

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 13 November 2024

Report Title

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Annual Report 2023-24

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, annual scrutiny is required of decisions made and actions taken by responsible authorities in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions. The SRP annual report 2023-24 is presented to assist with this requirement.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board notes the progress of the Safer Rotherham Partnership in tackling crime and disorder in 2023-24 against its key priorities and makes recommendations in relation to the current and future work of the partnership.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Safer Rotherham Partnership annual report 2023-24

Background Papers

[Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-2025](#)

[Safer Rotherham Partnership annual report 2022-23](#) reported to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 11 October 2023

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

The annual report was presented to and agreed by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board on 5 September 2024.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report 2023-24

1. Background

1.1 The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Responsible authorities have a duty to work together to protect their local communities and help people feel safer. They work out how to deal with crime and local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. They assess local crime priorities annually, consulting with partners and the local community about their priorities and monitor progress in achieving them. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:

- Probation Service
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- South Yorkshire Police

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Voluntary Action Rotherham and Victim Support are also represented at SRP Board meetings.

1.2 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires the Local Authority to ensure that it has a committee with power to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendation to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, require this committee to meet annually. The SRP annual report is presented to assist the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in meeting this annual statutory requirement.

2. Key Issues

2.1 How the SRP Plan and Priorities for 2022-25 were agreed

2.2 The overarching priorities referred to in the annual report were agreed by the SRP Board on 7 April 2022, following an enhanced assessment and consultation process to develop 3-year priorities from 2022 to 2025. This included a comprehensive review of Police and partner data and information; wide ranging consultation; use of the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) tool to assess risks; and workshops with strategic leads and professionals with relevant expertise. The Plan was subsequently endorsed by Cabinet on 20 September 2022 and approved at the full Council meeting on 5 October 2022.

2.3 SRP Priorities and Objective Areas for 2022-25

2.4 The SRP Board agreed four overarching priorities that are contained within the SRP Plan 2022-2025. These were: Protecting Vulnerable Children; Protecting Vulnerable Adults; Safer Stronger Communities; Protecting People

from Violence and Organised Crime. The priorities and objective areas were agreed in accordance with the overall SRP vision statement – *Working together to make Rotherham safe, to keep Rotherham safe and to ensure the communities of Rotherham feel safe.*

2.5 Annual review of priorities

2.6 The SRP has conducted annual reviews of the plan and priorities, informed by assessments of high-risk crime and community safety related threats and areas presenting an increasing or changing risk level. Annual reviews have led to the original priorities being retained throughout the life of the plan with changes made to objective areas and performance indicators to address changing risks and threats.

2.7 Table 1 below shows the objective areas under each priority which provided the focus for action in 2023-24.

2.8 Table 1 - SRP priorities and commitments 2023-24

Protecting Vulnerable Children

Our commitments

Objective area:	We will:
Child Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of the potential signs of neglect and child abuse through training and awareness raising with partners. • Raise awareness with the public around the signs of early abuse and mechanisms for reporting.
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of CCE and CSE, reporting and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising. • Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of CSE and CCE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes. • Increase understanding of CSE and CCE, how it affects our communities and how our actions as a partnership improve the lives of children. • Develop and promote training and awareness for professionals and parents/carers to better understand online abuse and exploitation (<i>links with online safety objective areas under safer stronger communities</i>).

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

Our commitments

Objective area:	We will:
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Substance misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase engagement and positive outcomes from substance misuse treatment services for offenders within the criminal justice system. • Increase understanding and awareness of substance misuse issues, harm minimisation techniques and the referral pathways for staff within the criminal justice system. • Support the Combatting Drugs Partnership Action Plan.
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the use and impact of mental health treatment requirements in the criminal justice system. • Review dual diagnosis pathways to support service users with mental health and alcohol/ drug use treatment needs.
Modern slavery and Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of modern slavery through training and awareness raising with partners. • Raise awareness around the signs of modern slavery and mechanisms for reporting.

Safer and Stronger Communities

Our commitments

Objective area:	We will:
Making communities safer – tackling community safety priority locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and evaluate the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods, including thresholds and methodology for partnership activity. • Seek appropriate external funding opportunities and support and participate in partnership bids to secure additional funding for activity in the borough.
Preventing hate crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the use of education and engagement to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate. • Improve victims' experiences of reporting hate crime and incidents.
Online crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore innovative ways in which partners and the public can be educated around online safety and digital technologies and develop engagement with young people, families and older people.

Protecting people from violence and organised crime

Our commitments

Objective area:	We will:
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Domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor domestic abuse services, in line with the partnership strategy to improve outcomes for victims. • Ensure all those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support. • Improve the use of criminal justice measures to better protect victims and tackle perpetrator behaviour.
Sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and refresh the sexual abuse delivery plan, focussing on victim engagement. • Improve timely reporting of sexual offences to increase forensic opportunities.
Male violence against women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce male violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators. • Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety.
Serious violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ways out for those already entrenched in violence, or who have been previously incarcerated to support effective rehabilitation. • Reduce violence through victim identification, care and support programmes. • Reduce availability and access to lethal weapons • Work to change cultural and social norms that support violence. • Encourage all professionals and organisations to continue to work towards becoming trauma-informed, to an approved standard for South Yorkshire.
Organised crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and implement a whole system partnership approach to tackling organised crime. • Prevent individuals and emerging groups from becoming involved in organised crime. • Build stronger information sharing structures between partners and communities. • Target our partnership approach to those causing the highest harm to individuals and groups in our communities. • Disrupt organised crime via a partnership approach, utilising the national Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare framework.

