

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

18 April 2023

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



**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 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

6 At the last meeting of the group on the 13 February 2023 further consideration was given to a number of key areas for action including:-

Governance Arrangements

7 A review of the relevant sub groups currently reporting to the ASB Strategic Group has been completed and the new governance arrangements has been agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) in December 2022.

8 The revised governance arrangements are attached in Appendix 2 for information.

ASB Strategy

9 The final ASB Strategy has now been published on the Safe Durham Partnership website [Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community \(countydurhampartnership.co.uk\)](https://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk).

10 The group are currently developing an action plan to support the implementation of the strategy and outlining key priorities for the year ahead which will be subject to annual review.

11 A further report will be presented to the Committee on completion of the ASB Action Plan for their information.

ASB Data and Performance Management

- 12 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.
- 13 Data dashboards are now available with overlays which are co-terminous with the areas of each of the Multi Agency Problem Solving groups (MAPS). This will enable us to plot ASB incidence within each area and assist in identifying emerging local priorities, hotspot areas and inform action planning.
- 14 Recent changes to national crime recording standards will have an impact on our data collection and monitoring arrangements. There is a likelihood that some ASB incidents will now be recorded as crimes and thereby not categorised as ASB. To ensure that all relevant ASB data is incorporated within our data dashboards we will undertake further work with Durham Constabulary to identify categories of criminal offences which could be included within our ASB dataset to give a more accurate reflection of any incidents where the quality of life issues for our communities are affected.

Review of Mediation Services

- 15 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.
- 16 We have commenced a short consultation with partners to determine the value and need for mediation services within County Durham. Early feedback indicated that the partners felt that this was a valuable service and a useful tool for early intervention and it often can provide a more sustainable solution for all parties concerned.
- 17 It has been agreed that a further period of monitoring over the next 6 months will be undertaken to understand the demands for mediation services and to allow sufficient time to consider how these services could be provided across the partnership thereafter.
- 18 Progress on the review of mediation services will be included within our regular update to the Committee.

Community Trigger

- 19 A review has been undertaken by partners around the three step Community Trigger process as set out below :-
1. Complaint Stage
 2. Case Review
 3. Appeal to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- 20 The Community Trigger process is available to victims of anti-social behaviour who have reported ASB to the local authority, housing provider, or the police, within the last 6 months and who feel that insufficient action has been taken.
- 21 Further information is currently being prepared to provide more guidance on how to access the Community Trigger including public information documents and this will be published on partner web sites and made available in leaflet format.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 22 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

- 23 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

- [Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community \(countydurhampartnership.co.uk\)](https://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk)
- [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

Other useful documents

- None

Appendix 1: Implications

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.

