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SAFE NEWCASTLE PLAN 2023-2026

Tackling crime, protecting communities



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1. Foreword

We have worked hard over many years to improve community safety, tackle offending and to protect and support victims for the residents of Newcastle. However, we are also witnessing changes in crime and anti-social behaviour, with the increasing need to protect the most vulnerable within our communities.

Our ultimate vision is to create a city where communities, businesses and visitors feel safe, feel empowered to contribute and have a voice.

Over the last few years, we have continued to focus on emerging issues. These priorities sit in addition to the vast amount of work that we already deliver across the partnership to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder, support victims and improve community confidence.

Safe Newcastle continues to face the significant task of meeting existing challenges in the context of unprecedented year on year cuts to public services in Newcastle as well as the personal uncertainty for some of our residents. These cuts impact on the work we can deliver to communities, families, and individuals. They present us with difficult choices around demand and how we continue to deliver our services. Nevertheless, they also highlight the importance of partnership working. By working together to tackle key issues we can deliver the best use of limited resources across all agencies and sectors.

Being safe is important to local residents and communities, but it is also key to attracting business investment. Crime is expensive, it impacts on people, businesses, and communities. Crime causes distrust and fear between people and between communities. Victims can be frightened, less confident, incur costs to get damage repaired, property replaced, and it costs to be off work.

By working together, there will be fewer victims of crime and communities that are stronger and more confident. We are pleased therefore to introduce the Safe Newcastle Plan for 2023-26.

Cllr Lesley Storey
Chair

Supt J Pitt
Vice Chair

2. Introduction

Safe Newcastle is required by law to produce a delivery plan. This plan is for 2023-2026.

This plan is aligned to other key plans such as the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan, the Youth Justice Plan, National Drug Strategy, Newcastle Drug and Alcohol Delivery Plan, Counter Terrorism Local Plan and those of our statutory partners. These are Northumbria Police, Newcastle City Council, National Probation Service, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The partnership will continue to work on core business such as tackling and preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, reducing reoffending, supporting victims, keeping neighbourhoods safe and improving community confidence.

The partnership carries out an annual strategic assessment of community safety issues across Newcastle to understand what the key issues are that need to be prioritised. Information from a wide range of sources and partners are analysed to determine priorities and identify the most effective interventions.

Safe Newcastle has considered the findings of the strategic assessment and agreed the following objectives:



3. Demand for Community Safety in Newcastle



On an average day in Newcastle we respond to...

307 separate incidents reported to the police

10 incidents of domestic abuse where children are victims

4 deliberate secondary fires

81 crimes

39 reports of fly tipping



In an average week in Newcastle we respond to...

211 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the police

36 incidents of noise/neighbour disputes

19 Hate crimes

33 presentations to Accident and Emergency suffering assault-related injuries



In an average month in Newcastle we respond to...

476 domestic violence crimes including **10** rape offences recorded by the Police

809 reports of littering and **36** reports of dog fouling

136 reports of graffiti

187 reports of youth-related disorder



Last year in Newcastle there were...

746 domestic abuse victims assessed as high risk at point of initial assessment

259 deliberate primary fires taking place

3542 Alcohol Related crimes

106 Drug Misuse Deaths*

*Registered between 2019 -2021

4. What we will continue doing

Preventing Violent Extremism

We work with partners and communities to reduce the impact of community tensions, identify and prevent extremism. We lead in the Channel Panel Prevent Referral process.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We continue to implement and use a range of ASB Tools and Powers. We run bespoke projects and interventions to tackle issues geographically. We also offer support to victims through the in-house ASB Volunteer Scheme to provide help, guidance and support to victims of ASB.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to review local practice to learn from the experience of victims and their families and to ensure robust and effective processes are in place to safeguard and support people impacted by domestic abuse

Seasonal Campaigns

We manage partnership wide projects throughout the year to minimise the impact of crime and ASB, this includes Darker Nights to help minimize the impact of deliberate secondary fires within Newcastle in the lead up and during the Bonfire period

Violence Against Women & Girls

We continue to develop and deliver a range of projects and programmes to tackle all forms of VAWG, reduce risk, reduce repeat victimisation and ensure support for victims and their children to recover from the impact of their experiences

Domestic Abuse Champions

Safe Newcastle has continued to train Domestic Abuse Champions across a range of Council services and partner agencies to raise awareness and increase the profile of support available

Reduce Reoffending

We know a small group of offenders have a disproportionate effect on victims of crime & disorder. We will continue to work with partners to reduce reoffending and manage the most prolific offenders.

Community Tensions

We will continue to work with partners to identify and manage community tensions at a local and national level. We work with partners to inform local problem solving activity to address emerging tensions in the city and prevent escalation.

Community Safety Funding

We continue to successfully bid for national and local funding to increase local provision linked with reducing crime, preventing violence against women and girls, and supporting victims

Neighbourhood support

We have secured additional funding to ensure that neighbourhood problems are tackled through problem solving which is embedded into our structure and part of everyday working

Tackle Begging

We work closely with our partners to develop a holistic approach to supporting people who beg and take enforcement action when necessary and all support options have failed

Training

We deliver a range of training programmes on violence against women and girls to multi agency practitioners. We also train all registered taxi drivers on how they can identify and support vulnerable passengers

CCTV

Continue to manage both re-deployable and static CCTV across Newcastle, making sure that re-deployable CCTV is placed where needed to tackle issues of crime and ASB

Young people

We work closely with both Safeguarding Children and the Youth Justice Service to prevent young people from becoming offenders and supporting young people who are victims

Cross cutting issues

Continue working closely with safeguarding and other partners to tackle cross cutting issues such as hate crime, human trafficking, modern slavery and drug and alcohol misuse

Hate Crime

We raise awareness of and encourage reporting of hate crime and encourage victims to access support. Effective monitoring of hate incidents is crucial in assessing levels of community tensions and to identify where interventions are needed.

Night Time Economy

We manage a late-night levy scheme which provides additional income that is put back into the late night economy to ensure people are kept safe whilst enjoying a night out including marshalling of taxi ranks and the Shout Up Campaign to tackle sexual harassment.

Reducing fires

We work closely with Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service to gather intelligence on where anti-social fires are being set and put interventions in place to tackle this

5. Strategic Objectives

The objectives identified through the Strategic Assessment are shared with other strategic partnerships in Newcastle, such as the health & wellbeing partnership and local safeguarding partnerships.

Safe Newcastle works closely with these partnerships and there is significant cross over of work within these priorities. Safe Newcastle also collaborates on shared issues, with neighbouring Community Safety Partnerships and with other Core Cities

The specific themes within these objectives are as follows:

Building Safer Neighbourhoods

- Anti-social behaviour
- Problem solving
- Consultation & engagement with residents / businesses
- Preventing offending

Protecting People from Harm

- Harm towards women & girls
- Hate crime and community tensions
- Preventing radicalisation
- Harm from drugs & alcohol

Reducing Violence

- Serious violence
- Domestic abuse
- Youth violence
- Organised crime

Strengthen Leadership Management & Governance

- Building stronger partnerships
- Governance of CSP
- Priority setting and monitoring
- Information sharing and communications