

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH**CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY SCRUTINY****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks to inform the scrutiny of the delivery of the crime and disorder strategy (The Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025) as required by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Information

2. After scrutiny arrangements were introduced in the Local Government Act 2000 as part of the modernisation agenda, the role was broadened by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. A duty was placed on Local Authorities to establish a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to look at crime and disorder issues. Within Nottinghamshire County Council the Place Select Committee fulfils this function.
3. The crime and disorder strategy subject to scrutiny is the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025. This is available at **Appendix One**.
4. There is a statutory requirement within the Crime and Disorder (Formation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 for a County-level group in two-tier areas that has responsibility for preparing and implementing a Community Safety Agreement. In Nottinghamshire, the County-level group is the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB).
5. The collective legislation specifies the responsible Authorities and co-operating bodies that form the SNB. The specified responsible authorities are, the County, District and Borough Councils, Police, the Fire Service, Probation, and the Clinical Commissioning Groups. In July 2022, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) became legally established through the Health and Care Act 2022, and Clinical Commissioning Groups were closed, as such the relationship between the SNB and the ICS arrangements is being explored.
6. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 saw the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners, and whilst not a responsible authority in legislation, there is a duty of mutual co-operation.

7. The Regulations state that the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) must identify:
- The countywide community safety priorities that arise from the strategic assessment and that require escalating to the County level.
 - Ways of co-ordinating activity across the County to address priorities.
 - How the responsible authorities might otherwise contribute to reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse through closer joint working across the County.
8. The current CSA was first scrutinised by the Place Select Committee in July 2023. There were further discussions during the September Committee when a paper focused on a community safety related motion that had been heard at Full Council was considered.
9. The resolutions resulting from this scrutiny were:
- That a further progress report on the delivery of the crime and disorder strategy be received at the July 2024 meeting of the Place Select Committee in its role as the Council's Statutory Crime and Disorder Committee, as defined by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.
 - That the following issue raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report on the delivery the crime and disorder strategy (The Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025) be progressed. This being that the SNB Communications Strategy should have a focus on activities to make it clearer and easier for residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour incidents to both local authorities and the Police (as appropriate), to help provide assurance that residents' concerns are being addressed and to ensure that resources are being allocated effectively.
10. In subsequent discussions regarding the Place Select Committee work programme it was agreed that the further progress report on the delivery of the crime and disorder strategy be received at the March 2024 meeting.
11. In relation to the communications around crime and anti-social behaviour there is an action in the current Nottinghamshire Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Task Force Action Plan to develop and implement a targeted multi-agency communication campaign to improve public knowledge and understanding of ASB, agency responses and local reporting and referral pathways.
12. Representatives from the communications teams of partner organisations involved in the Task Force have formed a subgroup to take this action forward. This action will be mirrored in the SNB Communication Strategy which will also include other actions to clarify reporting routes for the priority crimes set out in the CSA. The draft strategy will be received by the SNB in April however some communications activity is already progressing including information for victims of fraud about where to report and how to access support.

Annual CSA Priority Refresh – January 2024

13. At the SNB meeting in January 2024 the annual refresh of the CSA priorities took place. The strategic assessment used by the SNB to inform this refresh is the Police and Crime Needs Assessment produced by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire (OPCC).
14. This needs assessment, which is not a statutory requirement is produced in collaboration with Nottinghamshire Police and other relevant stakeholders and is informed by a range of local and national information sources. The needs assessment highlights the main issues, risks and threats that are likely to impact upon crime and community safety services. There is also information from the Police and Crime Survey. This needs assessment is made available via the OPCC website [Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner \(pcc.police.uk\)](https://pcc.police.uk)
15. The SNB have confirmed the current priorities and asked that further work be done to ensure that:
- the plans of the SNB appropriately consider safety in the digital space.
 - a shared understanding strategically across the public service system of underlying causes and prevention work around issues such as severe multiple disadvantage.
16. The SNB also received a draft of the performance and insight document that will be used to measure the work of the Board more specifically in delivering the strategic intentions set out in the CSA. When this document is finalised, it can be shared with the Place Select Committee to inform the future crime and disorder strategy scrutiny. This performance report is being developed in conjunction with the SNB Priority Leads and subject experts.

The Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025 – Progress with delivery

Domestic Abuse

17. This is a shared focus with the Health and Wellbeing Board so will also be subject to scrutiny through other mechanisms. This work aims to improve understanding of domestic abuse to prevent the causes, respond early and protect those affected. The relationship between the SNB and the Health and Wellbeing Board around shared agendas is being explored with the Interim Director of Public Health.
18. One action in the SNB overarching delivery plan relates to ensuring there are robust processes in place to progress identified learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) across the county. DHRs are legislated for via the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. They are multi-agency reviews which seek to identify and implement lessons from a fatality where the death of a person aged sixteen or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect by:

- a person to whom they were related or with whom they were or previously had been in an intimate personal relationship,
- a member of the same household as themselves.

