



**Safer Stockton Partnership**  
**Community Safety Plan 2017-20**

## Introduction

---

The Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) operates as Stockton's statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The partnership consists of statutory and voluntary organisations who work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

The partnership is responsible for the delivery of a wide variety of strategies and plans with the overall aim of improving the safety of the community in Stockton.

As part of this process a Community Safety Plan is published every three years which focuses on an identified set of priorities. The priorities are intelligence led based upon analysis from the partnerships strategic assessment and results from public consultations. Four key areas have been identified which the partnership will focus on over the next three years.

Since 1998 the Safer Stockton Partnership has worked to reduce crime and the fear of crime for residents across the borough. Over the last 10 years we have experienced significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour as well as an increase in community confidence and feelings of safety. As a partnership we are facing a number of challenges including reduced resources and a number of emerging issues affecting our communities. The continued support of all partners is necessary to ensure that the SSP is in the best place to deal with these issues and continue to protect residents, workers and visitors.

This plan offers a change in focus and will look more in-depth at a number of cross cutting themes involving a range of partners and seeks to build on the positive work completed to date, as well as to address emerging issues and challenges. It is proposed that an action plan is reported back to partnership every quarter and that an annual review of the actions is carried out to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, measured against quarterly statistics and updates of emerging issues within the communities of the Borough of Stockton.

The Safer Stockton Partnership continues to support the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and in particular the following:-

- A better deal for victims and witnesses, this priority has strong links to ours in Protecting Vulnerable People.
- Tackling re-offending, this links directly within this plan for the priority in reducing re-offending.
- Working together to make Cleveland safer, linking directly with Community Safety and Protection.
- Securing the future of our communities and how this links into all of the themed priorities within this Plan, to strengthen support and to effectively target and tackle issues as they emerge.

Locally for us there remains the need to maintain a strong understanding of issues within our Borough. We will collectively work to maintain cohesion in our communities. Services remain available to concentrate on those deemed most at risk and in need more effectively in changing times and demand for agency response across all of the key partners within Safer Stockton Partnership.

The Safer Stockton Partnership will continue to monitor trends and Government national priorities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We will work to build on the success of the very first Community Safety Plan ever produced in 1998/99 and since then total recorded crime (17,563) has reduced by 16% when compared to the figures in 2016/17 (14,740). We are proud to say that we continue to have maintained the lowest rate of crime per thousand population when compared to our Tees Valley neighbours.

The last Community Safety Plan was delivered on a backdrop of change in terms of partnership resources and changes to police recorded practices. There has also been significant organisational changes for partner agencies, particularly for Probation Services, and the impact for the partnership targets in terms of the availability and collation of data overall. Whilst taking this into account there has also been positive progress made, but it further identified after consultation for partners that this Plan would be better to concentrate on broader themed areas.

Our partnership approach will continue to work on all cross cutting themes for all of the key agencies of Safer Stockton Partnership such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and vulnerable exploited missing and trafficked (VEMT). This will involve linking all work where shared priorities exist for other close partnership agencies and to align the direction of those such as the Children's and Young People's Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Adults Board and Stockton's Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Innovation has never been as paramount as it is now for the Partnership, changing times, reductions in funding mean there is opportunity to be creative and develop new ways of working. We will be looking at tackling issues, using careful planned approaches with continuous evaluation to make way to further develop new pilot projects into wider initiatives. Whilst writing this Plan the Integrated Offender Management Team (IOM) is taking on a new approach to work to address domestic abuse by working with the perpetrators at the same time as providing support to the whole family to try and change the pattern of behaviour within the family home.

Cllr Steve Nelson – Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership

## 1. Reducing re-offending

---

Tackling re-offending continues to be a priority for the partnership and has been instilled in the borough for many years through the management of offenders by the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM). The unit works with prolific priority offenders (PPOs) through a multi-agency approach prioritising interventions with the most persistent adult offenders and aims to break the cycle of re-offending.

