

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

11 December 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 Issues

- 5 At the last meeting of the group on the 8 November 2023 colleagues from Darlington Borough Council were in attendance and further consideration was given to the development of our ASB delivery plan.
- 6 Following on from the publication of the ASB Strategy, the ASB Strategic Group are continuing to develop the local ASB delivery plan to achieve the overarching strategic priorities of the Safer Durham Partnership (SDP) and in particular:-
- Reduce reoffending
 - To support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm.
 - Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.
- 7 Initial work has been undertaken to consolidate existing action plans from the various thematic groups around Children & Young People, Arson Suppression / Fly-tipping as well as ongoing Area Action Plans that have been developed by the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving groups (LMAPS).
- 8 In addition, the emerging ASB delivery plan will also need to reflect the ASB Trailblazer Action Plan that has been developed as part of the Trailblazer Pilot programme. This includes focus on the delivery of key interventions around 'Immediate Justice' and 'ASB Hotspot policing' to ensure the government's expectations as set out in the National ASB Action Plan are being met .

- 9 In order to fully understand how our delivery plan will meet our strategic priorities, the SDP Board have support the adoption of a Theory of Change (TOC) methodology to think through and map out how our activities and interventions could impact and achieve desired outcomes and goals.
- 10 The TOC is a rigorous yet participatory process. As there are no additional resources available to commission this work, the development of the ASB delivery plan will be dependent on existing resources and ongoing commitment from partners to contribute to the TOC exercise over the coming months.
- 11 An ASB workshop has been arranged and will take place on 6 December 2023 involving representatives from the Strategic ASB group and it is envisaged that the draft TOC will then be shared with the Safe Durham Partnership(SDP) in order seek wider views and connect existing strategies that may support and/or connect to the ASB delivery plan.
- 12 An evaluation plan will also be developed to monitor the effectiveness of our actions and key performance indicators will be developed and incorporated into our performance management framework.
- 13 SDP agreed to consider the draft ASB Delivery Plan at their next meeting in January 2024 following which a special session for the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be arranged as part of wider engagement work.
- 14 It is envisaged that final draft ASB Delivery Plan will be presented to the SDP for consideration by the Board in March 2024.

Performance Report

- 15 Following the previous report to the SS OSC, further development work has been undertaken with data dashboards and the latest performance update document for the 12 months ending on September 2023 is attached in Appendix 2.
- 16 Overall the number of ASB incidents reported for the same period has significantly reduced (-11%), and generally we have seen a decrease in the number of incidents reports across all LMAP areas Durham (-10%), East (-16%), North (-10%) and South (-7%).
- 17 We have experienced increased reports in ASB incidents concerning rubbish in gardens and yards, litter and criminal damage.
- 18 The following issues have been identified as key priorities for action during the coming year:-

- Fly-tipping
- Litter
- Rubbish in garden and yards
- Criminal Damage
- Noise
- Deliberate Fires
- Intimidation / Harassment / Abuse

20 Key priorities for action will be shared with ASB partners and as well as informing our ASB delivery plan these will remain a key focus for local multi agency problem solving groups (LMAPS).

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

21 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

22 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

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: Presentation is attached as a separate document
