes and local convenience stores
  - CCTV for both complexes is monitored by the Councils Control Room 24 hours a day
  - The formation of a working group of reputable landlord's (combined portfolio of >35 properties) aimed at tackling management practises in the complexes and taking issues forward to relevant committees on behalf of the landlords.
  - Encouraging "problematic" landlords to serve section 21 eviction notices.
  - Being on site has allowed the team to discover extremely vulnerable and isolated individuals who would have otherwise slipped through the net.
  - Encouraging large property management agent's to carry out vetting checks on all properties they manage.
  - Improved information sharing has resulted in increased intelligence and co-ordinated working leading to a more joined-up, tailored approach.
  - Joint working with the Council's Youth Services has increased provision in the area to help tackle youth ASB issues.
  - Sunderland Area Parents Support (SAPS) are working in partnership with the project from the base and engaging with vulnerable individuals
  - The Changing Lives GAP Project has also begun operating from the base and working successfully with vulnerable adults
  - The project facilitated a regular drop-in with DWP staff to help deal with benefit queries as opposed to residents having to go through the lengthy, and expensive, national helpline system. DWP staff seconded to the Council will see residents in the Sulgrave Office making the service more accessible. The Council's Welfare Rights Team also operates bi-weekly drop-ins and appointments to deal with queries for residents from all over Washington. Shiny Advice and Resource Project (SHARP) have similarly begun operating from the base on alternate days and weeks to the Welfare Rights Team.



There was a review of **Operation Gryphon** to ensure it was fit for purpose following the introduction of the new powers. Previously, Gryphon had only focused on alcohol-related ASB but now the criteria have now been widened to consider 'significant ASB'. This will allow the process to kick in when young people are using novel psychoactive substances. The Gryphon document has been completely refreshed to ensure all the new ASB tools and powers are considered and also outlines all referral routes and at what point. With the current changes to ASB, the document provides frontline staff with a step-by-step guide to dealing with ASB. The document also includes a non-youth section and what tools are available. South Tyneside have also now adopted this approach, having worked so well in Sunderland which is helping the Police to use a joined-up and consistent approach to ASB across the Southern command area.

**Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Groups** continued to meet, but reduced to a 10 weekly cycle and continued to tackle repeat problems across the city. All Place Boards received a presentation on LMAPS in October to ensure joined up working with area arrangements was embedded. Some of the LMAPS activity included:

- West (Eden Vale): Evidence preparation in relation to a Public Space Protection Order has been undertaken following high levels of community concern about long term anti-social behaviour issues. Community mediation has been on-going given the highly complex issues.
- East: Mowbray park/Park Lane and surrounding area and range on-going issues including sexual offending and child sexual exploitation risk. Millfield Mosque – continued work to monitor EDL related activity.
- North: high child sexual exploitation risk – extraordinary LMAPS held and significant disruption and safeguarding actions in place from Police and City Council. Work has also taken place to tackle ASB at Downhill linked to a takeaway.
- Progress was made around the interface between LMAPS and adult safeguarding via an action in relation to a Serious Adult Review recommendation for Northumbria Police through briefings to all partner staff engaged in LMAPS.

The process for **high risk victims**, and how this links into LMAPS, has been reviewed. The review was initiated following the increase in high risk referrals to the ASB team since they took on noise nuisance. The new process is operational and is being complied with by Northumbria Police, Council's ASB team and Gentoo which now ensures each individual is risk assessed at first point of contact by the Customer Service Network but also then again by an ASB officer to ensure that those most at risk and vulnerable are being correctly identified. A harm reduction plan is then produced in partnership with the police.

The 2015 Darker Nights campaign took place in November. Police Cadets also provided support to the campaign, with organised events taking place across the area command for Bonfire and Fireworks displays.

## **2.4 Safeguarding and feelings of safety as cross-cutting issues with a key focus on the SSP's contribution to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation**

The Safer Sunderland Partnership provided a detailed submission to the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy resulting in a clear statement and requirement being included around the role of licensed premises in helping tackle suspected sexual exploitation. The policy now sets out how it expects licensed premises to play a key role in identifying risks, signs and symptoms of sexual exploitation.

Neighbourhood Policing Team and partners were identified as critical in tackling youth anti-social behaviour hotspots and there was evidence that child sexual exploitation was a risk in

some of these areas. The Victim, Offender, Location model was identifying a key work role particularly around offenders and locations and this had led to significant LMAPS work for example around the Park Lane and Mowbray Park area through task and finish work. Sunderland LMAPS Groups have also received a briefing on child sexual exploitation and their role, and following this partners were accessing the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) training.

Community Safety is represented at the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) sub group of the SSCB and the shared intelligence/ operational group. Attendance at the latter is resulting in disruption actions against perpetrators, locations and increased protection of victims.

