

Derbyshire Community Safety Agreement

2020 – 2024

REFRESH: 2023/24

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FOREWORD

As Chair of the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board (the Board) I am pleased to present the Derbyshire Community Safety Agreement (the Agreement) refresh for 2023/24.

The last few years have brought with them unprecedented challenges for our communities and all the organisations which serve them. Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic has placed extraordinary pressures on our public services and our ability to undertake development work as a Board has been significantly impacted. Despite this, what has remained constant is the unwavering commitment of all partners and stakeholders to work together to meet the demands the last year has brought.

This agreement outlines the Boards priorities and the framework by which we will work. The aim remains the same, to help and support partners to focus their limited resources towards jointly delivering against the partnership priorities.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the incredible work which has been undertaken over the last twelve months and the on-going contribution partners make. Through collaboration we have ensured that priority activity has continued, and that the vital services in place to protect some of the most vulnerable in our communities have been maintained. As we move into 2023-24, we will continue to work together to ensure an effective response to whatever challenges face us.

Councillor Carol Hart
Chair Derbyshire Safer Communities Board

INTRODUCTION

The statutory framework for delivery of community safety activity is primarily set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), as well as the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011. Collectively this legislation specifies the requirement for responsible authorities and co-operating bodies to form partnerships at both a District and County level to address Community Safety issues.

The specified responsible authorities are, all local authorities, police, fire service, the National Probation Service, and the clinical commissioning group. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 saw the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners, and whilst not a responsible authority in legislation, there is a duty of mutual co-operation and they are a key stakeholder.

Within Derbyshire there are eight district-based Community Safety Partnerships - Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, High Peak, North East Derbyshire and South Derbyshire. At a county level the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board provides strategic leadership and direction. The Chairs of each CSP sit on the Board along with senior representatives from each of the responsible authorities and other key stakeholders.

These partnerships are required to undertake an annual assessment and formulate Partnership Plans at a district level and a Community Safety Agreement at a county level to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, and re-offending.

The Community Safety Agreement reflects the national and local priorities and takes full account of the need to plan for and implement for significant legislative changes that impact upon community safety, criminal justice and the wider roles and functions of public, private, and voluntary sector organisations.

CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY SAFETY LANDSCAPE

In recent years there have been many changes both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety.

Changes to Legislation:

- **Domestic Homicide Reviews:** The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect in 2011. In Derbyshire these this has been delegated to the Safer Communities Board, with the County Council leading on their co-ordination. The local protocol has recently been updated and joint a funding arrangement is in place to support their delivery.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy to give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Updated statutory guidance from the Home Office released in December 2017 (further updated in 2021) has brought greater clarity around the use of the tools and powers introduced by the Act.
- **Nationality and Border Act:** The new Act came into force on 28 April 2022 and makes wide changes to the UK asylum system by:
 - introducing a two-tier asylum system, meaning those who arrive in the UK via irregular means may receive less protection and support,
 - increasing the standard of proof for establishing someone is a refugee
 - reducing the threshold at which someone is considered to have committed a particularly serious crime and therefore may not receive refugee protection
 - removing stages of appeal or fast-tracking certain cases
 - introducing penalties for late submission of evidence, so that this is either taken to damage the claimant's credibility or to affect the weight given to the evidence
 - giving the Immigration Tribunal additional powers, on top of those that already exist, to fine lawyers for improper, unreasonable or negligent behaviour
- **Safeguarding:** Between 2014 and 2019 a number of pieces of legislation were introduced to provide authorities with additional tools, powers and statutory duties to tackle community safety and safeguarding issues. These include the Care Act 2014, Counter terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and subsequent amendments in 2019), Serious Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

These pieces of legislation introduced a range of duties including new reporting, referral and decision-making mechanisms, staff awareness requirements and impacts on contract management to be included in the everyday work of relevant organisations. More recently statutory guidance was introduced regarding inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. This legislation intrinsically links the work of the Safer Communities Board and CSP's with that of other strategic boards. Work has been undertaken at a local level to clarify governance arrangements between the boards and to facilitate effective joint working.

