

Equality Impact Assessment

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

Version 4: January 2019

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	Community Safety Strategy 2022-26
Directorate and Service Area	Borough Economy - Community Safety & Resilience
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Tessa Mitchell – Business Manager Community Safety & Resilience
Contact Details	tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk 077721 110645
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Tessa Mitchell - Community Safety & Resilience Business Manager Wendy Sims - Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Programme Manager Denise Hooper - Community Safety Manager Maryrose Lappin - Domestic Abuse Team Manager Claire Martin – Youth Justice Service Manager
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	(EIA shared with all SSP Theme Leads)
Date EIA completed	January 2022
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy

Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	
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See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required (Please provide as much information as possible)

The 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.

At the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police & Crime Board meeting on the 15th July 2021 it was agreed that the Partnerships priorities for this new strategy would be:

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

The golden thread running through all these priorities is our commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable victims. The strategy also encompasses two other significant cross cutting themes: tackling substance misuse to save lives and reduce crime, aligned with the Governments 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.

The SSPPCB key priorities for the next 5 years are 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

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***'

2. Evidence used/considered

This strategy has been co-produced with partners including statutory bodies, the voluntary sector and Sandwell residents. Evidence included to develop this strategy has included 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 the 2021 Safer 6 campaign. It is also reinforced through Sandwell's Annual Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.

3. Consultation

A variety of public consultations have helped inform this strategy including:

- SSP Community Safety Survey (2021) 177 respondents
- Young People's Hate Crime Survey (2020) – 73 respondents
- Sexual Abuse and Assault Survey (2021) – 143 respondents
- Shape Survey (2019) – 876 respondents
- Annual WMP Community Safety Partnership Survey -

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

1 in 4 respondents to the Hate Crime Survey told us that they had either been a victim or witnessed hate crime and 1 in 3 respondents to the Sexual Abuse and Assault Survey stated that they had experienced sexual abuse or

assault. While the SHAPE Survey 2019 identified as young peoples key concerns in relation to crime as :

- knife crime (46.2%)
- gangs and youth violence (37.9%)
- bullying (36.5%)

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. A Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment has also been completed. Account has also been taken 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.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

No negative implications anticipated 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.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
	✓	✓	✓	
Age	✓			This strategy covers all age groups and there is no evidence that it will impact more negatively on any age group over and above another. However working with partners it will enhance safeguards for both children and vulnerable adults.
Disability	✓			There is no evidence that those with a disability would be impacted any more than any other group. Tackling exploitation and hate crime are two explicit aims of the strategy and will positively impact on some individuals within this cohort.

Gender reassignment			✓	There is no evidence that the strategy would impact more negatively on this group than on others. Victims of crime who have gender reassignment can be reluctant to seek help and support and this strategy aims to enhance opportunities to access such help and support.
Marriage and civil partnership			✓	There is no evidence that the strategy would impact more negatively on this group than on others
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	There is no evidence that the strategy would impact more negatively on this group than on others.
Race	✓			There is no evidence that the strategy would impact more negatively on one group more than on others. Victims of crime from black and minority ethnic communities often face additional barriers to reporting these and accessing services. Tackling exploitation and hate crime are two explicit aims of the strategy and will positively impact on some individuals within this cohort.

Religion or belief	✓			There is no evidence that the strategy will impact more negatively on one group more than on others. As above, tackling exploitation and hate crime are two explicit aims of the strategy and will positively impact on some individuals within this cohort.
Sex	✓			There is no evidence that this strategy would impact more negatively on one group more than on others. Tackling domestic abuse is a key partnership priority and in Sandwell victims remain predominantly although not exclusively female. However the proportion of male victims reporting to police has increased year-on-year for the past three years, rising from 18.7% in 2018 to 22.0% in 2020.
Sexual orientation	✓			There is no evidence that this strategy would impact more negatively on one group more than on others. Tackling exploitation and hate crime are two explicit aims of the strategy and will positively impact on some individuals within this cohort.
Other			✓	

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

Not applicable.

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

To implement this new Strategy.

7. Monitoring arrangements

The new strategy builds on the work undertaken highlighting the considerable progress and achievements made over the past three years 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.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below.

None

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

9. Publish the EIA

This EIA will be published as part of the Cabinet Report and will be available on Corporate Management Information System of Sandwell Council.

Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

Practical advice, guidance and support

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Service Improvement. The officers within Service Improvement will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

Please contact:

Kashmir Singh - 0121 569 3828