

2024 - 27

DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY AGREEMENT



Derby & Derbyshire
Safer Communities

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FOREWORD

As Chair of the Derbyshire Safer Communities Board, I am pleased to present the Derbyshire Community Safety Agreement for 2024/25.

The last few years have brought with them unprecedented challenges for our communities and all the organisations which serve them. 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 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 2024-25, 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 Integrated Care Board. 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 Derbyshire 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.

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. There is a local protocol in place 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 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.

- **Online Harms Act:** became law in October 2023 and contains a range of measures intended to improve online safety in the UK, including duties on internet platforms about having systems and processes in place to manage harmful content on their sites, including illegal content. The largest platforms will be regulated by OFCOM, with fines of up to £18m or 10% of company value for serious breaches. Platforms will have to put new features in place to protect users, such as:
 - remove illegal content quickly or prevent it from appearing in the first place, including content promoting self-harm
 - prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content
 - enforce age limits and age-checking measures
 - ensure the risks and dangers posed to children on the largest social media platforms are more transparent, including by publishing risk assessments
 - provide parents and children with clear and accessible ways to report problems online when they do arise

The Act also introduces a number of new offences including:

- Sending Flashing images to a person with epilepsy
 - Cyber-flashing (Sexual Offences Act 2003)
 - False Communications Offences
 - Threatening Communications Offence
 - Encouraging or assisting self-harm
 - Sharing intimate images
- **The Victims and Prisoners Bill:** seeks to strengthen the principles of the Victims' Code by placing them in legislation, including the principle that victims should have the opportunity to make their views heard in the criminal justice process.

Strategic and Policy Changes;

- **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 are being adopted by the Government, and the required changes should be implemented 12 to 18 months from publication. The Home Office has updated both the Prevent Duty Guidance and the Channel Guidance following the findings in the IRP. As a result of the changes to the Prevent Duty we are adapting our processes to ensure compliance with the updated guidance.

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 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 collaboratively. The 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. In response the Board has established new delivery structures to meet the changing demand, with the aspiration to;

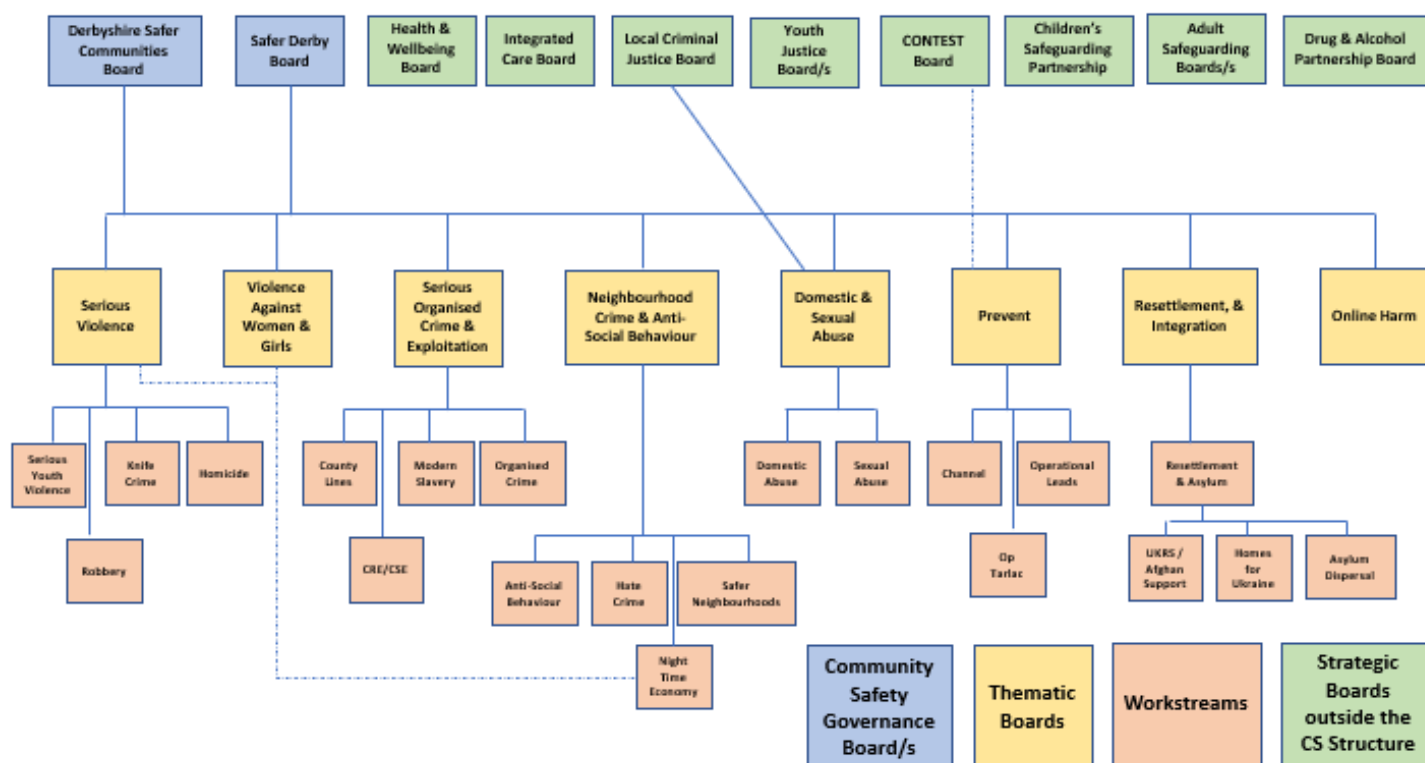
- Better integrate community safety structures across the City, County and District/Boroughs Increase awareness of Community Safety structures across partner organisations.
- Engage partners to actively engage and participate.
- Facilitate closer working at an operational level in order to improve collaboration 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.
- Improve coordination, reduce duplication and ensure consistency across the whole of Derbyshire.
- Consolidate and reflect the 'ask' on the Board to assist in prioritisation.
- Improve formal data sharing and analysis to drive business.

The structure consists of eight Thematic Boards reflecting national, regional and local priorities. These are:

- Serious Violence
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation
- Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Prevent
- Resettlement and Integration
- Online Harm

A number of work streams sit below each of these Boards.

It is acknowledged that the community safety structures sit alongside other statutory strategic partnerships which share a number of priorities. Whilst this does add complexity, there is local commitment to ensure work across these is aligned. The diagram below provides an overview of the structure and the relationship with other strategic boards both within and outside of the Community Safety structure.





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