

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES**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.
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 cooperating 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 down, 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 coordinating 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 strategic assessment used by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to inform priority setting is the Police and Crime Needs Assessment produced by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire (OPCC). This is also the evidence base for the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.
 9. This needs assessment, which is not a statutory product, 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.

The Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025 - Priority Setting

10. In setting priorities for inclusion in the Community Safety Agreement (CSA), the SNB worked to agreed principles including:
 - The CSA will focus on what is new and different, plus statutory duties where there are performance issues.
 - The priorities set out in the CSA will be aligned with the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.
 - Priorities should be set around developing agendas and not the issues that are already effectively embedded.
 - The CSA and the work of the Board will be action focused, using the agreed SNB priority setting evidence base (the Police and Crime Needs Assessment) to pinpoint where the SNB can make a distinct and significant contribution.
11. The priorities in the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025 are set out in the paragraphs below with a brief outline of the reasoning.
12. **Serious Violence** and **Domestic Abuse** - These are both issues that were included in the previous CSA and where there are good strategies, plans and delivery arrangements in place. However, both issues are subject to new statutory duties where the SNB can have a specific role in ensuring responsibilities are met.
13. The plans and arrangements for the Serious Violence priority (led by the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership) put a strong focus on work with young people. For this reason, the 'Young People at risk of offending and/or criminal exploitation' priority included in the previous CSA is now incorporated within the Serious Violence priority.
14. **Violence Against Women and Girls** is an emerging risk since the last CSA was produced and so is included as a key category under the Serious Violence priority.
15. There are two further continuing priorities, **Modern Slavery** and **Prevent**, that it was identified would benefit from further development work to ensure all relevant partners understand their responsibilities and that appropriate delivery arrangements are in place to meet these.

16. In the previous Community Safety Agreement, **Fraud and Cyber Crime** was the focus of a work programme that the SNB had a role in the governance of. Given the growing risk in this area, particularly during and post pandemic, this issue has been escalated to a priority.

17. In addition to the priorities three cross-cutting issues have been identified:

- Substance Misuse
- Reducing Reoffending
- Feelings of Safety

18. **Antisocial Behaviour** and **Neighbourhood Crime** are also recognised as important matters; however, it was agreed by the district Community Safety Partnership Chairs, who are members of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, that these be led in localities. This reflects where these issues are largely managed. Neighbourhood Crime includes robbery, burglary, vehicle crime and rural crime.

Ensuring the Delivery of the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2025

19. In preparation for the development of a new CSA, a partnership self-assessment was undertaken to establish the maturity of the SNB arrangements. Subsequently a programme of work led by the Chair of the SNB Performance Group was agreed to improve the effectiveness and impact of the Board.

20. It was agreed by the SNB that the CSA would be formed from two parts to allow time for a new operating model to be developed. The first part of the CSA is an overarching document that functions as a standalone short public facing document setting out the 'what' of the SNB – including its purpose, principles, and priorities. This was in place for April 2023. This document is attached at **Appendix One**.

21. The second part will be a set of appendices for partners that describe the different aspects of the 'how', i.e., the new operating model. The Board agreed a transition period to allow these appendices to be developed.

22. The agreed features of the new SNB operating model are:

- **One overarching SNB delivery plan** so there is more transparency about how the strategic intents set out in the CSA will be translated into operational delivery. This will identify the specific issues the Board will address in relation to each priority to add value.
- **A new performance management approach** aligned to that utilised by the OPCC so there is 'one version of the truth'.
- **A forward plan** structured around a set agenda that intentionally builds in challenge and oversight of the work of the Board and the delivery of the CSA.
- **A Memorandum of Understanding** – setting out a shared understanding of leadership, roles and responsibilities.
- **An SNB Communication Strategy** – This strategy will describe an approach to external and internal communications. The SNB strategy will align with existing partner strategies and related planned activity designed to increase public trust and confidence.
- **A Partnership Improvement Plan** – continuing to address identified issues impacting on partnership effectiveness and reviewing the new arrangements put in place.

Home Office Review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

23. In 2022 the Government published the findings from Part Two of its review of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The PCC Review found that whilst the importance of local partnerships such as CSPs was widely acknowledged, they were not being used as effectively as they could be. The PCC Review recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of CSPs across England and Wales to improve their transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The PCC Review made other recommendations relating to CSPs, including to examine the role of CSPs in relation to antisocial behaviour.
24. At the end of March 2023 the Home Secretary wrote to local authority Chief Executives and Leaders about the Community Safety Partnerships and Antisocial Behaviour Powers consultation launch. The consultation included questions about the relationship between CSPs and PCCs and the role of CSPs and PCCs in tackling antisocial behaviour.
25. The consultation considered whether the work of the CSPs and PCCs should be aligned more closely and whether strengthening the accountability of CSPs to PCCs would improve the delivery of more effective outcomes for the public.
26. The consultation ended on the 22 May 2023. It is recognised that any subsequent new requirements introduced following the consultation could require some revision of the operating model of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board as the county level CSP. The Board however is already aligned with the PCC on areas including strategic assessment, priorities and some delivery approaches, as such the Board is confident in continuing with its current direction of travel.

Other Options Considered

27. 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

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

29. 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

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

Crime and Disorder Implications

31. 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 John Cottee
Cabinet Member - Communities

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

Constitutional Comments (LPW 16/05/2023)

32. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Place Select Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SES 12/05/2023)

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

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.