

Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Plan 2014-17



Introduction

The Sheffield First Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership is the city's Community Safety Partnership with statutory responsibilities established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership has a legal responsibility to produce a plan to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse. The plan must be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Partnership Plan has been developed from the challenges identified in the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, which includes a variety of statistics and other information. This plan covers the period 2014-17. It has been written using the findings from the Partnership's Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessments and has been reviewed in 2015 and 2016 to ensure it remains an accurate description of the Partnership's priorities.

Priorities linking to this Partnership Plan

The Police and Crime Commissioner Plan 2013-17 describes the policing priorities for South Yorkshire and was reviewed in 2016. The overarching aim is that South Yorkshire will be and feel a safe place to live, learn and work.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Priorities are:

- Protecting Vulnerable People:
 - Effective action tackling child sexual exploitation
 - Effective response to new and evolving threats to the most vulnerable people
 - Appropriate response by police and justice services to those suffering mental health issues
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour:
 - Effective action tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending
 - Targeted response to those that cause most harm in the community and intervention with others before they enter the criminal justice system
 - Prioritising the crime and behaviours that cause the most harm in the community
 - Finding the outcomes for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Enabling fair treatment:
 - Planned engagement that seeks public feedback to inform the delivery of policing and crime services
 - Deploying resources to areas of highest demand based on threat, harm and risk
 - Finding ways to understand and address appropriately feelings of safety
 - Services that inspire trust in the general public
 - Recognise staff confidence and morale and adherence to codes of ethics and professional practice as central to delivering an efficient and effective police service

The Sheffield City Strategy, *Sheffield 2020*, key ambitions are:

Distinctive
Inclusive
Sustainable

Successful
Vibrant

Current and Emerging threats

The changing patterns of demand and continuing impact of required savings will mean that partnership working will be of increased importance in the year ahead. It will be a key challenge for the Partnership and its organisations to ensure they can respond to demand for services whilst acknowledging that resources are reduced and structures have changed.

Overall Crime

The overall level of reported crime has remained static over the past year. There have been good reductions in most forms of acquisitive crime. The volume of sexual and violent offences has risen significantly but the increases are in line with trends observed nationally and are mainly attributed to increased levels of reporting and changes and improvements to data recording.

Serious Acquisitive Crime

Despite significant reductions in burglary dwelling in the past year, Sheffield continues to record comparatively high volumes of offences. A three-month partnership operation has achieved a large reduction in offences in Gleadless Valley, which was the worst hit ward in 2014/15. Vehicle crime has continued to reduce, with offences in the city centre falling by a third. The level of personal robbery offences has also reduced.

Other Acquisitive Crime

The level of burglary at premises other than a dwelling have continued to reduce; offences at residential premises (shed and garages) have seen the greatest reduction. Sheffield continues to perform well against comparator areas for burglary other. The volume of shoplifting has increased but this corresponds with trends seen at MSG level and the volume in Sheffield remains in line with the MSG average. The city records above average levels of Theft From the Person but the volume of offences has declined by almost 15% in the last year.

Violence Against the Person

Sheffield has recorded further increases in the level of violent crime over the past year, but these correspond with trends observed elsewhere and the city continues to perform well when measured against comparator areas. Over 20% of violent crime takes place within the city centre; Burngreave ward records a further 9%. Domestic violence services have expanded in 2015-16 thanks to investment from the OPCC and the council, however demand continues to rise. Public order offences have recorded a significant increase in the last year and this trend is expected to continue.

Hate Crime

The volume of recorded Hate crime and incidents has increased by a fifth in the last year, but comparison with similar areas indicates that the rate remains exceptionally low for a city the size of Sheffield.

Serious and Organised Crime, Organised Crime Groups and Urban Street Gangs

Activity relating to organised crime groups (OCGs) and urban street gangs (USG) is evident across South Yorkshire. The Partnership has identified a need to improve information sharing to ensure that appropriate multi-agency disruption and intervention can be carried out.