However there is still progress to be made. It is evident prolific offenders continue to be linked to acquisitive crime, which accounts for nearly half of all publicly reported crime in the borough. This type of crime is varied in nature from shoplifting through to domestic burglary and vehicle crime. Offenders also suffer from a wide variety of complex needs, which can lead to a person continuing to commit multiple offences despite receiving custodial sentences. These issues can vary from mental health through to learning difficulties and substance misuse.

Issues driving people into a destructive cycle of prison, disadvantage and reoffending are highly complex and we know we cannot tackle these problems on our own. We are committed to working in partnership with local providers who have a wealth of expertise and insight. We will also be building upon the excellent work of the youth offending team and probation service.

In November 2016 the Government produced a White Paper, setting out a commitment to significantly change the culture, structure and approach to offender management in prisons. This introduced a clear focus on rehabilitation, support and mentoring with the aim of reducing reoffending and improving community integration of offenders back into the community. This document places a greater emphasis on the ability of Prison Governors to shape and influence the development of services to meet the needs of their individual prison populations. This change will be implemented at Holme House Prison from the summer / autumn of 2017. Alongside these changes in approach we will see the introduction of a Drugs Recovery Prison Project funded by the Ministry of Justice. This element of the project aims is to prevent illicit substances from coming into the establishment; and secondly, to improve prison capabilities in retrieving any illicit substances on the premises. A more holistic approach to prisoners will be provided that will see their journey of recovery being supported even after they leave prison to reduce the risks of relapse and re-offending. The Partnership will support and monitor these changes as they develop through the life of this plan.

The priority will also focus on reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse, rate of first time entrants into the youth justice system and finding community resolutions. The Early Help programme is a core preventative element of this priority which aims to specifically reduce youth re-offending.

By working together we aim to help offenders and ex-offenders to change their lifestyle, reduce or stop their offending, resulting in an improved quality of life not only for them, but for the whole community. The Youth Offending Partnership and Early Help Programme are core components of this priority to reduce youths from offending.

**How will we do this?**

- Continue to develop and implement restorative practices across a wide variety of organisations and agencies for both adult and youth offending.
- To ensure an approach is taken to tackling specific needs and risks linked to young offenders to include the transition from Youth Offending Services to adult offending management. Promote collaborative approaches to divert children and young people into early help services and away from the criminal justice system.
- Ensure we have the right specialist services in place to provide support to perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly high risk and repeat offenders. Monitoring of the IOM approach to guide strategic development and to ensure consistency and alignment with the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Continue to work with Integrated Offender Management Team to take a multi-agency partnership approach to reduce re-offending.
- To support and monitor the impact on re-offending as the innovative changes are made in the management and support offered to reoffenders in Holme House Prison.
- To maintain proactive representation on the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Reducing Re-offending and Harm Group and ensure links into the development of Stockton's approach.

## 2. Protecting vulnerable people

Protecting vulnerable people by identifying and managing risk are essential to this priority. We will do this by developing the capability and capacity to keep people safe so we are meeting the needs of residents in Stockton throughout our diverse communities.

Protecting vulnerable people has always been a key priority for the partnership however the emergence of new threats such as child sexual exploitation (CSE), missing and trafficking individuals, modern day slavery and the risk of radicalisation require a shift in the partnerships focus.

Alongside this, safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable children, adults and families also remains at the forefront. The Partnership brings together people from a number of agencies and organisations, across the statutory and voluntary and community sectors, to ensure we all work together and focus on the things that will make the most difference.

This will include identifying and providing support to repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, ensuring we have strategies and policies in place to safeguard children and adults at risk, identifying those vulnerable to radicalisation, supporting victims of domestic abuse and those at risk of alcohol and drug misuse.

