

SAFER SUNDERLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share the progress made by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) in 2018-19. This added value multi-agency activity is contributing towards achieving the long-term outcome of making Sunderland a city which is, and feels, even safer and more secure, where people can enjoy life without the concerns of being a victim of crime or being harmed.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Safer Sunderland Partnership is statutory. Membership of its Board consists of 6 responsible authorities:
- Sunderland City Council
 - Northumbria Police
 - Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
 - Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)
 - National Probation Service (NPS)
 - Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- 2.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership is supported by a number of delivery networks such as the Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership (SDVP); the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Groups; and time limited task and finish groups.
- 2.3 The Safer Sunderland Partnership had 2 key strategic priorities for 2018-19
- Priority 1: Prevent crime and disorder, re-offending and maintain high levels of feelings of safety
 - Priority 2: Protect and support our most vulnerable people and places from harm
- 2.4 Underneath the 2 priorities, there were 4 key work areas around which its 2018-19 delivery plan was structured:
- (i) WORK AREA 1: Domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)
 - (ii) WORK AREA 2: Citywide and local area problem solving with a focus on LMAPS and responses to crime, community safety and cohesion issues
 - (iii) WORK AREA 3: Newer and emerging threats and harms that impact on safeguarding and feelings of safety such as serious organised crime; sexual exploitation; modern day slavery; trafficking; cyber-enabled crimes; and preventing violent extremism and radicalisation.
 - (iv) WORK AREA 4: Partnership collaboration which covers both statutory duties and strengthening partnership working

2.5 Section 3 of this annual report provides a summary of some of the progress made against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2018-19.

3.0 Summary of Achievements Against Improvement Actions in 2018-19

3.1. Domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)

3.1.1 Multi-agency activity in 2018-19:

- The Clinical Commissioning Group has been working in partnership with Wearside Women in Need to support 10 GP Practices in Sunderland to introduce routine enquiries around domestic abuse. This has resulted in 135 practice staff being trained and each practice now has between 2-3 domestic abuse champions. In the last 6 months of 2018-19, there were 645 female patients (over 16 who attended their appointments alone) who were asked by their GP or nurse if they were feeling afraid or hurt by anyone at home. This resulted in 47 patients being referred to the practice champions; some of whom were experiencing current abuse and some were dealing with the impact of historic domestic abuse. Of these, 16 victims have engaged with Wearside Women in Need who have provided them with specialist help and support. The GP practices also provided over 600 women with details of the local free 24/7 domestic abuse helpline number.
- During 2018, a total of 2,893 individual children (aged 4-16) living with domestic abuse have been better safeguarded and supported at school as part of Operation Encompass. The number of referrals average out at approx. 240 a month. The type of support given includes;
 - children given an opportunity to call home;
 - provision of uniform, PE kits and breakfasts;
 - children referred to counselling services;
 - referrals made to specialist domestic abuse services;
 - children given opportunity for time out of lessons;
 - safeguarding referrals being made if children have disclosed additional information;
 - school staff being able to have open and honest conversation with parents;
 - provision of team around the family meetings;

Information sharing arrangements have also been put in place across Northumbria and Durham so that cross-boundary cases can be referred on to the relevant schools. In 2018-19, the Police and Crime Commissioner secured funding for “Operation Encompass: The Next Steps”. The focus will be on the delivery of healthy relationship education lessons into all schools in Sunderland and across Northumbria.

Work is still needed to strengthen feedback responses from those schools not routinely sharing information on the action they have taken to Operation Encompass referrals and the ‘Next Steps’ project will help to resolve this in 2019.

- A small cohort of Youth Offending and Early Help staff have been trained by Respect (the national lead around perpetrator work) to deliver the ‘Respect Young People’s Programme’. This is a one-to-one intervention with young people who are causing harm towards parents, carers or other family members. Work still needs to be done to develop a set of local policies and procedures

when responding to adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA) including the development and promotion of the referral pathways.

- The cross partnership Domestic Abuse Strategic Projects Group (DASPG) carried out a range of mapping and benchmarking working to better understand existing provision, gaps and unmet need. It commissioned Imkaan (a national specialist organisation in tackling gender-based violence and abuse) to carry out survivor and stakeholder consultation in order to inform the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Needs Assessment. This in line with the national VAWG Policy Framework.
- The Level 1 basic awareness of domestic abuse training was formally accredited in 2018 as part of the Northumbria 'domestic abuse practitioner standard' (DAPS) training. During 2018-19, the Level 2 'ask and act' training was also developed and accredited. The DAPS training is being developed in collaboration with key partners including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, local authority domestic abuse leads, specialist domestic abuse organisations, local specialist trainers, academic institutions and accrediting bodies. The aim of DAPS training is to standardise, accredit and expand the domestic abuse training offer available in each of the six local authority areas within Northumbria. Sunderland also has 8 staff from partner agencies trained to deliver Level 1 and 5 staff trained to deliver Level 2 and they can offer both single and multi-agency domestic abuse training. However, there will be some capacity issues in using a 'train the trainer' model.
- Through the Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) meetings, partners have taken action against 34 serial domestic abuse perpetrators in Sunderland in 2018-19. This has resulted in reductions in the frequency, severity and gravity of the domestic abuse offending by serial perpetrators. Action taken includes:
 - Clare's Law application;
 - Restraining orders;
 - voluntary behaviour change group work programmes;
 - One to one perpetrator work;
 - engagement with substance misuse services;
 - serving of MATAC warning letters;
 - harm reduction plans;
 - sharing of intelligence with key partners such as information to inform pre-sentence reports;
 - request for protection notices to be implemented;
 - joint visits e.g. police and housing
- Impact Family Services, Barnardo's and Gentoo continue to deliver the BIG programme. A total of 11 men completed the programme in 2018-19 and 17 were still on the programme. This is the city's 'Respect' accredited voluntary perpetrator behaviour change programme which has been able to demonstrate reductions in domestic abuse offending (as recorded by the police).
- The Northumbria Consortium (domestic abuse) successfully bid to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government for £660,000 to develop an improved way of working with domestic abuse victims who have multiple and complex needs. The mobilisation stage of the programme began in December 2018 and delivery will continue until March 2020. In Sunderland, the delivery partners are Wearside Women in Need, Changing Lives and Gentoo. It includes

complex needs outreach support, 2 Housing First properties and a 24/7 crash pad in the refuge. The staff recruitment for the project took place in 2018-19 and workers had supported 25 victims between January-March 2019 and 4 women accessed the crash pad in the first few weeks.