Counter terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk of terrorism by taking a partnership approach to the Prevent, Protect and Prepare workstreams of the UK Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy • Achieve compliance with the Channel and Prevent duties, (under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) and Protect and Prepare (Martyn’s law) forthcoming duties demonstrated through self-assessment using Home Office toolkits
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2.9 Annual report content

2.10 The annual report (at appendix 1) provides an overview of the achievements and progress made in 2023-24, along with current and emerging challenges. Data and case studies are included to illustrate key issues and areas of work. Next steps are included for each priority, as are the areas of focus for 2024-2025, as agreed by the SRP Board following the 2024 annual review. The annual report also provides an overview of how SRP partners have sought to maximise available funding and resources through collaborative working, joint commissioning and pooling resources of multi-agency partners and services.

2.11 Governance and performance management

2.12 SRP governance processes ensure robust performance management of the priorities. Each objective area has a set of performance indicators that enable progress to be tracked. Monitoring is carried out by designated priority strategic leads who attend the SRP Board and are supported by partnership priority groups and designated RMBC Community Safety Officers. The priority strategic leads present a quarterly performance dashboard to the SRP Board, covering what is working well, current challenges and next steps for their priority area. Ensuing discussions allow for challenge by the wider Board members and discussion around any remedial action required. The process also provides assurance to the Board of progress.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is presented to assist with meeting statutory requirements for the review and scrutiny of crime and disorder functions by the responsible authorities, therefore no alternative options have been considered

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The SRP Annual Report 2023-24 was presented to, and approved by, the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board at its meeting on 5 September 2024.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not applicable

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 When delivering their services day to day, the organisations that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership allocate considerable resources each year to community safety priorities. Under the leadership of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board, partners are able to work together to maximise the use of available resources. This is achieved through collaborative working, joint commissioning and pooling resources of multi-agency partners and services. Examples of successful collaborative working are included within the SRP Annual Report 2023-2024.
- 6.2 In 2023-2024, the SRP secured external funding for additional services and activities to tackle community safety priorities. This included £163,063 Community Safety Funding, £78,265 Domestic Abuse Core Funding and £35,000 domestic abuse target hardening intervention funding awarded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire. In addition, the Council was awarded £632,075 Domestic Abuse Duty Funding by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and £109,084 Home Office Safer Streets 5 funding.
- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 the Local Authority is required to ensure that it has a committee with power to review and scrutinise decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendation to the Local Authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.
- 7.2 As set out within the body of the report The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 complements the Act and requires the committee to meet annually as a minimum. This a statutory requirement and to satisfy the duty, this is currently undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Protecting vulnerable children and protecting vulnerable adults were adopted as continuing priorities by the Safer Rotherham Partnership from 2022-2025. The Annual Report 2023-2024 shows how the partnership has worked to achieve the SRP Plan 2022-25 priorities and address crime and community safety risks, threats and vulnerabilities relating to children and vulnerable adults. Delivery plans, governance structures and performance management

are in place for both the Protecting Vulnerable Children and Protecting Vulnerable Adults priorities.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The SRP Plan 2022-2025 identifies and puts in place actions that protect the most vulnerable people and communities within the Borough. The key priorities: Protecting Vulnerable Children; Protecting Vulnerable Adults; Safer Stronger Communities; and Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime, are fully inclusive of Equality Act protected characteristic groups. Objectives, action plans and performance measurements against each priority are monitored on a quarterly basis by the relevant SRP priority groups and a quarterly performance dashboard is presented to the SRP Board. Where possible and relevant, performance measurements are disaggregated to identify any differential impact on protected characteristic groups so that underlying causes can be investigated further. This enables mitigating action to be taken where necessary. Engagement, consultation and customer satisfaction survey opportunities help partners take account of service user voices and experiences. Annual reviews of crime data are carried out in relation to each priority and demographic information is analysed in relation to victims and offenders across the various crime types, which also helps inform priorities and actions. Care is also taken to ensure awareness campaigns use inclusive imagery. Actions taken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership to tackle discrimination and harassment, advance equal opportunities and foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not, are reflected throughout the SRP annual report 2023-2024.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct CO₂ Emissions implications associated with this report. A Carbon Impact Assessment was undertaken during the development of the SRP Plan 2022-2025. As the SRP coordinates existing partner activity and resources, there were no specific impacts identified related to the SRP Plan 2022-25

11.2 Climate change is an aggravating factor which affects dimensions of community safety. Climate change is a driver of modern slavery, with links to child sexual exploitation and organised crime. Human trafficking for forced labour and sexual exploitation in the wake of natural disasters is well documented, as people who are displaced or forced to migrate lose their livelihoods and social ties in their communities: children may be separated from their parents, sold into indentured labour or forced into marriage. Human trafficking in the UK is connected to global networks of exploitation and organised crime. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of natural disasters, their far-reaching impacts will be felt in Rotherham, as elsewhere.

11.3 Albeit there are no direct implications for carbon emissions from the SRP Annual Report 2023-24, actions and emerging challenges described in the report have their own carbon impacts. Understanding the links between

community safety and climate change can maximise opportunities to deliver 'co-benefits' which address both these strategic priorities. Operation Grow, launched in 2021 to tackle domestic cannabis production after power outages in Rotherham were attributed to illegal electricity connections, may be an exemplar in this respect, with direct environmental benefits arising from action to disrupt organised crime.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no direct implications for partners associated with this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The production of this report for scrutiny ensures that legal requirements are met under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009,

14. Accountable Officer(s)

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).