



North Tyneside Strategic Partnership

REPORT

Information

To: NTSP Executive

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Cabinet Member: Councillor Carole Burdis

Authors: Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services

Lindsey Ojomo, Resilience & Community Safety Manager

Title of Report: Safer North Tyneside Partnership update

1.0 Purpose of Report

To provide the NTSP Executive with an update on the Safer North Tyneside partnership's progress and plans for the year ahead.

2.0 Recommendation

The Executive is asked to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Information

3.1 Background

The Safer North Tyneside partnership serves as the local community safety partnership (CSP) for the borough which is established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

It is the duty for the responsible authorities to work together, with other agencies, to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community.

An approved strategy is in place, delivered using an annual work plan, informed by a strategic assessment.

3.2 Reviewing our Approach

Following the unique challenges brought about by the coronavirus pandemic the partnership is taking the opportunity to reflect on a significant period of disruption and change, understand how our communities have been affected, and refresh its approach to build back better to meet the challenges ahead.

3.3 Context

Over the last few months there have been a number of matters that have emerged that the partnership has included within its thinking:

- A new [Our North Tyneside](#) council plan which focusses on new themes designed to address the priorities of residents and the challenges resulting from COVID-19
- A new [Police and Crime Plan](#) which focusses on tackling crime and supporting victims
- The introduction of a [Domestic Abuse Act](#) and the statutory duties included within it. And concerns about coronavirus lockdown measures amplifying an issue often hidden
- Heightened concern about **Anti-social behaviour** (ASB) from residents and elected members which arose during the pandemic
- Preparing for a new [Serious Violence Duty](#) set to be introduced by new legislation
- The **safety of women and girls in public places** brought into sharp focus following the tragic death of Sarah Everard
- Concerns about the potentially increasing risk of **radicalisation and extremism** as a consequence of measures introduced to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

3.4 Designing the Approach

Partners have agreed to develop a crime reduction plan and take a public health approach. This has been adopted as a model of best practice in other parts of the country where the link between inherent socio-economic factors and crime in an area have been made and the response to that strengthened.

Scoping work has already commenced, for example:

- The partnership is currently working with the boards responsible for safeguarding and health to identify priorities and themes of common interest

- The council, as coordinator of the partnership, is finalising a senior management restructure within part of its business. This will see the Director of Public Health take on responsibility for community safety. This adds strategic capacity and builds on the work already underway in establishing a new domestic abuse board and reflecting on the success of our emergency response and resilience work during the COVID-19
- Northumbria Police completed a new strategic intelligence assessment over the summer what has recently been made available to partners.

3.5 Progress on strategic priorities

Although the partnership has taken the opportunity to embark on a period of change, work against the priorities set out within the community safety strategy have progressed within the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

Some examples include:

- An improving approach to **Prevent** by refreshing the Channel process in line with the introduction of new Home Office guidance
- Introducing a new process for the management of **Domestic Homicide Reviews**
- A strengthened approach to tackling serious organised crime via the police-led multi-agency **Operation Sentinel** initiative
- Addressing the spike in ASB during COVID-19 through the council-led multi-agency **Operation Coast Watch** initiative
- Steering young people away from crime using the **Project Vita** initiative, instrumental in tackling youth disorder
- Bolstering our **CCTV capability** to detect and prevent ASB and environmental crime
- Reviewing our approach to **emergency response and resilience** following the extensive effort made to react to COVID-19
- Delivery of **Hate Crime training** to the nominated champions of partner organisations
- Devising a post-Covid engagement plan with our **flood wardens** a review of the handbook issued to them

4.0 Specific Matters to Highlight

4.1 Domestic Homicide Reviews

Members will recall that the partnership board has been overseeing the process of finalising a Domestic Homicide Review (known for confidentiality reasons as DHR4). This is now in the final stages of completion and it is anticipated that the Review Panel established to undertake this work will conclude their report in early January. Once endorsed by the partnership board, the report will be submitted to the quality assurance review panel at the Home Office.

Sadly, three new domestic homicides have recently been reported to the partnership. All meet the statutory threshold and have therefore been accepted for review.

Known as DHRs 6, 7 and 8, independent chairs have been identified and are now being recruited. The appointed chairs will be using the new DHR process agreed by the partnership (referred to in paragraph 3.5 above). The partnership has also approached [Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse](#) (AAFDA) for assistance in securing authors for the review.

A further update will be provided to the Executive at its next meeting.

4.2 Emergency response to weather events

Members of the Executive will be aware of the recent named storms that have affected the borough – Storm Arwen and Storm Barra. ‘Arwen’ led to the Met Office issuing a Red weather warning. It had a particularly devastating impact on rural Northumberland but caused significant damage and disruption in North Tyneside too.

- Hundreds of our residents were without power for several days
- The council’s out of hours services received a significant volume of calls from members of the public reporting fallen trees, damaged buildings and debris blocking roads and pathways.

This demanded an emergency response from Local Resilience Forum (LRF) partners including ‘blue light’ services, the council and its service delivery partners. This did not lead to the declaration of a Major Incident (MI) in North Tyneside as services, although stretched, were able to cope within existing resources.

Northumberland County Council did however declare an MI leading to a Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) request being made to access army personnel. This supplemented the work it was already doing with the help of key partners such as Mountain Rescue.