

16 April 2024



**Draft Safe Durham Partnership Strategy
2024-29**

**Report of Alan Patrickson Corporate Director Neighbourhoods &
Climate Change, Durham County Council.**

Electoral divisions affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1) The purpose of this report is to present the draft Safe Durham Partnership Strategy (SDPS) 2024-29 for comment. The committee will receive a presentation at the meeting. The draft strategy is attached as Appendix 2. A copy of the strategy has already been shared with the Committee as part of the wider consultation exercise.

Executive summary

- 2) Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the responsible authorities (commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP)) in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area.
- 3) Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, CSPs are duty-bound to 'provide evidence-based data to support CSPs in their planning and duties'. It is a statutory obligation for CSPs to produce or procure an annual localised Strategic Assessment providing a strategic evidence base that identifies future priorities for the partnership.
- 4) In County Durham, the CSP is the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) which has the responsibility for delivering the SDP Strategy, which is informed by Durham Insight as our strategic assessment.
- 5) The streamlined SDP Strategy outlines the SDP Boards ambition, that **'Durham is a county where everyone can feel and be safe'**.
- 6) The Safe Durham Partnership Strategy has the following "umbrella themes" which recognise the work done by the whole community safety partnership arena. These themes are then broken down into an area of focus and areas of assurance.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime which disrupts our Communities**
 - Area of focus: anti-social behaviour
 - Areas of assurance: reducing reoffending, road safety
- **Hate Crime and Building Community Cohesion**
 - Area of focus: hate crime
 - Area of assurance: counter terrorism
- **Sexual Violence and other Violent Crime**
 - Area of focus: sexual violence
 - Areas of assurance: serious violence, domestic abuse, combatting drugs and alcohol, organised crime

7) For each area of focus there are specific goals we want to achieve:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
 - Increased public confidence to report ASB.
 - A coordinated and efficient multi-agency partnership approach to ASB.
 - Effective pathways and support that meet the needs of victims and perpetrators.
- **Hate Crime**
 - A clear understanding among communities that hate crime should be reported and will not be tolerated.
 - Cohesive communities which embrace diversity.
 - Pathways and support that meet the needs of victims and perpetrators.
- **Sexual Violence**
 - Increased trust and confidence to report sexual offences.
 - Improved feelings of safety around the nighttime economy, and reductions in violent crime within the nighttime economy.
 - Pathways and support that meet the needs of victims and perpetrators.

8) The Partnership gives due consideration to the other plans and strategies in place across the wider County Durham Partnership and its member organisations.

9) The priorities within the plan will remain in place for five years with periodic reviews.

Recommendation

- 10) Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
 - a) Provide initial comments on the draft SDP Strategy at the meeting with any final comments to julie.bradbrook@durham.gov.uk by 23 April 2024.

Background

- 11) A Safe Durham Partnership development session took place in July 2023 to look at the Partnership's priority areas and development of the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy.
- 12) There was agreement that the SDP should be focused on areas where the Partnership can make a difference and the strategy should have fewer areas of focus which are clear to the SDP, its partners and communities.
- 13) Further consultation has taken place with the Safe Durham Partnership Board to develop the draft Safe Durham Partnership Strategy.
- 14) Community Safety Partnerships provide hyper-localised strategies tailored to the needs of their communities. They work on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour, and that effective partnership working is vital to ensuring safer communities.
- 15) The Safe Durham Partnership has a duty to meet our statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and a lot of changes have been made to statutory duties and/or guidance in recent years or are planned in the course of this strategy.
- 16) Government guidance and legislation places some other groups on a statutory footing, and they function effectively with oversight from the SDP. For example, the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership now has statutory responsibilities to deliver on the National Combating Drugs Outcomes.
- 17) To account for the changing landscape, SDP priorities consist of three 'umbrella themes' which cover work done by the whole community safety partnership arena. These themes are then broken down into:
 - **Areas of focus:** The SDP will champion the areas that need further focus or development. There may be a specific local need or issue to tackle, potential impact from national or international events or actions, or the SDP may be the key governance arrangement or most appropriate forum. Areas of focus will be agile, flexible, and responsive.
 - **Areas of assurance:** The SDP will provide ongoing oversight and receive regular assurance for the existing partnership arrangements already in place for these areas.
- 18) The SDP recognises the impact of wider factors on its priority themes and works closely with partners to address the underlying contributing

factors including health, substance misuse, housing, employment and poverty.

- 19) The Partnership gives due consideration to the other plans and strategies in place across the wider County Durham Partnership and its member organisations.
- 20) The key consideration for SDP focus is where the SDP can add value.