- Support has been wide-ranging from helping victims engage in drug and alcohol treatment services, register and engage with GP and outpatient appointments, through to accessing community mental health teams, accessing domestic abuse services, securing and maintaining a tenancy and/or avoiding eviction, accessing DWP benefits and supporting people into further education.
 - Aligned to the MHCLG pilot, is the development of the Sanctum project which is being grant funded by the council and delivered Changing Lives to develop a new, innovative model of temporary, supported accommodation for female and male victims of domestic abuse, who have additional, complex needs. This may be in a number of forms such as needs identified under MEAM agenda but also those who traditionally are not suited to communal refuge such as male victims, those with teenage sons, those who are a risk to others and those with pets. This model is able to complement existing provision but fill the gap in the number of people unsuitable for refuge.
 - The outcomes of both the complex needs outreach and the Sanctum project pilot will be reported on in the 2019-20 annual report.
- 40 local people have been trained in 2018-29 to become community ambassadors under the 'ask me' scheme (part of the Change That Lasts pilot). This is equipping the wider community to break the silence around domestic abuse and help signpost victims to help and support. The recruitment of additional ambassadors is taking place throughout 2019-20 including a bespoke training programme for elected members should they wish to carry out this role.
 - The Partnership commissioned one domestic homicide review (DHRs) in 2018-19 in line with Home Office statutory guidance. The key purpose for undertaking DHRs is to enable lessons to be learned from homicides where a person is killed because of domestic violence and abuse.
 - The Safer Sunderland Partnership supported and helped shape the programme for the Whole Family Safeguarding Conference in March 2019 with a number of community safety related topics being covered including: domestic abuse and sexual violence and trauma training to approx. 500 delegates.

3.1.2 *The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland priorities and the domestic abuse and VAWG work area including performance data (2018-19):*

- Increases (7.7%) in recorded police data on domestic abuse incidents which mainly reflects anecdotal feedback around increased confidence to report and data on improved police recording of domestic abuse to meet compliance with National Crime Recording Standards
- Maintained levels of repeat victimisation for domestic abuse at 39%. However, there has been a significant increase (30%) in the number of high-risk cases heard at the multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC).
- 135 primary care staff in 10 GP surgeries trained to better understand domestic abuse and how to make routine enquiries about domestic abuse. This included

24 practice staff trained to be Domestic Abuse Champions who can offer early help, support and signposting to specialist domestic abuse services for their patients. This has increased enquiries about domestic abuse in primary care health settings so that support can be offered at a much earlier stage and before a victim reaches crisis point.

- 645 female patients at 10 GP practices were asked if anyone was making them feel scared or frightened at home and over 600 women were also given the local free 24/7 helpline number.
- 2,890 children further safeguarded by key adults in their school through Operation Encompass. This has helped to improve early help responses for children living with domestic abuse and strengthened information sharing between police, children's services and schools.
- Multi-agency domestic abuse training was delivered to 144 staff for level 1 (basic awareness) and 55 staff at level 2 (ask and act) between December 2018 and March 2019. Evaluations have shown improved competencies of frontline professionals (public, private and third sector) in being able to understand, recognise and respond to domestic abuse; other forms of violence against women and girls; and an increased awareness of the help and support available. This is also helping to increase opportunities for earlier intervention with victims and perpetrators.
- Sexual Violence and Trauma training was delivered by Rape Crisis to 230 health staff at 'Time in Time Out' Training Session in March 2019. This included 139 GPs, 27 Nurse Practitioners, and 64 Practice Nurses.
- 40 'Ask Me' Ambassadors recruited and trained in 2018-19 which is helping to raise awareness of domestic abuse in local communities, how to safety challenge myths and signpost people to the right help and support as soon as possible.
- 25 women with complex needs engaged through assertive outreach work in the first quarter of the project. This is increasing the number of survivors with a range of complex needs who are being supported in a needs-led, strengths-based and trauma informed way.
- 3 Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (including one based in City Hospital Sunderland) providing advocacy and support to high risk victims and those victims going through the special domestic violence court process. This is leading to improved outcomes and safety of high-risk domestic abuse victims with earlier identification through health settings.
- An increased number of serial domestic abuse perpetrators who have been targeted through a multi-agency approach that has increased the opportunities for action to be taken to support perpetrators of domestic abuse in reducing their offending.
- Strengthened partnership working on tackling domestic abuse and wider violence against women and girls across community safety, safeguarding and health, through stronger cross-partnership working at a strategic level.

3.2 Citywide and local area problem solving with a focus on LMAPS and responses to crime, community safety and cohesion issues

3.2.1 Multi-agency action taken:

- A week-long multi-agency operation was set up to tackle anti-social behaviour in the run up to bonfire night. Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service (TWFRS), Northumbria Police, Sunderland City Council and Gentoo worked together on “Operation Extinguish”. The focus was on the wards of Southwick and Redhill as they had the highest number of reported deliberate secondary fires. This community safety initiative, supported by key partners, aimed to prevent fires being set maliciously and to educate local businesses in the area on arson prevention. These types of fire could potentially escalate resulting in serious injuries and putting local business and lives at risk. Action taken included:
 - Prevention Teams carried out 185 door knocks and 63 successful home safety checks. There were also 4 ‘falls’ questionnaire’s completed (occupiers over 65) and 2 people were referred to the falls clinic
 - The Services Welfare Vehicle acted as a “hub” and focal point and was located in 6 key areas throughout the operation, staffed by TWFRS, Police and Gentoo.
 - TWFRS and Police engaged with members of the public including parents and school children at the “hub” by providing advice / education on crime prevention and the consequences of anti-social behaviour.
 - Patrols in key locations were carried out by TWFRS / Police to act a visible deterrent throughout the seven-day initiative.
 - Safety messages were shared with parents through schools and Prevention Teams, accompanied by Northumbria Police, hosted assemblies in the local secondary school to talk about the impact of anti-social behaviour.
 - 72 commercial businesses were visited by the operational crews in the 6 key areas providing education on arson prevention and the need to report fly-tipping to the council.
 - The Council and Gentoo uplifted all combustible materials found in the streets and rear lanes, in order to prevent this being set on fire at a later date.

