

**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**8 September 2022**

**Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Strategic  
Group**



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**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods  
and Climate Change**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the ongoing work of the ASB Strategic Group.

**Executive summary**

- 2 It was requested by Committee that a report be brought to every meeting on the progress of the work of the ASB Strategic Group.
- 3 The report provides an opportunity for Members to receive an overview of the ASB Strategic Group priorities and work areas and the development of the ASB Strategy.

**Recommendation**

- 4 Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
  - (a) Note information contained within the report from the ASB Strategic Group and comment accordingly.

## **Background**

- 5 At the SDP board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021, it was agreed that the ASB Strategic Group would be re-established.
- 6 The group have agreed Terms of Reference and continue to meet every two months.
- 7 The aims of the ASB Strategic Group are to:
  - Provide strategic leadership and direction, co-ordination and oversight for the Safe Durham Partnership's response to anti-social behaviour across County Durham.
  - Deliver the strategic outcomes under the Safe Durham Partnership Plan that promote being safe and feeling safe in your community specifically focusing on the work area of anti-social behaviour.
  - Ensure the actions of the group positively impact on residents and the wider communities in:
    - (i) being and feeling safe and that those actions improve their emotional and physical wellbeing.
    - (ii) improving personal resilience and overall community's resilience, confidence and cohesion.

## **Key Actions**

- 8 At the last meeting of the group on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 further consideration was given to a number of key areas for action including:-

## **Governance Arrangements**

- 9 A review of the relevant sub groups currently reporting to the ASB Strategic Group is underway. A meeting has taken place between the Chair of the ASB Strategic group and Chairs of the sub groups to consider areas of overlap and duplication and further consideration will be given to whether the current sub groups can be streamlined and repurposed.
- 10 The outcome of these discussions will inform new governance arrangements which will be presented to the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) at their next meeting on 19 September 2022 and once agreed we will update the SS OSC on the revised arrangements.

## **ASB Strategy**

- 11 At the last meeting, the group considered the latest draft of the ASB Strategy and this has now been presented to the appropriate Senior Management Teams within the Council for further comment and will be presented to the SDP at their next meeting for approval prior to consultation.
- 12 The ASB Strategy timeline has now been agreed for a 6 week public consultation on from the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and the final Strategy to be agreed at the SDP Board on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 13 As part of the consultation process a special SSOSC ASB Awareness session has been organised to consider the Safer Durham Partnership's ASB strategy to be held on Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 1.00 p.m.

## **ASB Data and Performance Management**

- 14 The ASB Data and Performance Group continue to develop the ASB dashboards which are being used as both a performance and analytical tool by partners.
- 15 On going development will include for the inclusion of overlays identifying the Multi Agency Problem Solving group (MAPS) as well as outcomes which will assist in the evaluation of ASB interventions and associated confidence measures.
- 16 As the data and performance management tools are developed, work is also ongoing to ensure that all partners have ready access to the tools available and that the data analysis and emerging trends are highlighted and reflected in local action/intervention plans.

## **Safer Streets 4 Bid**

- 17 A bid by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has secured further funding to support interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime - and boost women's safety as part of the fourth round of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.
- 18 In Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre, funding will be used to improve the safety of women and girls, reducing the opportunity of violence and street harassment and increasing women's confidence when using public places.

- 19 Investment will concentrate on key locations within County Durham and Darlington including Stanley and Ferryhill, Peterlee, and lastly Durham City Centre.
- 20 The funding will be spent on a mixture of practical interventions including free home security, CCTV cameras, upgraded street lighting and additional policing resources and diversionary schemes that provide young people with meaningful activities to alleviate boredom and develop their interests and skills to prevent further problems.
- 21 In addition part of the funding will be used to support the continuation of the Safety of Women at Night project which will be extended until September 2023.

### **Review of Mediation Services**

- 22 The PCC commissioned Restorative Hub has ceased to operate as a neighbourhood resolution pathway. This has prompted a review of the future provision of mediation services which have been available to deal with issues such as neighbour disputes, community or familial conflict as a tool for early intervention and an alternative approach to enforcement action.
- 23 We have commenced a short consultation with partners to determine the value and need for mediation services within County Durham.
- 24 A further report on the outcome of the consultation exercise will be presented to SDP and included with the update to SS OSC at a future meeting.

### **Main implications**

#### *Crime and Disorder*

- 25 Information within this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Safe Durham Partnership Plan to reducing crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

### **Conclusion**

- 26 The report provides an opportunity for Members to receive an update on the work of the ASB Strategic Group and feed into the relevant processes.

#### Background papers

- [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

## Other useful documents

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Duty to consider crime and disorder implications.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

Consultation will take place on the developing Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Climate Change**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Information with this report provides an overview of the newly re-established ASB Strategic Group, a sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership and the actions agreed from the discussion items within the agenda to help positively impact on Crime, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour within the County.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.