SDP Strategy development

- 21) Work has taken place on the SDP Strategy 2024-2029 through a strategy development group (comprising representatives from Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, PCC's Office, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, VCS, Probation Service, and Area Action Partnerships) to ensure that the SDP Strategy is fit for purpose and reflects the work being undertaken in partnership by organisations across the county.
- 22) The SDP Strategy is a high-level strategy that is simple and easy to understand by all (professionals and residents), which outlines the priority areas and the commitment to how we will work together across the system.
- 23) The streamlined SDP Strategy outlines the SDP Boards ambition, that **'Durham is a county where everyone can feel and be safe'**.
- 24) The Safe Durham Partnership Strategy has the following "umbrella themes" which recognise the work done by the whole community safety partnership arena. These themes are then broken down into an area of focus and areas of assurance. For the areas of focus the SDP will dedicate regular themed Board meetings to these issues, and work with the delivery groups to focus efforts and target resources in these areas. For the areas of assurance, the SDP will provide ongoing oversight and receive regular assurance from the well-established groups already in place to address these areas.
 - **Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime which disrupts our Communities**
 - Area of focus: anti-social behaviour
 - Areas of assurance: reducing reoffending, road safety
 - **Hate Crime and Building Community Cohesion**
 - Area of focus: hate crime
 - Area of assurance: counter terrorism

- **Sexual Violence and other Violent Crime**
 - Area of focus: sexual violence
 - Areas of assurance: serious violence, domestic abuse, combatting drugs and alcohol, organised crime
- 25) Unlike previous Safe Durham Partnership Plans, this is a sleeker and easier to digest strategy which will concentrate on our approach to tackling the issues and where we as a partnership can influence and direct resources and funding.
- 26) For each area of focus there are specific goals we want to achieve:
- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
 - Increased public confidence to report ASB.
 - A coordinated and efficient multi-agency partnership approach to ASB.
 - Effective pathways and support that meet the needs of victims and perpetrators.
 - **Hate Crime**
 - A clear understanding among communities that hate crime should be reported and will not be tolerated.
 - Cohesive communities which embrace diversity.
 - Pathways and support that meet the needs of victims and perpetrators.
 - **Sexual Violence**
 - Increased trust and confidence to report sexual offences.
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 - Pathways and support that meet the needs of victims and perpetrators.

Delivery plans

- 27) Leadership in each of the three SDP priorities will be through one of the existing formally established subgroups, each of which will lead on a high-level delivery plan.
- (a) **Anti-social Behaviour: Anti-social Behaviour Strategic Group**
 - (b) **Hate Crime: Hate Crime Action Group**
 - (c) **Sexual Violence: Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group**

- 28) These groups will support the SDP Strategy by outlining how we will take work forward utilising our agreed ways of working with provision for ongoing monitoring by the Safe Durham Partnership:
- (a) Empowering communities
 - (b) Being asset focused
 - (c) Building resilience
 - (d) Working better together
 - (e) Sharing decision making
 - (f) Doing with not to
- 29) It is important to note that these groups are established subgroups of the SDP and already provide annual updates, including key performance indicators to the Board, as part of the cyclical work programme. Delivery plans will be reviewed to ensure they align to the SDP Strategy and measurable outcomes will be developed and agreed by subgroups.
- 30) These groups are at different stages of addressing these issues; the ASB Delivery Group has recently agreed a new Strategy and developed a delivery plan. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group is a well-established partnership that the SDP will be asking to increase its focus on the Sexual Violence aspects of its agenda. It should be noted that following a change in chair, the Hate Crime Action Group is currently reviewing structures, TOR, membership and work plans to further align to the SDP strategy.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 31) An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken alongside the development of the SDP Strategy

Engagement and Consultation

- 32) Work has taken place with strategy development group partners to develop and co-design the SDP Strategy, which has been shared within their own organisations for comments as part of this process.
- 33) The draft SDP Strategy will be shared with the following as part of its further development.
- (a) The draft SDP Strategy was made available on the DCC website from **18 March – 14 April 24** where any comments received also contribute to the development of the supporting delivery plans.
- The link to the DCC website was also shared directly with the following groups during this time: Area Action Partnerships, Better

Together Forum, Armed Forces Forum, Local Councils working group, Youth Council, the Rainbow Group.

- (b) Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee – **16 April 2024**
 - (c) Final SDP Strategy to Safe Durham Partnership for agreement – **20 May 2024**
 - (d) SDP Strategy endorsed by Cabinet – **19 June 2024**
 - (e) SDP Strategy adopted by Full Council – **17 July 2024**
- 34) Further consultation and co-production will also take place with a range of partners to contribute to the development of the detailed delivery plans and influence their delivery.

Conclusion

- 35) The development of the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy has been led by a partnership group. The strategy has been informed by Durham Insight, as our strategic assessment, which provides the evidence base on which the priorities have been developed.
- 36) The SDP Strategy is a high-level strategy that is simple and easy to understand by all (professionals and residents), which outlines the priority areas and the commitment to how we will work together across the system.

Author

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare a partnership plan, setting out the CSP's priorities.

Finance

Ongoing pressure on the public services will challenge all agencies to consider how best to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way. Delivery plans will be developed to support the delivery of the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy.

Consultation

Details of consultation are provided in the report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

A full Equality Impact Assessment is being carried out alongside the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy.

Climate Change

There are no climate change implications.

Human Rights

There are no adverse implications.

Crime and Disorder

Crime and disorder is the main focus of the report under the Safe Durham Partnership.

Staffing

There are no staffing implications.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications.

Risk

There are no risk implications.

Appendix 2: Draft Safe Durham Partnership Strategy 2024-2029

Attached as a separate document.