- Training was undertaken for the anti-social behaviour volunteers. Initially, three we recruited but this has since reduced to two. Target hardening was purchased which included, door and window alarms, personal alarms and sash jammers. These have been supplied to any high and medium risk victims. The two victim support volunteers in post are continuing to support ASB victims. Despite the volunteers only being in post for part of 2018-19, they have been receiving very positive feedback. A total of 114 victims have been supported. The sources of the referrals are received via the council’s customer services centre, as well as those generated through Police meetings and from local Councillors. Currently details are only captured on the victims being supported however going forward the officers will capture how many people reside in the premises, as improving the quality of life for the victim in turn improved the lives of the relative and often the wider family. At the point of closure information is captured on how safe the victim feels and if support provided has minimised risk to the victims; this is being captured at the start and the end of the case.

- The Partnership has responded to rapidly emerging high-profile cohesion issues in three areas of the City in 2018 with the introduction of “pop up” PACT meetings, which are held in some cases daily following a serious incident which

affects community cohesion. The drop-ins are staffed by Police and Council officers (and other partners if appropriate) and allow residents to engage with agencies. The Home Office Counter Extremism Unit has identified this as emerging good practice and are using Sunderland as part of national case studies of response.

- The Partnership has continued to respond to cohesion threats which has included the re-emergence of demonstrations in 2018-19, and potential far right exploitation of local concerns. “Operation Orion” was established following a number of stranger rapes in Sunderland, where offenders were non-white and female victims were white. The investigations attracted significant media interest which led to community tensions. Locally, the partnership response has been led by Northumbria Police via a Gold Command chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable. “Operation Orion” spanned a period of 12 months and focussed on investigations, community cohesion issues and numerous marches/ protests. Multi-agency activity has resulted in a number of positive outcomes. This has included:
 - Engagement with asylum seekers in the community, which led to a refresh of an information leaflet which is given to asylum seekers when moving into the area. This focused on useful information and addressed key messages around consent. The document is being progressed nationally by the Home Office as an example of best practice.
 - Engagement plans with extensive use of pop-up PACT meetings with Northumbria Police and the Council. An action plan was developed with resident representatives.
 - The council on behalf of the Partnership has been working with the Home Office Counter Extremism Unit to share our local experience and are currently part of a Home Office/Local Government Association working group in relation to far right extremism with Rotherham, Dover/Kent and Rochdale.
 - Councillor Mordey has presented on the issue at 2 national Home Office events.
- In collaboration with Northumbria Police the role and membership of the Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group has been reviewed with representation at a strategic level from the main public sector organisations across the city together with representation from Primary and Secondary schools, Crown Prosecution Service, Victims First Northumbria and Gentoo. Regular reporting and feedback will take place between Prevent Co-ordination Group and Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Group. It also feeds into Equality Forums and vice versa. A Hate Crime Action Plan has been drafted and priorities for the year ahead include: education and awareness raising; data sharing and implementing the Hate Crime Champions Scheme across the city.
- Work has been taking place to create safe spaces for meaningful dialogue about issues that divide communities in Sunderland bringing together specialists in mediation; building relations through cooking; the handling of faith, belief and identity; and the local context in Sunderland. This is in order to address some of the integration challenges around: (i) lack of meaningful social mixing; (ii) level and pace of migration; and (iii) personal, religious, cultural norms, values and attitudes. Sunderland continues to face integration challenges associated with the far right. Over recent years there have been a series of demonstrations in the city, such as those highlighted above. Some of this is linked to anti-immigration attitudes. At the heart of the problem is a lack of understanding of and contact between different religious and cultural groups. Multi-agency activity in 2018-19 has included:

- 2 'Kitchen Rituals' workshops held in November 2018 with a total of 21 people participating. The longer term aim of Kitchen Rituals, is to train facilitators and chefs in localities to run the workshops themselves.
- 1 session of the 'Encountering Faith and Beliefs' programme was held in December 2018 with guest speakers travelling from London to discuss their journey to faith. The long-term aim is to train local practitioners to facilitate sessions, and train local speakers to share their stories (including schools).
- A 'deepening understanding dialogue' took place in Sunderland which aims to develop safe spaces that support the capacity of communities to form meaningful relationships and be comfortable engaging in robust conversations. A discussion session was held in February 2019 to gauge peoples feedback and issues which was very positive. Participants felt that the emphasis should be on changing the narrative of Sunderland which is perceived by some as a 'far right' city to the work that is being undertaken to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers. It is also planned to hold an event to update partners on the work that has been undertaken and the potential to use the methodology to work in communities to facilitate community dialogue.
- Operation Gryphon is a partnership escalation process for dealing with youth and adult disorder. During 2018 there were 444 recorded referrals for Operation Gryphon across Sunderland:
 - 72 referrals came from Sunderland Central
 - 18 referrals came from Sunderland East
 - 125 referrals came from Sunderland West
 - 49 referrals came from Sunderland North
 - 109 referrals came from Washington
 - 71 referrals came from Houghton & Hetton
- Operation Kamadeva was set up to tackle youth anti-social behaviour in partnership with the council, housing agencies and Nexus. It had a significant impact around South Hylton with an 80% reduction in ASB. There were numerous outcomes including arrests, Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, referrals via Operation Gryphon, and fare evasion notices. The council's ASB team and housing partners were involved in the acceptable behaviour agreement follow-up work with parents and tenancies. The multi-agency joint operation with Nexus and British Transport Police which ran during 24/25th November 2018 and 7/8th December resulted in:
 - 18 x dispersal orders issued
 - 34 x formal stops recorded
 - 1 x Operation Gryphon issued
 - 1 x arrest for drunk and disorderly
 - 139 x penalty notices issued for fare evasion
 - 1 Male arrested by for racially aggravated section 4a
 - 1 youth to receive a final warning for cannabis possession
- The Partnership was keen to explore more innovative models for tackling youth anti-social behaviour and carried out a piece of work to look at the 'Safe Stop' model in South Tyneside to determine with partners if resources were available to pilot this project locally. Following a review of Safe Stop in South Shields, the police determined that the outcomes achieved would not generate sufficient value for money for the resources contributed. The Partnership is therefore currently working with Washington Area Committee to scope out and pilot a 'safe project' focusing on young people, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