Further briefings have been carried out with the Council's Licensing Team and the Council's Security services and a number of disruption actions undertaken particularly through the Council CCTV assets.

There has been an increased use of Child Abduction Warning Notices with potential/ actual perpetrators and the need to look at other civil injunctive powers using the new ASB powers.

Operation Neptune (CSE investigation across the Southern Area Command) is tackling serious offenders and protecting vulnerable females.

## **2.5 Partnership development (focusing on the SSP Contribution to Prevent/ Radicalisation, Cohesion, SOC and Statutory Duties)**

Work continues to monitor **community tensions**. The Police Community Tension Assessments are circulated to relevant officers and monthly cohesion monitoring meetings take place between the key officers within the Police and Council and cohesion log taken to EMT as and when required. Information is fed via the Police Command to Special Branch which informs on-going risk assessment and Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). Where emerging issues require a rapid response a Joint Engagement Group can be facilitated between Northumbria Police and the Council. The Lead Policy Officer Community Safety and Sunderland Partnership Co-ordinator continue to attend the Police Independent Advisory Group (IAG).

Much work has taken place during 2015-16 in response to the new statutory **Prevent duty**. (where the council and other specified agencies must have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism").

- A briefing was also provided to Scrutiny Committee in March 2016.
- The Council has been making links strategically and operationally with key partnerships and partners who have been carrying out their self-assessments around compliance with the new duty. Face-to-face training (WRAP 3) and e-learning (e.g. [http://course.ncalt.com/Channel\\_General\\_Awareness/01/index.html](http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html)) is in place together with briefings to managers.
- The Council also hosted a Northumbria Prevent Co-ordination Group whose main role is around identifying and sharing good practice around compliance with the duty, removing any cross-boundary barriers and identifying opportunities for joint working.
- A Sunderland Prevent Co-ordination Group has also been established to oversee the compliance of the specified authorities. Gentoo and TWFRS are also members of this group (despite not having the duty) as they come into contact with vulnerable people as part of their day-to-day work.
- Prevent is a safeguarding issue and work began in 2015-16 to embed it into the city-wide safeguarding policies and procedures for both children and adults.

- In its leadership role, all schools in the city (including independent schools) were provided with a self-assessment tool to assess their compliance with the duty, along with an accompanying briefing note. This information was also included in the School Governors Handbook in September 2015. Furthermore, schools were contacted and encouraged to nominate one person (preferably their named safeguarding person) to be trained to deliver Prevent (WRAP 3) training to their key staff. Approximately 30 schools have taken up the training.
- Work has continued with the Centre for Good Relations to build and strengthen partnership working and trust with community-based organisations to improve community insights that prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and challenge extremists together.

In terms of tackling **serious organised crime** (SOC), Operation Magnet has been refreshed and the SSP is now represented at monthly Southern Area Command meetings. Partners have been able to support the Police on a number of intelligence requests and direct support to joint operations. The LGA also published guidance for local councillors on their roles and responsibilities in helping tackle SOC. Councils have access to community intelligence and enforcement powers that can be used to disrupt criminality and protect communities.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership continues to take a co-ordinated **marketing and communications** approach, examples of which included:

- Joint working with the SSCB and SSAB communications and engagement sub-committee
- Supporting Northumbria Police's domestic abuse campaign ('In an abusive relationship, things are never as they seem on the surface') which included multi-agency briefings and partners promoting the campaign using posters, online information and social media (November 2015 and January 2016).
- Support to Hate Crime Awareness Week; Alcohol Awareness Week; White Ribbon Day; National CSE Awareness Day; and National Prevent Policing Week etc.
- Work began on developing a training and awareness raising package for front line staff and the public around domestic abuse and older people.
- The SSP works jointly with the SSCB and SSAB on the annual Whole Family Safeguarding Conference. In May 2015, the programme included a number of community safety related inputs including: Domestic Homicide Reviews; domestic abuse and older people; forced marriage; and CSE.

The SSP also continues to meet its **core statutory duties** around its strategic board; the annual partnership strategic intelligence assessment (PSIA); the delivery plan; performance management; and information sharing. The SSP written partnership agreement and the SSP Induction Pack were also refreshed in 2015-16. The officers supporting the SSP have continued to carry out routine horizon scanning which included new Acts (e.g. Serious Crime Act 2015; Modern Slavery Act 2015; Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015; and Care Act 2014) and new Bills which were making their journey through Parliament during 2015-16 (i.e. Psychoactive Substances Bill; Counter Extremism Bill; and the Police and Crime Bill). The SSP has a duty to cooperate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and joint working has included setting up an anti-social behaviour volunteer network, and consultation work on a domestic abuse practitioners training standard.

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