We are also committed to ensuring a multi-agency approach to both recognise and empower children and their families to live safe and healthy lives in our communities. We want to encourage people to take responsibility for their own wellbeing as well as the positive contributions they could be making for others. We want to engage further with those who struggle to understand what services are available and to remove the barriers that prevent them from reporting and accessing help. We will continue to work together with communities adopting a holistic approach that highlights the needs of a family at the earliest point.

### How will we do this?

- Prevent and protect children from becoming victims of CSE through education and awareness training, ensuring the voice of the child is heard. Multi-Agency work will also continue to address effective ways to raise awareness of issues and identifying child sexual exploitation as a whole.
- We will proactively target, disrupt and pursue perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This will be directed through the work of the VEMT (vulnerable, exploited, missing, trafficked) Group. The VEMT has both a strategic and operational element that enables activity to be monitored, disrupted and tackled as intelligence permits.
- Continue to work with all partners to assess the risk of radicalisation in Stockton. The Prevent process that exists to raise awareness to tackle radicalisation and extremism is well embedded in the Local authority, Education, Health and Housing throughout the borough. As a result of the

current proactive partnership work, the borough is deemed as 'low risk' and no specific emerging 'Threat' within Stockton, but we still encourage all residents and its (take out the space) workers to be vigilant to their surroundings and report all suspicious behaviour. Multi-agency work exists across the Cleveland area and wider, to manage risk and share intelligence in relation to the CONTEST Strategy as a whole.

- We will contribute to the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- We will play an active role in CAVIC (Communities Against Violence in Cleveland) in its work to reduce the risk of becoming a victim and repeat victim of violence.
- In line with recommendations from the Anti-Slavery Commissioner ensure that there is a co-ordinated partnership approach to tackling modern slavery and trafficking in Stockton and links into a wider Tees approach.
- Work closely with partners such as the Police, Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) to ensure that there are clear pathways in place for individuals identified as vulnerable or victims of crime and/ anti-social behaviour to seek specialised / restorative support.
- Ensure that there is a clear process in place to address Hate Crime across the borough, and to continue to raise awareness of what all forms of Hate Incidents are and how to report them.

### 3. Tackling drug and alcohol misuse

---

Alcohol and drug misuse, and their related harms, costs our society hundreds of millions of pounds every year. Alongside this, the financial burden can never fully describe the full impact substance misuse has on many vulnerable individuals, including children and young people and families within our own community.

Alcohol and drug misuse have been identified as significant public health and social issues in Stockton for many years. Alcohol is affordable, acceptable and accessible to residents within the borough of Stockton. Alcohol-related harm including ill-health, crime, violence, risky behaviours, anti-social behaviour and perpetration of domestic abuse all increase in frequency in association with alcohol consumption. This priority also links in with repeat offending with the majority of prolific offenders having some sort of substance misuse. Tackling drug and alcohol problems is an important part of breaking the cycle of offending and providing a pathway out of crime.

The misuse of alcohol and drugs continues to play a major role in crime and anti-social behaviour in Stockton. This is evident in particular with regards to offences of violence including those which are domestic related and offenders linked to acquisitive crime.

In Stockton, we continue to retain a high proportion of estimated drug users who are in treatment which is significantly better than the national average. It is also extremely rare to have anyone present themselves to treatment with opiate or crack addiction that isn't already known to the service. Stockton also has the second lowest number of people entering prison with substance dependence issues that are not known to community treatment and a high rate of re-engagement with treatment services on leaving prison.

The challenge for the partnership over the life of this plan is to ensure that we continue to have the correct interventions in place to tackle this issue to prevent substance misuse from escalating.

#### **How will we do this?**

- Drug and Alcohol related crime often overlaps with health issues so it is important that we work closely with the local Health and Wellbeing Board, health professionals, voluntary sectors, police and the local authority to identify the scale of the problem.
- The partnership will do this by continuing to monitor data across multiple agencies in order to estimate the harm caused by alcohol misuse and respond in conjunction with the aims within the alcohol strategy.
- The partnership will continue to contribute to the development and delivery of the alcohol strategy to ensure that good practice is implemented; our licensing powers are maximised to promote a diverse night time economy and resilience and life skills are promoted among our children.