- In January 2019 Northumbria Police introduced 'Vulnerability, Investigation and Problem Solving' (VIP) meetings. These meetings are chaired by the Neighbourhood Inspector, meet every 5 weeks and have representation from Community Resilience, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Early Help and the Youth Offending Service. Since January 2019 a total of 45 people have been considered at the meetings. The remit of the meetings are to:
 - ensure that crimes which involve vulnerable people are allocated promptly to investigators with the appropriate skills, accreditation and support to conduct the investigation to a good standard; and
 - improve its initial assessment of, and response to, incidents involving vulnerable people.
- Work has been undertaken with the Business Improvement District (BID), Northumbria Police and the Bridges to tackle issues of begging and bin raking in the City Centre. In the last 6 months a total of 16 beggars have been identified and issued 12 community protection warnings and 9 community protection notices.
- Operation Asteroid 2 was launched to tackle the re-emergence of youth disorder and violence in the City Centre. 88 young people were visited at home and issued with relevant informal and formal warnings.
- Northumbria Police have published an Anti-Social Behaviour Problem Profile. This will be analysed and actions identified for delivery in 2019/20.
- Operation Knight was launched in the St Anne's ward to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. 46 offenders were identified, 30 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued, 10 Notice of Seeking Possessions served, 6 community protection warnings and 4 youth cautions issued.
- Partners have continued to make use of anti-social behaviour tools and powers. There were 168 dispersal order notices issued between 1st October 2018 and 31st March 2019. Work continued around the citywide roll-out of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). The council's Cabinet agreed the implementation of the order in September 2018. Work then took place to ensure the city has appropriate signage installed before the order could go live. This was delayed slightly as a result of the signage installation taking longer than expected but this should go live around July 2019.

3.2.2 The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland priorities and the local and citywide problem-solving work area including performance data (2018-19):

- Feelings of safety at a neighbourhood level still remain very high as 96% of residents said they felt safe living in their local area. The target was to maintain this at a level of 97% or above (also see section 4.1).
- 40% of residents identifying at least one community safety problem in their local neighbourhood and 20% of residents think anti-social behaviour is a fairly or very big problem in their local area in 2018-19. These are both increases on the previous year but the issues raised by residents are focused on environmental issues (e.g. rubbish, litter, fly tipping) and young people being rowdy / causing a nuisance as opposed to serious crime and disorder problems. However, these anti-social behaviour issues can impact on the day-to-day quality of life and local

satisfaction with an area as a place to live. 12% of residents think crime is a fairly or very big problem in their local area in 2018-19. Whilst residents' perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour at a neighbourhood level have deteriorated, feelings of safety and perceptions of crime remained in line the changes seen across the whole of Northumbria.

- 2 anti-social behaviour volunteers were recruited in 2018-19 and 114 high risk victims have been supported to cope and recover through improved safety plans that are tailored to needs of the victim. This is reducing risk and leading to improved safety of vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour.
- There have been reductions in community tensions in the community. Monthly cohesion meetings are in place bringing together key council offices and the police who continue to monitor, regularly assess and respond to cohesion issues and local tensions.
- There has been an increased understanding of, and contact, between different religious and cultural groups leading to stronger community cohesion.
- Multi-agency problem solving e.g. via the LMAPS groups is leading to reductions in repeat problems across the city. Improved information sharing across agencies has resulted in increased intelligence and co-ordinated work leading to a more joined-up, tailored approach.
- Increased use of new tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour such as dispersal orders. There were also 444 recorded referrals were made under Operation Gryphon to support young people who are drinking underage with the aim of early intervention to stop any anti-social behaviour before it escalates.

3.3 Newer and emerging threats and harms that impact on safeguarding and feelings of safety such as serious organised crime; sexual exploitation; modern day slavery; trafficking; cyber-enabled crimes; and preventing violent extremism and radicalisation.

3.3.1 Multi-agency action taken:

- The Government 'Serious and Organised Crime Strategy' requires that a range of agencies work to disrupt Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). In Northumbria this is facilitated by Operation Magnet which was revised and re-launched in January 2019 as "Operation Sentinel". This brings a range of government agencies and local partners together on a regular basis. This includes work alongside the North East Regional Specialist Operations Unit (NERSOU) and other agencies including local authority, environmental health, Probation Service, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) to utilise their skills and expertise. Notable actions across Northumbria and in Sunderland over the last 12 months have involved:
 - Operations by the National Crime Agency, the regional Police forces joint initiative covering Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland police forces (i.e. NERSOU) and Northumbria Police which have led to significant custodial sentences being made by the Courts in relation to individuals based in Sunderland involved in drug supply and firearms offences.
 - Local disruption has also included successful targeted action in relation to illegal money lending. There has been Trading Standards and Council