- **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):** This came into effect on May 2018 and whilst not solely related to community safety activities, it has resulted in partners reviewing and refreshing their information sharing practices. Continued focus needs to be given to this issue to ensure effective delivery of community safety activity.
- **Domestic Abuse:** The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. In addition, under the Act tier one local authorities (county/unitary authorities) are required to convene a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions. These are to:
 - Assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support.
 - Develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
 - Give effect to strategies by making commissioning / de-commissioning decisions
 - Meet the support needs of victims and their children
 - Monitor and evaluate local delivery
 - Report back to central Government

Statutory guidance was published in October 2021 and tier two authorities have a duty to co-operate with tier one authorities in the implementation of that guidance.

The Act also provides that a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, domestic abuse and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse in their own right.

- **Serious Violence Duty:** Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families, instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014. The Serious Violence Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention and informed by evidence

The Duty covers the requirements set out in Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. It requires specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area. The Duty also requires the specified authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their strategy

- **Delivering Justice for Victims:** Consultation is currently on-going to inform the development of a Victims Bill which will build on the existing Victims Code to substantially improve victims' experiences of the criminal justice system. It will make a tangible difference to ensuring all victims of crime receive the support they need through and beyond the criminal justice process. Within Derbyshire, strong co-commissioning

arrangements are in place for a range of victims' services. These currently take account of the Victims Code and any changes through this legislation will be reflected in commissioning arrangements.

Strategic and Policy Changes;

- **Additional Police Officers:** In July 2019, the then Prime Minister and the Home Secretary announced plans to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers. As at March 2023, 20,951 have been recruited from the Police Uplift Programme which is 16% above the baseline. The current police officer headcount in England and Wales (149,572 officers as at 31 March 2023), is the highest number of police officers on record since comparable records began.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan:** Launched in March 2023, the new plan indicates the government's intention to deal with ASB by treating it with the urgency it deserves, using a zero-tolerance approach and giving police and partners the tools they need to tackle ASB. Under the plan, Derbyshire has been identified as a 'trailblazer area' and allocated additional funding of £4.4m to trial a new 'Immediate Justice' scheme and support additional action in areas of Derbyshire with the highest rates of ASB.
- **Prevent (Counter Terrorism):** The updated Channel Guidance places greater emphasis on the role of Local Authorities and has changed requirements on upper tier local authorities. Furthermore, it outlines the need for clear governance structures to oversee this work. Our Governance structure has been adapted to accommodate this requirement.

The Independent Review of Prevent (IRP) was published in December 2022 with 34 recommendations, all of which will be adopted by the Government, however there is no current timeframe for the required changes to be implemented. The Home Office is currently working to update both the Prevent Duty Guidance and the Channel Guidance following the findings in the IRP.

In December 2022, the government announced that the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill known as 'Martyn's Law' will introduce a tiered model for certain locations depending on the capacity of the premises or event and the activity taking place, to prevent unnecessary burden to business. The legislation will ensure venues are prepared for, and ready to respond in the event of, an attack. Whilst this Bill may not sit within the Prevent Strand it will impact on the work the Prevent undertakes.

- **Sustainability and Transformation Partnership:** The Health and Care Bill 2022 created Integrated Care Boards as replacements for Clinical Commissioning Groups, and established in law the role of Integrated Care Partnerships as the committee where health, social care, the voluntary sector and other partners come together as an Integrated Care System (ICS). In the Derbyshire, the Integrated Care System is known as 'Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD)'.
- **Beating Crime Plan:** This plan sets out the national strategic approach to cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden

harms; and building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. The delivery of this plan links directly into mission eleven of the Levelling Up paper.

- **Levelling Up:** From a community safety perspective, mission eleven within this paper highlights the need to tackle crime, drug abuse and anti-social behaviour and reduce homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime in the worst affected areas by 2030. Derbyshire, along with neighbouring Authorities has been identified as a County Deal Pathfinder area.
- **Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy:** The Violence Against Women's and Girls Strategy was published in November 2021. The Strategy sets out the actions the Government will take to increase support for survivors, bring perpetrators to justice, and, ultimately, reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls. We want to ensure that victims and survivors can be confident they will get the support they deserve, that perpetrators face justice, frontline professionals are supported to work effectively together, and, most importantly, that there is a relentless focus on preventing these crimes from happening in the first place. The strategy outlines expectations on local areas to support delivery.
- **Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services:** This strategic direction represents a shared vision and a shared focus for improvement. NHS England's strategic partners and most importantly, victims and survivors of sexual assault and abuse, It is focussed on six core priorities for delivery;
 - Strengthening the approach to prevention
 - Promoting safeguarding and the safety, protection and welfare of victims and survivors
 - Involving victims and survivors in the development and improvement of services
 - Introducing consistent quality standards
 - Driving collaboration and reducing fragmentation
 - Ensuring an appropriately trained workforce

In May 2023, Derbyshire County Council have agreed to host a partnership post Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategy Officer, this post is funded by NHS England and covers the County and Derby City.