19. DHRs are commissioned by Community Safety Partnerships of which there are three in Nottinghamshire covering Mansfield and Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw and South Nottinghamshire.

20. Ensuring related robust learning processes are in place has been flagged as an issue by Public Health, the Probation Service and Nottinghamshire Police. Progress has been made in achieving this objective with the recent recruitment of a fixed term Public Health and Commissioning Manager who will undertake a review of all DHRs (past and present). This will include establishing a local repository of learning; reviewing the governance of the DHR assurance approach and the Learning and Implementation Group to ensure learning is shared through the domestic abuse and safeguarding processes in the County. This will also involve working with Nottingham City Council colleagues to identify shared learning and propose joint actions.

Serious Violence

21. The SNB focus for this priority has been oversight of the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD). The SVD commenced on the 31 January 2023 and requires specified authorities for one or more local government areas to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. In addition, Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to require Community Safety Partnerships to have serious violence as an explicit priority in their strategies and plans.

22. The authorities subject to the SVD include the Police, Local Authorities, Youth Offending Teams as a separately named entity, Probation, Fire and Rescue and the Integrated Care Boards with consultation and collaboration required with educational institutions, prisons, and youth custody.

23. The SVD includes the requirement to, by the 31 January 2024:

- Develop an understanding of local issues to establish a strategic needs assessment of serious violence.
- Prepare and implement a strategy setting out how the proposed actions will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence.

24. There is a requirement to publish the needs assessment and plans and these are available on the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) website [Information | Violence Reduction Unit \(nottsvrp.co.uk\)](https://nottsvrp.co.uk)

25. During November and December 2023 multi-agency workshops were held in each Community Safety Partnership area, led by the VRP, where the initial findings of the local needs

assessments and consultation were shared from which each area identified their local priorities around which local plans were shaped. These priorities are set out below:

Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw Priorities

- Mapping of County Resources and Data Resources
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Education
- Community Engagement – Building Relationships with Communities and Co-production approach/Engaging with Communities
- Safeguarding – Exploitation of Children and Young People.

Ashfield and Mansfield Priorities

- Place and Priority-Based focus
- Systems approach
- Children and Young People focus
- Better use of information and data to inform decision making.

South Nottinghamshire Priorities

- Data and Insight to improve decision making and sustainability
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse/Assault (Financial Control, Reporting and Stalking)
- Vulnerability in Young People (County Lines, Gangs, Supporting Young People to make better decisions)
- Education and Behaviour Change (Education support).

26. The VRP is not a specified authority for the SVD but has taken a convening and coordinating role due to its existing work around reducing serious violence across the City and County since 2019. The funding for the VRP is currently confirmed until March 2025.

Prevent

27. This is a strand of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, which aims to reduce the risk from terrorism. The latest iteration of the CONTEST strategy was published in 2023 and is based around four themes:

- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks happening
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to minimise the impact of a terrorist attack

28. The SNB is part of the local governance arrangements for the Prevent strand and so is a priority within the CSA.

29. An annual Prevent duty assurance benchmarking exercise is undertaken each year to assess if local authorities are meeting the statutory requirements. The Home Office Regional Prevent Advisor for the East Midlands undertake this. In 2022/2023 there were two out of nine benchmark criteria where further work was required with recommendations applying to both County and District/Borough Councils. The areas requiring improvement are:

- Ensuring there is a training plan in place for relevant personnel.
- Engagement activity with a range of communities and civil society groups, both faith-based and secular, to encourage an open and transparent dialogue on the Prevent duty.

30. Actions to address these issues are included in the current Prevent Steering Group Delivery Plan overseen by the Prevent Board that reports to the SNB. The annual Prevent duty assurance benchmarking exercise for 2023/2024 will take place in March 2024.

High Harm Offences, Slavery, and Exploitation

31. The focus of this priority is tackling Modern Slavery. A core activity for this priority is overseeing the expansion of the Slavery and Exploitation Team based in the city to be a countywide service. This team, currently funded by Nottingham City Council and the OPCC, provides a structure through which professionals can refer known or suspected victims of exploitation, slavery or trafficking and share situations where suspicious activity has been highlighted.