- licensing enforcement in relation to selling of counterfeit clothing and other items, and regular sharing of intelligence in relation to Organised Crime Group targets.
- This work will continue to be supported by the Council and Safer Sunderland partners as a key priority as organised crime drives many locality crime and disorder issues. Whilst we have little evidence of County Lines drug and violence activity in the North East, this remains a priority area for action to prevent it becoming established in the City.
 - The Partnership has continued to support the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) throughout 2018-19 who lead on tackling child sexual exploitation. This remains a key issue for the UK, a national policing priority, and throughout 2018 a continuing number of large historical abuse and “grooming gang” trials have been widely reported across the country. The SSCB has established a Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Working Group which oversees strategic planning and development and the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) operational group considers cases of risk on a monthly basis. Community safety leads attend these meetings to support development both strategically and operationally including disruption activity where required. This is in addition to providing and linking intelligence to locality risk areas identified through LMAPS Groups. Geographically there are no “hotspots”, rather areas of vulnerability where young people gather such as retail, fast food and leisure outlets.
 - Following the adoption of a Modern Slavery Policy by the council, work has been progressed in 2018-19 on the development of a Sunderland Modern Day Slavery operational document. This has been shared with partners. However, work is also underway to determine if there can be consistency in multi-agency operational responses through consideration of a standardised Northumbria-wide operational response. This is on-going and work will continue in 2019. The Council has dealt with 6 cases of modern slavery in 2018-19.
 - Cyber harassment is no less frightening and can be just as threatening as physical stalking. Like traditional stalking, many victims of cyber stalking are in abusive relationships with partners who are monitoring their behaviour (e.g. installing spyware usually without the victim’s knowledge or consent). In response to evolving digital threats to victims of domestic abuse, a dedicated ‘domestic abuse cyber stalking and harassment team’ was created in 2018 by the Office of the PCC and Northumbria Police, working with Wearside Women in Need. The pilot has been funded by the Home Office. The initiative has brought together a rape and domestic violence detective with cyber investigation specialists and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (from WWiN). The IDVA supports the victim, making sure everything is done in accordance with what the victim wants and provides civil assistance. All cases were seeking support around current abuse of stalking / harassment and were seeking support with criminal justice, personal safety planning, safeguarding children and emotional support.
 - Northumbria Police has led on a number of cyber-crime interventions and improved ways of working including:
 - Digital Evidence Suites usage has been significant throughout the year with 8,200 mobile devices interrogated over the last 12 months and hundreds of hours of court ready video evidence produced.

- Two co-ordinated weeks of action against online child sexual abuse and exploitation took place in June and September 2018 under Operation Capparis. These two weeks were part of national proactive engagement by UK police forces and the National Crime Agency.
- The police's cyber volunteers continue to work with businesses in respect of penetration testing (cyber attacker simulated testing) and vulnerability assessments (identifying and prioritising cyber security issues) on local business cyber security systems.
- Northumbria Police and the regional NERSOU unit were finalists for 2019 International Digital Investigation & Intelligence Awards for "Exceptional Work in the Prevention of Cyber Crime category".
- Operation Signature (supporting vulnerable victims of cyber-crime and fraud) has now been live across Northumbria for over a year. As part of the Operation Signature, victims were visited and provided with protect advice around fraud and preventing further victimisation and offences.
- It has now been two years since the commencement of the Banking Protocol. Since its inception Northumbria Police has responded to 236 incidents.
- In March 2019, Sara Khan, the independent Commissioner for Counter Extremism visited the City and met with the Council Leadership, Senior Police Officers and residents affected by protest activity in recent years. The Commissioner's Office continues to be in dialogue with partners as she prepares her national report on counter extremism for Government.
- Work has continued around the Prevent agenda involving a wide range of partners across Sunderland and the wider Northumbria area during 2018-19.
 - The Sunderland Prevent referral process was refreshed in October 2018. This took into account the new reporting structure introduced for Prevent referrals in order to capture important information so that it can be used to examine the potential markers of radicalisation when assessed by the police Prevent team.
 - Staff training has continued to be progressed across agencies to help staff spot signs of radicalisation and how to respond to it. To further improve on this, a joint training package was developed in 2018-19 by the Police and Sunderland University. Delivery of this package to agreed target audiences will commence in 2019.
 - During 2018, more emphasis was placed on the Northumbria Prevent Coordination Group which is now well attended by a wider range of partners. For example, this has established a unified approach to Prevent referrals and developed an approach where Prevent leads can come together to discuss core business and disseminate best practice across all sectors.
 - Briefing documents have been developed by Special Branch and disseminated to Prevent partners to help raise awareness with relevant staff of specific threats, including Far Right Extremism and Islamic Extremism.
 - The forum for Further Education in the North East is also seen as a model example of how the region can develop awareness, share learning outcomes, improve communication and develop confidence in reporting structures.
 - The Home Office published a National Prevent toolkit that has enabled partners in Sunderland to carry out an effective self-assessment through a benchmarking exercise. This, together with the Counter Terrorism Local Profile has helped to identify key improvement actions for inclusion in the city's multi-agency Prevent Action Plan for 2018-20.
- Local elected member engagement in the Prevent agenda has been strengthened with Cllr. Michael Mordey (the Deputy Leader of the Council and Safer Sunderland Partnership Chair) taking on the elected member Prevent lead.

He is also now a member of the North East Regional Prevent Forum (NERPF) as well as a member of the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel enabling links to be made into all relevant strategic partnerships and groups overseeing Prevent activity. This also included Cllr Mordey attending the Local Government Association's (LGA) Leadership Essentials Prevent 2-day training in October 2018.

- Sunderland has also supported the development of the Northumbria-wide CONTEST Board which met for the first time in October 2018. This multi-agency group will oversee, at Chief Officer level, agency responses to delivery of the national counter terrorism strategy (CONTEST). One element of CONTEST is the Prevent agenda. The other elements it oversees are: Protect; Prepare; and Pursue.

