

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 03 November 2021

Report Title

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Acting Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer.

Steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In accordance with the requirements laid down within Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, the Safer Rotherham Partnership, presents to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board its 2020/21 Annual Report for scrutiny.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board note the progress of the Safer Rotherham Partnership in tackling crime and disorder and make any recommendations as to the future workings of the Partnership.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

Background Papers

No

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report was presented to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board on Thursday 14th October 2021.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

1. Background

- 1.1 Legal provisions within the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require the Council to scrutinise at least annually the discharge of the functions of statutory agencies in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998. This act creates the requirement for statutory bodies to form a Community Safety Partnership within the local area. In Rotherham this partnership is the Safer Rotherham Partnership.
- 1.2 This report and the attached annual report of the SRP, seeks to provide an opportunity for the Council to scrutinise the activity during the period between March 2020 and April 2021.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 **Covid 19:** The picture of crime and disorder changed as a result of the response to Covid 19, with some crime issues decreasing significantly as a result of lockdown and forced closures of local businesses, in particular the retail and hospitality sector and the night-time economy. However, conversely, there were new and emerging risks and issues presented by the pandemic.
- 2.2 In March 2020 the National Police Chiefs Council issued guidance on changing threats that this pandemic might bring, which included increased domestic abuse and child exploitation. The increasing vulnerability of some within our communities was also identified as a significant risk.
- 2.3 Throughout 2020/21 the partnership continued to address previously agreed key areas for joint working that impact on our communities, retaining focus on protecting vulnerable children and adults, community safety concerns in local neighbourhoods, including anti-social behaviour and hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual offences and serious organised crime.
- 2.4 The Partnership's response to the challenges laid down by the pandemic focussed on those areas of criminality adversely affected by it and this was reflected in the allocation of resources and services.
- 2.5 For 2020/21 the Partnership utilised a total of £118,000.00 allocated to it by the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner which funded eight key projects that supported the Partnerships agreed priorities of:
 - Protecting Vulnerable Children
 - Protecting Vulnerable Adults
 - Building Confident & Cohesive Communities
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Serious and Organised Crime

- 2.6 As highlighted in the attached Annual Report, there was particular emphasis around domestic abuse, tackling hate crime, safeguarding from extremism, modern slavery and mental health.
- 2.7 The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme was a continued success in working with offenders as was Operation Encompass which ensures that schools are notified if a child lives in a household where a domestic abuse incident has occurred so that any wrap around support available from the school is utilised.
- 2.8 Emergency online support for victims of domestic abuse was launched during the pandemic. The Partnership also placed information about how to access help and support at testing and vaccination sites alongside delivering campaigns to support people to access services in places such as shops or pharmacies
- 2.9 Training in respect of Hate Crime and Safeguarding from Extremism continued throughout the period. Raising awareness of risks is key to safeguarding people who may be vulnerable to becoming drawn into extremism and terrorism. A total of 366 learners across a range of partners attended additional online Prevent training over the year. This enhanced the training offer provided by each Prevent partner organisation, as required by the Prevent Duty.
- 2.10 Work continued to raise public confidence and awareness to report hate crime, improve response, and tackle the drivers of hate in communities. Hate crimes and incidents in Rotherham increased by 19% in 2020-21 compared to the previous year. The rise is attributed to the impact of Covid with an increase in hate crimes related to neighbour disputes and online hate and greater public awareness about reporting hate crime.
- 2.11 'Remedi' (restorative justice organisation) delivered hate crime awareness workshops to over 1000 young people in schools, colleges or online in 2020-21 and also worked one to one with 25 young people who had been involved in or at risk of being involved in hate crime as perpetrators.
- 2.12 Mental health –The mental health clinical specialist within the co-located Safer Neighbourhood Team has made 432 mental health support interventions from April 2020 to March 2021. This initiative has significantly improved responses to individuals with complex needs whilst supporting other agencies.
- 2.13 Preventing Modern Slavery, 'mate crime' and 'cuckooing' - Awareness raising to increase referrals and safeguard victims resulted in 22 modern slavery referrals to the National Referral Mechanism in 2020/21. During the period 13 Council officers were trained as Single Points of Contact (SPOC's) making us far better equipped to identify and respond to cases of modern slavery and human trafficking.

2.14 Preventing offending - During 2020/21 the Safer Rotherham Partnership developed its focus towards reducing offending of high frequency offenders. Throughout the year the partnership managed a total of 58 high frequency service user cases. Over the year, crimes committed by the managed users reduced significantly.

2.15 The current priorities of the Safer Rotherham Partnership will remain its focus throughout 2021/22 so that it can continue to strengthen partnerships and ensure that services are working better together.

2.16 As 2021/22 is the final year of the current Partnership Plan, the Safer Rotherham Partnership has already embarked upon the process of identifying and agreeing its crime and disorder priorities for the three years commencing 2022/23.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 As this report is presented to meet legal requirements no alternative options have been considered.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Annual Report was presented to and approved by, the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board at its meeting on Thursday 14th October 2021.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications associated with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no direct implications associated with the presentation of this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications associated with the presentation of this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications associated with the presentation of this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no direct implications associated with the presentation of this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The production of this report for scrutiny ensures that the minimum legal requirements are met.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Steve Parry – Community Safety Officer.

Report Author: *Steve Parry*
Steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk

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