- Education within schools and higher education is essential to highlight the effect of substance misuse including educational material to those aged 16 plus who are more at risk of 'binge' drinking and experimental drug misuse including new psychoactive substances. We will monitor changes to the school educational Risk Taking Behaviour programme in Stockton in partnership with Community Safety, Public Health and Educational Improvement Services.
- Identification of families at risk to mitigate the effects of their drinking and support the whole family in tackling the problems and staying together without harm linking very closely with the Council's Early Help approach.
- Apply a partnership approach to managing those drug users that continue to lead a chaotic lifestyle that includes offending related to their substance misuse. This will closely link with the outcomes of the work that is being led by Public Health via the Stockton Local Safeguarding Childrens Board on the issues for children living in such environments, as well as to the Safeguarding of Adults.

## 4. Community Safety & Protection

---

The Safer Stockton Partnership works hard to tackle crime throughout the Stockton Borough. As a result, it is the safest place to live in Tees Valley; this is in spite of challenges within certain categories of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The borough of Stockton covers a wide diverse area with crime rates per 1000 population varying considerably. Historically Stockton Town Centre, Mandale & Victoria and Parkfield & Oxbridge are the main wards which suffer from a disproportionate level of crime and disorder along with a strong correlation with substance misuse, particularly alcohol. These three wards have above average levels of alcohol related crime, violence and criminal damage along with higher levels of deprivation.

Poverty itself does not cause criminal behaviour however it enhances the desire of material, personal and social wants and needs and means people living in these areas are more likely to be victims of crime or perpetrators. The majority of young offenders and prolific adult offenders also reside in the more deprived wards. Working together we will aim to tackle incidents of crime and ASB by focussing our efforts on the most problematic areas of the community. To continue where possible to make sure those elements of youth diversionary work provides greater opportunities for the young people within our Borough to encourage better choices and understanding of the consequences of their actions along with parental support.

The effects of this type of behaviour can have a devastating effect on a person's quality of life, health and overall well-being and we are dedicated to ensuring we are doing the best we can to stop this.

The partnership remains committed to reducing crime and disorder in the borough.

### **How we will do this?**

- Continue analysis of a wide variety of partnership data using a problem solving approach in order to highlight and respond to any emerging issues.
- Maintain regular monthly policing Tasking and Co-ordinating meetings to raise significant short term crime and anti-social behaviour issues, offenders and vulnerable people that are impacting on the local policing area. Keeping communities safe is a priority for the Police Crime Commissioner and is an essential component of prevention activity working with families using the early help approach.
- Monitor the number of deliberate fires within the Borough of Stockton for both F1 (property and vehicle fires) and F3 fires (grassland and rubbish fires).

- Develop interventions and activities which are driven by intelligence led evidence. This means that encouraging reporting from our communities is essential to utilising all of the agencies resources in the best way.

## Public Consultation

To ensure the partnership has taken into consideration the issues residents consider to be a priority, findings from local community survey and forums have been undertaken.

### Safer Stockton Partnership on-line survey

During March 2017 the Partnership undertook an on-line survey accessed via My Views on Stockton council website. More than 115 responded to a set of questions based on the four priorities identified through the partnerships strategic assessment

The table below shows the % of the responses to each of the four priorities based on scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being of the most important.

| Priority   | Least important ----- Most important |       |        |        |        |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | 1                                    | 2     | 3      | 4      | 5      |
| 1.To work together to stop people from continuing to commit crime (reducing re-offending)  | 2.54%                                | 4.24% | 11.02% | 20.34% | 59.30% |
| 2.To work with our partners to protect children and families from crime and anti-social behaviour, that includes wider issues such as domestic abuse and child sex exploitation and modern slavery. (protecting vulnerable people) | 3.39%                                | 3.39% | 5.93%  | 9.32%  | 74.58% |
| 3. Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol within our communities throughout the Borough of Stockton (Tackling drug and alcohol misuse)   | 3.39%                                | 4.24% | 11.02% | 23.73% | 55.08% |
| 4. To look at how we compare to other areas and understand where we can improve how we respond to crime and anti-social behaviour (community safety and protection)  | 5.08%                                | 5.93% | 23.73% | 19.49% | 42.37% |

## **Public Forums**

Several public forums were also attended to gain further insight into the views of the public.