3.3.2 *The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland priorities and the new and emerging community safety problems work area including performance data (2018-19):*

- Relevant partners are becoming increasingly engaged around supporting the Police's Serious and Organised Crime work. Operation Sentinel has enabled the sharing of intelligence and coordination of activity to disrupt and dismantle Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and reduces demand on the police and partner agencies. This has resulted in serious organised crime groups being disrupted and vulnerable adults and children have been safeguarded.
- From January 2018 to March 2019, a total of 82 cyber-stalking victims have been supported emotionally, practically and some through the criminal justice system and the team has already brought charges against a number of offenders in the short time they have been operating. It is currently developing multi-agency domestic abuse cyber stalking and harassment training for safeguarding partners and officers throughout Northumbria
- A total of 533 warrants across were executed across Northumbria as part of Operation Capparis, resulting in 250 arrests and 294 children being safeguarded against online child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Over 60 cyber vulnerability assessments have been completed by the cyber volunteers which has led to significant vulnerabilities being identified and rectified. It is anticipated the demand will rise significantly for this service when other businesses recognise the benefits.
- An increased number of vulnerable victims of cyber-crime and fraud have been supported during 2018 as part of the Operation Signature process. Almost 700 victims were visited and provided with protect advice to reduce their risk. This has led to reduced victimisation and repeat victimisation of vulnerable people.
- Under the Banking Protocol, 130 victims who might not have come to partners attention earlier were subject to adult concern reports and the value of transactions halted has been £1,596,077 in the last 2 years.
- The Partnership is fully contributing to tackling sexual exploitation through its work around disruption, and addressing community tensions.

- The multi-agency approach to the Prevent agenda in Northumbria has proved extremely effective having already provided a number of cross-border opportunities for training provision, process evolution and awareness raising. The specified authorities are meeting their statutory duty to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Partners are aware of how to make safeguarding referrals if they have concerns that someone may be at risk of being vulnerable to radicalisation.

3.4 Partnership collaboration which covers both statutory duties and strengthening partnership working

3.4.1 Multi-agency action taken:

- The Partnership has continued to meet its core statutory duties around its strategic board; the annual partnership strategic intelligence assessment (PSIA); the partnership (delivery) plan; performance management; and information sharing. The Safer Sunderland written partnership agreement is in place. The Partnership has a duty to cooperate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and joint working has included the anti-social behaviour volunteer network, and domestic abuse.
- Stronger links have been developed with other key partnerships in the city. For example:
 - Work to collectively better understanding the nature and responses to tackling domestic abuse. This has involved joint working across the Safer Sunderland Partnership (via its Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership); the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board; the Sunderland Safeguarding Adult Board; and the Health and Wellbeing Board. This has taken place via a time-limited cross partnership Domestic Abuse Strategic Projects Group which mapped service provision, identified unmet need and capacity issues, and benchmarked Sunderland against the Violence Against Women and Girls National Statement of Expectations.
 - The Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board has identified reducing alcohol harms as a priority for the City. A Sunderland wide Alcohol Partnership has been established, chaired by Cllr Chequer, Deputy Member for Health & Social Care, and sponsored by the Chief Officer from Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group, Dave Gallagher. It has attendance from all key partners across the City. The Partnership undertook the alcohol CLear self-assessment tool which supports an evidence-based response to preventing and reducing alcohol-related harm at local level. The CLear tool will help the partnerships to assess local arrangements and delivery plans, and provides assurance that resources are being invested in a range of services and interventions that meet local need and which, the evidence indicates, support the most positive outcomes. The outcome from the assessment is currently being worked in to an action plan.
- Routine horizon scanning work continues and partners are regularly briefed around any issues that may impact on community safety in Sunderland covering: policy, economic-social issues, technological developments, environmental issues, legislation, and organisational changes e.g. the Government's 'transforming responses to domestic abuse' consultation.

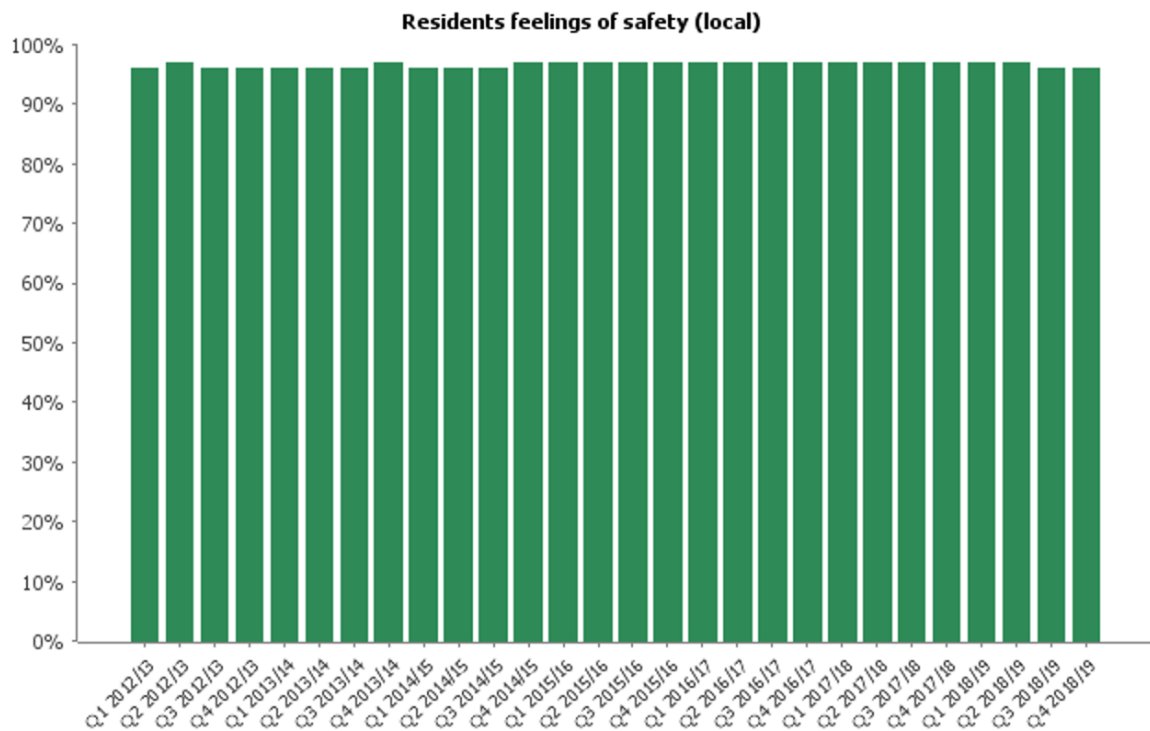
3.4.2 *The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland priorities and the partnership improvement / collaboration work area including performance data (2018-19):*

- The Safer Sunderland Partnership responds to its statutory duties and responsibilities to make Sunderland a safer city. The strategic partnership intelligence assessment (PSIA), delivery plan and annual report have been produced in 2018-19. There is intelligence-led decision-making and identification of strategic priorities through a comprehensive strategic assessment.
- Briefings are routinely produced on new policy and legislation and the potential impact to partners and on the city;
- The Safer Communities Survey is carried out quarterly to monitor residents feelings of safety and perceptions of crime and disorder;
- The council's Police and Crime Panel members are supported in their scrutiny role
- There is stronger, more efficient and effective partnership working to achieve shared outcomes, economies and scale, added value, greater collaboration and reduced duplication e.g. through the cross partnership Domestic Abuse Strategic Projects Group and through the cross-boundary working on Prevent, and serious organised crime.

