

Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

27th January 2022

Subject:	Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bob Piper Cabinet Member for Strong and Resilient Communities
Director:	Alice Davey Director of Borough Economy
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Tessa Mitchell Business Manager Community Safety & Resilience tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Scrutiny Board considers and comments upon the draft of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board's Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 which outlines the partnerships key priorities and direction of travel over the next 5 years.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Sandwell's Community Safety Strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board (SSPPCB) who oversee the Boroughs approach to community safety. The existing strategy covered 2019-21 and is now due for renewal.
- 2.2 The SSPPCB have developed and overseen a themed approach to community safety in Sandwell over the past three years which has focused around:
- The prevention of violence and exploitation
 - Reducing offending, reoffending and serious organised crime
 - Preventing crime & antisocial behaviour in our Neighbourhoods
- 2.3 The SSPPCB agreed that these priorities should remain current for the new strategy on the 15th July 2021. This was also reinforced by feedback from residents obtained over the past three years from a variety of sources including most recently, the Community Safety Strategy Consultation undertaken as part of this year's Safer 6 campaign. It is also reinforced through Sandwell's Annual Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.
- 2.4 The strategy also encompasses two other significant cross cutting themes: **tackling substance misuse to save lives and reduce crime**, aligned with the Government's new Drugs Strategy and **delivering on the new Serious Violence Duty**. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence which requires a joined up holistic approach.
- 2.5 The golden thread running through all these priorities is our commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable victims. We will deliver these priorities through adopting a public health approach, understanding that violence is preventable and identifying the reasons why people get drawn into crime. We will also support organisations to become trauma aware and embed such approaches into their practice and tackle these issues through the adoption of a 4 P Plan which aims to : prevent violence, abuse and exploitation; protect those affected; reduce harm and pursue those who perpetrate.



2.6 The new strategy builds on the work undertaken highlighting the considerable progress and achievements made whilst also setting out the new overarching objectives to take this work forward. It has been produced by partners and each of the SSPPCBs three sub-groups is developing and will be responsible for an annual work plan which will be regularly reviewed throughout the year and updated annually. This ensure the flexibility to predict and respond to any emerging trends in the fast paced and ever changing arena that is community safety.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on prevention of violence and exploitation. • Reducing opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour • Multi-Agency support for children and families • Delivery of awareness and resilience building work in our schools.
	<p>People live well and age well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on tackling substance misuse • Community Engagement
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place based tasking processes using evidence to focus on specific issues across each town • Community awareness work through our ASB, Community Safety and Prevent Teams • Tackling perpetrators
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of our CCTV stock to support community safety across our estates and towns



4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background

Significant work has been undertaken over the past 3 years to develop a themed approach to community safety which for Sandwell is focused around:

- The prevention of violence and exploitation
- Reducing offending, reoffending and serious organised crime
- Preventing crime & antisocial behaviour in our Neighbourhoods

4.2 These priorities have been developed and carried over into the new strategy as follows:

Prevention of Violence & Exploitation	
P1	Increase community awareness of how to prevent crime and maintain and/or improve safety
P2	Increase stakeholder knowledge of preventing and reducing violence, abuse, exploitation and crime
P3	Refresh and develop the Prevention of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation Plans
P4	Use effective data and analysis to help developing an understanding of the threats and risks in relation to violence, abuse and exploitation

Reduce Offending, Reoffending and Serious Organised Crime	
R1	Support offending pathways
R2	Management of high-risk offenders and targeting of key cohorts to reduce rates and seriousness of offences committed
R3	Continue to strengthen and develop partnership approaches around tackling serious organised crime
R4	Confirming and being able to clearly articulate the Boroughs approach to prevention and diversion as it relates to youth crime



	Prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in our Neighbourhoods
T1	Increase community awareness of how to prevent crime and maintain and/or improve safety
T2	Strengthen our approaches to tackling ASB
T3	Embed and build upon our approaches to tackling hate crime
T4	To better inform tasking and resource deployment
T5	To enhance the community safety of our high rise estates

4.3 Each area will include work reflecting our commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable victims. Each will have its own work plan overseen by the Boards 3 subgroups with all partners accountable in supporting delivery to achieve Sandwell's community safety vision of: ***ensuring that the communities of Sandwell feel safe, protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods.***

4.4 Public Consultation

A key strength of the strategy is partner and public involvement in setting the priorities. A number of consultations have been undertaken including:

- SSP Community Safety Survey (2021)
- Young People's Hate Crime Survey (2020)
- Sexual Abuse and Assault Survey (2021)
- Shape Survey (2019)
- Annual WMP Community Safety Partnership Survey

4.5 Findings

These consultations have been invaluable in helping to shape the strategy with some key findings are referenced on p14 of the Strategy with highlights from the 2021 Community Safety Survey including:

- 77.4% stated that they either been the victim or witness of anti-social behaviour and crime in Sandwell
- 40% felt worried about organised crime and exploitation in Sandwell
- 24% of individuals perceived there to be an ineffective response to anti-social behaviour and crime by authorities



Respondents Top 5 Priorities :

- Drug dealing (10.7%)
- Youth disorder (9.3%)
- Burglary (7.4%)
- Violent crime (7.2%)
- Littering/fly tipping (5.8%)

Respondents thoughts on improving safety

- 91.5% respondents asked for an increased police presence
- More CCTV (69.5%) was the second most common solution
- Well maintained estates & streets (59.9%) were third

4.6 As well as these public consultations the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has used considerable partner input into developing this new strategy with key local partners including: Police, Local Authority, Children's Trust, Fire and Rescue Authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation and Public Health alongside input from a wide number of voluntary sector organisations. It has also taken account of regional partnerships and direction including the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit and the West Midlands Community Safety Partnership.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan which contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the Borough of Sandwell. This strategy brings together this evidence base and sets the strategic direction for community safety across the Borough for the next 5 years subject to annual review.

6 Implications

Resources:	The Community Safety Strategy is a partnership plan utilising existing resources deployed in accordance with the priorities identified. When available partners will tap into additional funding streams to enhance capacity and provision.
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Legal and Governance:	Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board has a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and subsequent legislative amendments, to develop and deliver a Partnership Plan which contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the Borough of Sandwell.
Risk:	<p>Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications</p> <p>Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy 2019-21 and Strategic Assessment 2020. This is business as usual and adheres to all individual partner required risk assessments and mitigations.</p>
Equality:	An EIA has been completed as part of this process with no negative implications recorded for protected groups. Tackling crime and disorder and enhancing community safety helps address disadvantage and disproportionality ensuring that the vulnerable are safeguarded and community resilience increased.
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>Reducing and managing crime and anti-social behaviour, and protecting its victims has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Engaging with and supporting people in relation to community safety and building resilience to prevent the most vulnerable becoming victims of crime and exploitation will also have a positive longer-term impact on their health and wellbeing.</p>
Social Value	Engagement with local residents and strengthening civic pride. Provision of opportunities for involvement through volunteering, engagement and positive activities.



7 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26

8 Background Papers

- Sandwell Strategic Assessment 2020
- West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021-23

