

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

**7 September 2023**

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



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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 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 Issues**

- 6 At the last meeting of the group on the 10 August 2023 further consideration was given to a number of key issues including:-

### **ASB Durham County Trailblazer Pilots**

- 7 As part of the trailblazer pilot programme, the OPCC has established a steering group and appointed a Policy and Strategy Officer to develop and co-ordinate the ASB Trailblazer Action Plan.
- 8 It is proposed that two operational sub groups will also be established to focus on delivery of key interventions around 'Immediate Justice' and 'ASB Hotspot policing' so that all government expectations are being met.
- 9 The OPCC is required to provide feedback to the Home Office on a monthly basis with progress on the delivery of the trailblazer action plan and partners are being asked to provide updates on interventions by the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month.
- 10 It is envisaged that the trailblazer programme updates will also be reported through to the ASB Strategic Group and Safe Durham Partnership Board in due course.
- 11 Revised governance arrangements around the trailblazer pilot will be presented to the Safe Durham Partnership Board at their meeting next month and further details will be provided to this Committee once these arrangements have been considered and agreed.

## **Durham County ASB Delivery Plan**

- 12 Work is ongoing to consolidate the existing action plans from the various thematic groups around Children & Young People, Arson Suppression / Flytipping as well as ongoing Area Action Plans that have been developed by the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving groups (LMAPS).
- 13 In addition, the emerging ASB Action Plan that is being developed as part of the trailblazer pilot will need to dovetail into our overarching ASB Delivery Plan and ensure that it addresses our local priorities.
- 14 A further gap analysis exercise will be undertaken in the coming weeks to ensure that our ASB Delivery Plan is consistent with the 8 key principles set out within the Durham County ASB Strategy and is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely (SMART).
- 15 Data dashboards will continue to be developed around the ASB delivery Plan and performance will be reported on regular basis through to the SDP Board and this Committee.
- 16 The latest performance update document for the 12 months ending on June 2023 is attached in Appendix 2.
- 17 Whilst overall the number of ASB incidents reported for the same period has significantly reduced (-17.9%), we are seeing significant increases in ASB incidents concerning noise (+31%) and criminal damage / graffiti (+37%) compared to the previous year.
- 18 The following issues remain key priorities for action during the coming year:-
  - Deliberate Fires
  - Criminal Damage
  - Flytipping
  - Noise
  - Intimidation / Harassment / Abuse

### **Case Review**

- 19 Anti-Social Behaviour Case review (formerly known as the Community Trigger) was introduced in 2014 as part of the Anti-Social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. New guidance published by Government in June 2022 – victim centred.
- 20 The process is a three-step ASB resolution process following initial reporting aimed at stopping the anti-social behaviour.

- 21 **Stage 1 – Complaint** – giving the agency the opportunity to stop the anti-social behaviour from happening (where there are one/two previous reports of ASB)
- 22 **Stage 2 – Requesting a Case Review (known as Community Trigger)** The local threshold for case review has been agreed by the local Community Safety Partnerships and the criteria is set where there have been three or more previous reports of Anti-Social Behaviour and the anti-social behaviour is continuing.
- 23 The case review process can be initiated through the PCC website <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/asb-case-review>
- 24 Upon receipt of a case review request, the case will be reviewed within 5 working days to determine the number of qualifying complaints and if the threshold is met, victims will be offered support from the Victims Care and Advice Service, who will be able to guide them through the process.
- 25 An Independent Chair will be appointed to lead a multi-agency case review which will be held within 10 working days after confirmation of the threshold being met. The case review will bring together relevant agencies to take a joined up, problem-solving approach to find a solution.
- 26 During the process victims or their representative(s) will be given the opportunity to attend the opening section of the case review meeting to express your wishes as to what you would like to happen and to ensure all members of the panel understand the level of harm and impact. Alternatively, if they are unable or do not wish to attend the case review they can provide a written statement which will be read out.
- 27 Following the meeting an action plan will be produced (including timescales) and the victim will be provided with a written copy, within 5 working days.
- 28 **Stage 3 – Victims Right to Appeal.** If the victim remains dissatisfied, then they will be given the right of appeal of up to 14 days following the completion of the action plan.
- 29 If the local threshold is not met, consideration will be given to the persistency of the anti-social behaviour, the harm or potential harm caused, and the adequacy of the response from the agencies.
- 30 To support the case review process a campaign ‘Don’t Suffer In Silence’ was launched across County Durham and Darlington to coincide with the National ASB Awareness Week which ran from July 3-9.

- 31 Further information on the Case review process has also been included on partner's websites and supporting literature is also being produced to assist in signposting victims to assist them in reporting incidents to the most appropriate agency.

### **Safer Streets Fund Round 5 (SSFR5)**

- 32 Round 5 of the Safer Streets funding worth £43m, will run for 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025. This round will maintain the same focus as Round 4, aiming to reduce levels of neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG) in public spaces and ASB significantly in disproportionately and persistently affected areas of England and Wales, as well as develop the evidence base to inform future investment and commissioning decisions.
- 33 For the first time, funding will be directly awarded to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) who will be required to submit funding proposals to confirm that they meet the requirements of the Fund.
- 34 Each PCC will be provisionally allocated £1M of funding and, therefore, can apply for up to this amount over the entire delivery period. PCCs may apply for up to £465,000 in financial year 2023/24 and up to £535,000 in financial year 2024/25.
- 35 There is a mandatory 50% matched-funding requirement.
- 36 Only PCCs are eligible to apply for SSFR5; however, as a condition for funding, PCCs should consult the relevant local authority and/or Community Safety Partnership and at least two local or national organisations.
- 37 Work is ongoing across the partnership to identify and consider a range of proposals to be funded through SSFR5 and a further update will be provided to this Committee once the programme has been finalised.

### **Main implications**

#### *Crime and Disorder*

- 38 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**

- 39 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

- [Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community \(countydurhampartnership.co.uk\)](https://countydurhampartnership.co.uk).
- [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**

The ASB Strategic group will continue to engage in consultation on the development of any local strategies and action/delivery plans as well as government proposals around tackling anti social behaviour.

### **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.

## **Appendix 2**

Attached as a separate PDF document