4.0 Residents' Views

- 4.1 Residents' feelings of safety have remained stable at 96% throughout 2018-19. The Partnership aimed to keep this at or below 97% but the 1% change is not statistically significant and feelings of safety have been between 96-97% since 2012-13 (see chart below)

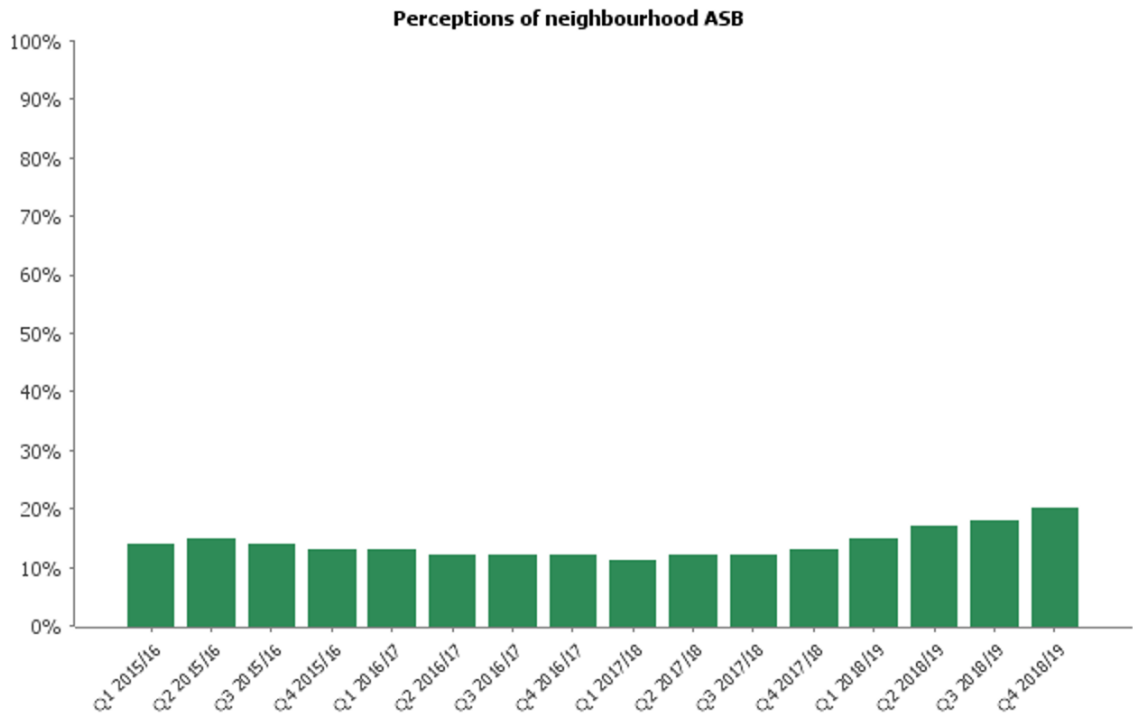
Appendix 1



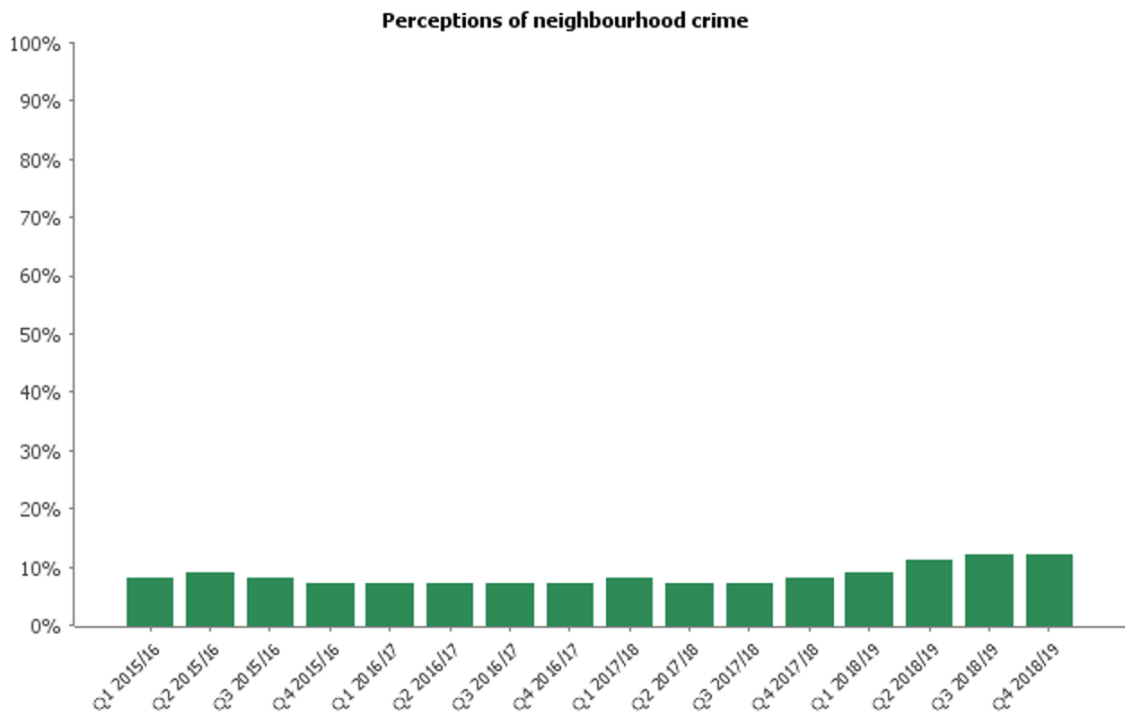
- 4.2. For the 12 months to 31st March 2019 there were 788 residents surveyed across Sunderland and of these, 319 (40%) identified at least one problem in their neighbourhood. This is an increase from 33% in 2017-18 and so the Partnership has not met its target to maintain this at or below 35%. Of the 10 most commonly raised problems, the top 5 issues were:
- (i) Rubbish or litter lying around;
 - (ii) Young people being rowdy or a nuisance in a public place; and
 - (iii) Mini-motos/Scramblers/Off-road motorbikes
 - (iv) Fly tipping
 - (v) Inconsiderate parking