Sexual Offences and Child Sexual Exploitation

The volume of sexual offences increased significantly in the last year but these increases are consistent with national trends and Sheffield continues to record low levels of offences in relation to comparator areas. The volume of historic offences has increased in the last year but the increase is mainly driven by current offences. Child sexual exploitation remains a priority for both the PCC and SYP; the level of referrals received by the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Team has been higher than the volumes at each of the other South Yorkshire Local Authorities.

Drug Misuse and Offending

The volume of recorded drug related offences has reduced in the past year, which continues the long-term trend of decline. In the last year, Sheffield has seen an increase in the number of people in effective drug treatment. The percentage of opiate users who leave drug treatment successfully is slightly below the national average; for non-opiate users Sheffield is above the average. There is an ongoing issue with the use and sale of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), also known as 'legal highs'; a partnership operation carried out in 2015 was successful at targeting retailers of these substances. Legislative changes will be in place from 1 April 2016 which will make it harder for retailers to sell these substances and should support ongoing work to address the issue.

Alcohol Misuse

Alcohol treatment services are due to be re-tendered during 2016/17, and at present all key targets are on track to be met for 2015/16. The Sheffield Alcohol Strategy for 2016 – 2020 is currently in draft form and will be present to full Cabinet in early 2016. One this has been approved an action plan will be put in place.

Criminal Damage and Arson

Criminal damage and arson offences have been falling for some time, but the rate of reduction appears to have slowed as this year reports a slight increase. Sheffield remains below the MSG average for offences and has the third lowest rate of fire incidents out of the eight Core Cities. The increase have been seen in offences committed against other property (not dwellings or vehicles), and domestic related offences have also increased. The increase in offences during last years 'Dark Nights' period was lower than in previous years which could suggests that targeted partnership interventions are proving effective. SYFR are noticing an increasing trend of arson offences targeted towards individuals, and have recently reported an increase in attacks on fire crews.

The Partnership's priorities in 2016

CRIME:

Hate crime is increasing in Sheffield but the numbers of those reporting it are very low and the ability to interrogate the information we have in order to know more about it, is limited. We are not currently able to make peer comparisons about overall hate crime.

Burglary continues to be a challenge in Sheffield. Although performance has improved and domestic burglary figures have declined, Sheffield remains one of the worst performing areas in its Most Similar Group .

Violent crime has been increasing over the last year, and although much of the increase can be attributed to the improvements to recording practice, there are strong links between violence and many other issues that can have an impact on communities in the city; for example, domestic abuse, organised crime, anti-social behaviour and the night time economy. Sheffield remains below average when compared to its peers but the challenge presented by increasing figures should be monitored.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE:

Those who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons and factors and are at risk of repeat **anti-social behaviour**, those who are experiencing or have experienced **domestic abuse** should be safeguarded against. It is important that we are able to learn from investigations into deaths as a result of domestic abuse. Improvements to the reporting mechanisms and services offered to tackle domestic abuse have made a great difference in the last few years. Continued focus on effective reporting and increasing capacity will ensure vulnerable people receive adequate support and lessons are learnt from domestic homicides in the city and in other areas.

HIGH RISK/HIGH IMPACT:

The risk to the city and its communities by serious and **organised crime** groups is increasing and has strong links with other forms of violent crime, fraud, domestic abuse, modern slavery and the risks to young people on the periphery of this activity of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, gangs and more serious crime.

Child sexual exploitation has a high impact on victims and continues to receive a high level of focus by the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as media interest which has assisted in encouraging historical victims to come forward and report abuse.

There is now a statutory duty for partners to prevent people from becoming involved in or supporting terrorism.

How will the Partnership direct funding in 2016/17?

The Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership can direct a small amount of resource to help to tackle its priorities.

The amount that is available has been reducing year on year since 2010/11, in line with the reductions in budgets seen elsewhere.

In 2016/17, the Partnership budget is £225,000. This is made up of contributions from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Sheffield City Council.

In the face of reducing budgets, effective partnership working becomes essential, and there will be some issues that will have to tackle with little or no additional resource to add to the mainstream services. It is also likely that the discretionary budget will not continue past this year, so Partners will be making preparations to receive no additional funding beyond 2016/17.