32. The Slavery Exploitation Team triages referrals, liaises with safeguarding colleagues, undertakes lower-level investigation and intelligence gathering, assesses for emergency strategy meetings, makes necessary referrals, and offers specialist guidance and support. The team currently has some coverage in the Broxtowe, Rushcliffe, and Gedling areas but funding for 2024-2025 has been secured from all local authorities across the City and County to fund an enhanced offer in the whole County area and implementation discussions started in February 2024 to take this forward.

Fraud

33. The Nottinghamshire Fraud Partnership Charter was launched on Cyber Monday in November 2023 – setting out how a range of blue light services, local authorities, businesses, and voluntary and community sector organisations will collaborate to combat fraud. Fraud now accounts for around 40% of all crime nationally.

34. The Partnership is convened by the OPCC and members including Nottinghamshire County Council have signed up to the Charter in an agreement to work together on a range of issues, including improving public awareness, utilising the full range of powers available to partners, encouraging reporting, sharing information and intelligence, and helping to remove the stigma of becoming a victim.

35. Working alongside the SNB an action plan has been developed setting out how the strategic commitments in the Charter will be delivered. The Trading Standards and Communities

Service is represented on the Fraud Partnership Action Planning Group that developed this plan.

Reducing Reoffending

36. This is a crosscutting theme in the CSA. The Nottinghamshire Reducing Reoffending Board (RRB) discharges key statutory functions on behalf of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Community Safety Partnerships including the formulation of strategies to reduce reoffending (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).
37. The partnership landscape has changed significantly since the development of the previous Nottinghamshire Reducing Reoffending Plan in 2020. Reviews independently undertaken by the Nottingham Community Safety Partnership and the SNB in 2023 highlighted areas for improvement in discharging the functions of the RRB and providing a focus for driving local improvement. As such, key partners have contributed towards a review of the RRB's terms of reference and delivery plan as part of a workshop held in September 2023.
38. Partners shared an ambition to ensure that the work of the RRB is evidence-led, outcome focussed and has clear lines of governance and accountability. Partners also supported proposals to:
- limit strategic priorities to four key areas to provide greater time limited focus and achievable suite of objectives within the collective resources available.
 - establish task and finish groups to ensure leadership, ownership, and a mechanism to help drive the objectives against each priority forward; streamlining governance and accountability arrangements to minimise duplication.
 - Consider a 'Life Course' approach to reoffending in configuring the governance structure of the RRB – including the stages of prevention, rehabilitation and recovery, children, adults, and transitions.
39. The work of the RRB will focus on the following priority thematic areas, each informed by a comprehensive needs assessment and subject to time bound evidence-led objectives and deliverables:
- Integrated Offender Management
 - Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System
 - Early Intervention and Prevention
 - Resettlement and accommodation
40. The RRB will discharge primary governance and delivery objectives for substance use, domestic violence and abuse, weapon enabled offending, mental health, and children in care to the dedicated partnership structures in place but will remain sighted via standard 'Information only' updates.

Substance Misuse

41. This is a crosscutting theme in the CSA. The SNB has a role, alongside the Health and Wellbeing Board, in overseeing the work of the Nottinghamshire Combatting Substance Misuse Partnership. This partnership is a multi-agency forum established to oversee local delivery of the Government's Drug Strategy: From Harm to Hope which was published in December 2021. The reporting arrangements for how the SNB and the Combatting Substance Misuse Partnership will interrelate are currently being agreed to ensure the SNB adds value to this work.

Feelings of safety

42. This is a crosscutting theme in the CSA and is a key consideration in the development of the SNB Communications Strategy.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

43. Since the CSA was last scrutinised by the Place Select Committee VAWG has been elevated from a sub-category of the Serious Violence Priority to a crosscutting theme to give more prominence to this issue across the partnership landscape recognising the complexity of the work needed. Work is now progressing to develop action plans and delivery mechanisms to operationalise the Nottinghamshire's VAWG Strategy 2023-2028.

Developing the next CSA

44. The current CSA covers the period April 2023 to March 2025 so the SNB will begin considering the process for developing the next CSA at its meeting in July 2024.

Other Options Considered

45. Other options are not available as the scrutiny of the delivery of the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025 is required by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Reason for Recommendations

46. To meet the requirements of the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Statutory and Policy Implications

47. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and

the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

48. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Crime and Disorder Implications

49. This report is driven by crime and disorder related legislation that seeks to improve community safety across the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) Members consider and comment on the report and the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025.

Councillor Scott Carlton
Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Health

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Vicky Cropley, Programme Manager Safer Nottinghamshire Board, 0115 9772040, Vicky.cropley@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

50. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Place Select Committee by virtue of its terms of reference. [LPW 04.03.2024]

Financial Comments

51. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report. (PAA29 28/02/2024)

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.