These are the same top 5 issues as last year but with fly tipping moving from 5th to the 4th most commonly identified problem by residents. Environmental crimes and youth disorder are the main issues that appear to be influencing residents perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour at a neighbourhood level.

- 4.3. In 2018-19, 20% of residents thought anti-social behaviour was a fairly or very big problem in their local area. This has increased from 13% in 2017-18 (i.e. deteriorated – see chart below). Whilst the force average is 17% and has also deteriorated, the Partnership has not achieved its target to maintain this at/or below 13%.



4.4. In 2018-19, 12% of residents thought crime was a fairly or very big problem in their local area. This has increased from 8% since 2017-18 (i.e. deteriorated – see chart below). However, these increases have also been seen across the whole of Northumbria and Sunderland is roughly in line with the force average of 11%. However, the Partnership has not achieved its target to maintain this at/or below 8%.



The table below summarises the changes in resident’s perceptions of community safety in Sunderland over the last three years and whilst feelings of safety remain

high, there have been some deterioration in perceptions and crime and anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months.

Table: Summary of changes in resident's perceptions of community safety in Sunderland from 2016-17 to 2018-19¹			
Safer communities survey measure: Sunderland	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
% of residents who feel safe living in their local area	97%	97%	96%
% of residents thought anti-social behaviour was a fairly or very big problem in their local area	12%	13%	20%
% of residents thought crime was a fairly or very big problem in their local area	7%	8%	12%
% percentage of residents identifying at least one problem in their local neighbourhood stood	33% (391 out of 1,174 residents surveyed)	33% (310 out of 938 residents surveyed)	40% (319 out of 788 residents surveyed)
The top 3 community safety problems raised by residents	1. young people being rowdy or a nuisance; 2. litter or rubbish lying around; 3. dog fouling	1. litter or rubbish lying around; 2. young people being rowdy or a nuisance 3. Mini-motos/ Scramblers/Off-road motorbikes	1. litter or rubbish lying around; 2. young people being rowdy or a nuisance; 3. Mini-motos/ Scramblers/Off-road motorbikes

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendation for Scrutiny Committee

5.1. The Partnership has maintained its strong and effective multi-agency working in a landscape where all community safety partners have continually had to re-shape their organisations in the context of continued and unprecedented budget pressures and change. Some of the outcomes achieved in the last year include:

- Increased awareness of domestic abuse and support available within the community
- Increased awareness and competencies of professionals around domestic abuse and how to support victims in a needs-led way
- Improved outcomes for victims receiving expert support through a strengths-based, needs-led and trauma informed ways of working
- Increased opportunities for earlier intervention with victims and offenders
- Domestic Homicide Reviews have been conducted in line with the Home Office criteria and guidance
- Reduced repeat victimisation, improved outcomes and improved safety of high-risk victims
- Strengthened partnership working on tackling violence against women and girls across community safety, safeguarding and health

¹ Note: The slight changes seen in 2017-18 were not statistically significant

- Increased opportunities for action to be taken to support perpetrators of domestic abuse in reducing their offending
 - Increased use of tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour
 - Improved safety of vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour
 - Feelings of safety have remained high
 - Increased number of people volunteering to support victims of anti-social behaviour
 - Increased resilience within communities
 - Prevent duty self-assessment / audit tools refreshed by each specified authority
 - Statutory duties met around strategic assessment, annual report and the partnership plan
 - Police and Crime Panel member supported in their scrutiny role; and
 - Contribution to meeting priorities in the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021) around the following: domestic and sexual abuse; putting victims first; effective criminal justice system; cutting crime; community confidence; and dealing with ASB
- 5.2 Nationally and locally the shift in focus on community safety issues away from traditional crimes (e.g. acquisitive crimes) towards exploitation of vulnerable people has continued and this is evident across the whole of Northumbria. This has included work to tackle serious organised crime, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, cyber enabled crimes, increased reporting of domestic and sexual abuse, other forms of violence against women and girls, and hate crime.
- 5.3 The partnership continues to make best use of multi-agency data and intelligence sharing in order to understand need and risk and ensure responses are multi-agency in their outlook. Good multi-agency problem solving is crucial in this and will continue as the bedrock of the Partnership's work, with numerous examples included within this annual report.
- 5.4 Community safety performance across perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour have started to deteriorate slightly in 2018-19 but there are still high levels of feelings of safety being maintained. These perceptions will need to be monitored closely. Addressing community safety issues will also remain a key challenge and this is best addressed through the partnership approach that stays deeply rooted in problem solving.
- 5.5 The annual Safer Sunderland Partnership strategic intelligence assessment (which informs the strategic priorities for the year ahead) has indicated that the current priorities and work areas in 2018-19 still remain relevant for 2019-20 and a delivery plan is currently being drafted for consideration by the Safer Sunderland Board in July 2019.

Appendix 1

- 5.6 Scrutiny Committee is therefore recommended to note the key multi-agency improvement activity and achievements contained in the annual report and agree to accept the next annual report in July 2020 which will assess how well the challenges have been addressed over the next 12 months.

Annual Report produced by:
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