- **From Harm to Hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives:** This Strategy commits the whole of government and our public services to work together and share responsibility for creating a safer, healthier and more productive society. It seeks to utilise existing partnership arrangements, including CSP's to develop a local response. In Derbyshire a new Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership Board has been created to drive this work forward, including a Criminal Justice and Community Safety sub-group.
- **Part Two of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review:** It is proposed that as part of this process there is to be a full review of CSP's to initially improve their transparency, accountability and effectiveness, before assessing their position within the wider landscape of local partnerships across England and Wales. Through this review there will also be a consultation regarding the introduction of a new duty for

CSP's to report on local anti-social behaviour strategy and delivery along with legislation to set out the role of PCC's in the ASB Case Review process.

- **Resettlement and Asylum** -The Resettlement scheme formerly the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Program and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. These schemes provide a safe passage to the UK for those fleeing conflict in countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Since 2022, the remit has expanded to include the Homes for Ukraine scheme and some elements of Asylum Seeker support in relation to contingency and dispersal accommodation for those seeking asylum

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Derbyshire has mature partnership arrangements in place and partners are committed to addressing community safety issues. However, the landscape in which partners operate is continually evolving and over the last two years the Board has acknowledged the need to update structures to meet the changing demand.

In 2017, the Safer Communities Board commissioned a review of its structures which resulted in a formalisation of sub-groups and a clarification of governance arrangements between it, and the other strategic boards within Derbyshire. Following this, the Board undertook a review of local working arrangements and Police carried out an internal review of their partnership work.

Collectively these reviews identified a number of learning points, which can be categorised into three main areas;

Awareness and Engagement

- Awareness of Community Safety structures needs to be increased across partner organisations.
- Need to ensure partners fully commit to the agreed structure and actively engage and participate

Operational Arrangements

- Closer working at an operational level in order to improve collaboration between partners
- Increase engagement at a county level with Police Divisions
- Recognise the need to balance local responses with consistency of service delivery across the force area

Data and Assessment of Risk

- Embed a new approach for the Annual Strategic Assessment, which allows more flexibility to identify new and emerging issues outside the current areas of Risk and Threat
- Rationalise the strategic issues for joint focus, multiple priorities meaning nothing is prioritised
- Improve formal data sharing and analysis to drive business

Over the last two years, national policy and legislative changes (outlined above) have introduced additional statutory requirements and several emerging agendas all of which require a response from community safety partners. These have created a number of competing priorities which has resulted in significant pressure on the capacity of CSP's and the Board. This coupled with a number of serious incidents across the force area and the

significant level of change within the executive leadership of a number of the statutory partners within CSP's, prompted a review of strategic and operational structures and has built upon work undertaken in 2017/18.

The aspiration was to better integrate community safety structures across the City, County and District/Boroughs. The intention was not to dictate CSP arrangements at a local level, but to recognise and support the work that is happening in localities, improving coordination, reducing duplication and ensuring consistency across the whole of Derbyshire.

Thematic priorities

In light of national priorities and new legislation, it has become necessary for the Board to review its partnership arrangements and introduced a new thematic community safety structure. The structure is made up of eight thematic Boards and reflects joint County and City meetings, work is ongoing to finalise the cross-reference reporting methods between all strategic partnerships.

The Board recognises the importance of investment in these priorities and this will be maintained to ensure that performance is sustained and areas identified for further development will continue to be progressed, whereby ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated response. The eight thematic boards are:

- Serious Violence (includes Night-Time Economy)
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation (includes County Lines and Modern Slavery)
- Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (includes Hate Crime and Night-Time Economy)
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Prevent
- Resettlement, Cohesion and Integration
- Online Harm

In delivery of the priorities outlined above, there will be a specific focus on: Prevention and Early Intervention, Data and Information Sharing.

Substance Misuse is also a developmental priority, which has a significant impact on operational delivery of Community Safety but falls under the remit of the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership Board from a governance perspective. To that end, it will be critical that the Board continues to work with the other Strategic Boards to ensure a comprehensive response is achieved.

The diagram below provides an overview of the structure of the thematic boards and the relationship with other strategic boards within the Community Safety structure.