Several issues were also raised, a summary of the answers shows the following three main concerns (in order of priority):

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violence
- Criminal Damage

The above issues also correlated with many of the current policing priorities identified by residents (mainly issues surrounding ASB and drugs).

As the four priorities are a theme rather than a crime type, the three other issues raised will fall within one these priorities. For examples, ASB and Criminal Damage will be tackled through community safety and protection and drug and alcohol misuse.

Lower level ASB issues were raised by a minority of respondents in relation to inconsiderate parking, dog fouling and street drinking were also noted. Along with concerns raised with regards to keeping resident up to date on issues affecting their community and increased patrols by police/Enforcement and other partners, including Youth Direction in a bid to stop youth related ASB.

## Performance Monitoring

The Partnership will monitor performance on a quarterly basis to assess progress against set targets drawn from the annual strategic assessment.

The following performance targets will be monitored over the first 12 months of the plan:

| Priority                      | Performance measure   | Owner                                 |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Reduce re-offending</b> | 1.1 Monitor the number of re-offences within the current cohort each quarter    | IOM Team and CS Analyst               |
|                               | 1.2 % of positive completions of Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders | DVT Rehabilitation Company            |
|                               | 1.3 % of positive completions on licenses                                       | DVT Rehabilitation Company            |
|                               | 1.4 % of Offenders recalled   | DVT Rehabilitation Company            |
|                               | 1.5 % offenders released from prison with settled accommodation                 | DVT Rehabilitation Company            |
|                               | 1.6 Reduction in youth offending  | SBC Youth Offending Team              |
|                               | 1.7 Monitor the number of RJ referrals in Stockton                              | Police and Crime Commissioners Office |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>2. Protecting vulnerable people and communities</b></p> | <p>2.1 Ensure that offenders released from custody are resettling in suitable accommodation, which should be both appropriate and reasonably long term</p> <p>2.2 Continued roll out of Prevent within communities within the Borough of Stockton.</p> <p>2.3 Monitor the repeat incident rate for domestic abuse</p> <p>2.4 Increase organisational awareness and response to the Anti-Slavery Commissioner to tackle modern slavery and trafficking in Stockton</p> <p>2.5 Increase the number of hate cases in Stockton reported to the police and Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRC) covering all strands of Hate.</p> | <p>DVT Rehabilitation Company</p> <p>SBC Community Safety</p> <p>SBC Community Safety</p> <p>SBC Community Safety &amp; Police</p> <p>SBC Community Safety &amp; Police</p> |
| <p><b>3. Tackling drug and alcohol misuse</b></p>             | <p>3.1 Reduce the % of people who think drug dealing is an issue in Stockton</p> <p>3.2 Monitor the development of the Alcohol Strategy Group</p> <p>3.3 % of successful completions for those in drug treatment for opiates / non opiates and review measuring tools for those within Alcohol treatment</p>   | <p>Police public confidence surveys</p> <p>SBC Public Health</p> <p>SBC Public Health</p>   |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>4. Community Safety &amp; Protection</b> | <p>4.1 Comparisons against Other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) using IQANTA.</p> <p>4.2 Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour from Police recorded incident</p> <p>4.3 Monitor the number of SBC Repeat Callers</p> <p>4.4 Monitor Deliberate F1 &amp; F3 fires in the Borough</p> | <p>SBC Community Safety Analyst</p> <p>Police Data</p> <p>SBC Community Safety</p> <p>Cleveland Fire Service</p> |
|---|---|--|