

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 05 October 2022

Report Title

Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Carol Adamson, Community Safety Service Manager
07919 302 448 carol.adamson@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), of which the Council is a key statutory partner, has agreed a new Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan setting out priorities and commitments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. The Plan has been endorsed by Cabinet and is recommended to Council for approval.

The Plan will guide the partnership in delivering work to protect vulnerable children and adults, build safer and stronger communities and protect people from violence and organised crime.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has used an evidence-based approach to agree the new priorities, drawing on analysis of partnership crime and community safety data and the outcomes of a comprehensive programme of consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders, including people who live, visit or work in Rotherham.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan at its meeting on 14th September 2022 and recommended that officers ensure wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics. This recommendation was adopted by Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday 20th September 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Council approves the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25.
2. That Council notes the requirement for scrutiny of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report, which is discharged by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)
[Rotherham Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 19 September 2022

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25

1. Background

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to prepare an annual strategic assessment to identify community safety priorities across the local area, develop a partnership plan and co-ordinate activities to address the priorities. There is also a requirement to consult and engage with communities, ensuring their views are taken into account when identifying local priorities.
- 1.2 A comprehensive and enhanced review process commenced from May 2021 to inform new priorities and a new SRP Plan from 2022 to 2025. The enhanced review process included the use of the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) thematic tool, which is used widely by Police and community safety partnerships. It enables a range of strategic issues to be assessed in a structured and consistent way, using a quantitative evidence base and detailed information about current and emerging trends of crime and disorder affecting communities within the Borough. The information is derived from a range of sources including South Yorkshire Police data, data provided by Partners, open-source research, national publications and information from key stakeholders. There are four component parts of the MoRiLE assessment – Impact and Harm (physical/psychological/financial); Likelihood (scale/tends); Confidence (data reliability); and Organisational Position (resources and external factors such as public expectations).

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and priorities for 2022-2025 were agreed by the SRP Board on 7 April 2022 in accordance with the outcomes of the MoRiLE assessments described above and taking into account the outcomes of consultation.
- 2.2 Objective areas under each priority respond to the key risks identified through the MoRiLE assessments. Commitments under each objective area identify where the SRP can provide additional activities by partnership working and sharing resources, over and above the priorities and responses in place within mainstream services and individual agencies. The commitments take into account wider partner and community priorities for action, identified through consultation. The priorities, objective areas and commitments are:
 - 2.3 **Protecting Vulnerable Children**
 - **Child Abuse**
 - 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)**
 - Increase understanding of CCE, 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 CCE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes.
- 2.4
 - **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
 - Increase understanding of 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 ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes.
- 2.5
 - **Protecting Vulnerable Adults**
 - **Substance misuse**
 - Increase engagement and positive outcomes from substance misuse treatment services for offenders within the criminal justice system.
 - **Mental health**
 - 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 who are involved in the criminal justice system.
 - **Modern slavery and Human Trafficking**
 - Increase understanding of the potential signs of modern slavery through training and awareness raising with partners.
 - Raise awareness with the public around the signs of modern slavery and mechanisms for reporting.
- 2.6
 - **Safer and Stronger Communities**
 - **Making communities safer – tackling community safety priority locations**
 - Review and refresh the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods, including thresholds and methodology for partnership activity.
 - **Preventing hate crime**
 - 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**
 - 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.
 - Identify best practice in embedding online activity within service user assessments.

Protecting people from violence and organised crime

- **Domestic abuse**
 - Transform 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.
- **Sexual abuse**
 - 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**
 - 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**
 - 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 toward becoming trauma-informed, to an approved standard for South Yorkshire.
- **Organised crime**
 - Proactively 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 in our communities.
 - Disrupt organised crime via a partnership approach, utilising the Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare framework.
- **Counter terrorism:**
 - 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, Prevent, Protect and Prepare duties (under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) demonstrated through self-assessment using Home Office toolkits.

- 2.8 SRP Board level strategic leads are in place to lead and oversee the development and implementation of delivery plans and performance management reports for each priority. Quarterly performance reports will be monitored by the SRP Board. Annual reports will provide updates on progress to wider stakeholders.
- 2.9 The commitments and objectives within each strategic priority and the associated actions plans and performance measures will be reviewed annually by the SRP Board. The review will be based on an annual crime audit and consist of a broad evidential review of Police and partner data, robust risk assessment process and consultation with stakeholders. The annual review process will ensure the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25 remains fit for purpose with meaningful objectives and performance indicators in place to deliver and measure progress and improvements.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The production of a strategy for reducing crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and reducing reoffending is a statutory requirement of responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As a result, no alternative options were considered. In relation to the focus and priority areas, these have been developed as a result of extensive engagement and learning from both service users and professionals, and subject to partner and public consultation.
- 3.2 The plan has been endorsed by Cabinet who have recommended it to Council for approval. The Plan notes that annual delivery plans and quarterly performance reports will be produced by strategic theme leads and delivery groups and monitored by the SRP Board.
- 3.3 In addition to the role of the SRP Board in delivering monitoring and oversight, The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, creates the requirement for at least annual scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership. In Rotherham this is discharged annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, formally sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee, which reviews the annual report of the Partnership.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Wide and inclusive consultation has taken place in order to take into account the views, needs and expectations of stakeholders. SRP partner agency consultation and data gathering took place from 14 June 2021 and continued until the final draft strategy was circulated to SRP Board members prior to their meeting on 7 April 2022 and the plan was finalised and agreed. The wider stakeholder, elected member and public consultation on the proposed priorities ran from 7 February 2022 to 24 March 2022.

Representatives from SRP partner agencies and relevant Council services were involved in the comprehensive risk assessment and data analysis stages to identify priorities. Relevant partner data was assessed alongside South Yorkshire Police data using the Management of Risk Assessment in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) tool.

4.2 Stakeholders consulted include:

- Safer Rotherham Partnership Partner organisations
- Strategic leaders and other partnership boards (Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, Strategic Housing Forum, Business Growth Board)
- Elected Members
- Community representative organisations and community members – geographic and diverse community of interest groups (e.g. older people, young people, BAME, faith, women, men, LGBT+, disabled people, parish councils and outcomes of ward plan and council plan consultations)
- Business community
- General public (online consultation).

4.3 The purpose of the consultation was to:

- Confirm the proposed overarching priorities for 2022-25
- Identify the types of partnership responses that are most important to stakeholders under each priority
- Identify any important community safety issues not addressed by the proposed priorities.

4.4 Methodologies included online consultation, attendance at partner meetings and community focus groups. The consultation was published via partner communication channels, including online, social media and newsletters.

4.5 Detailed outcomes of the consultation are available. A summary is below:

4.6 The online survey identified that the most important actions the public wanted to see were to:

1. Increase prevention and early intervention initiatives
2. Improve support services for victims and families
3. Take action to disrupt potential offenders

4.7 Analysis of the survey outcomes by protected characteristic groups was consistent with the overall outcomes as above. There were some differences:

- Women and young people placed more importance on support services to increase confidence in reporting neighbourhood crime
- People from ethnic minority groups placed more importance on understanding crimes from the victim's perspective
- Older people placed more importance on training staff to spot signs of abuse and crime and reporting it swiftly
- People from ethnic minority groups placed more importance on public awareness campaigns about child abuse and exploitation

- Males were generally more supportive than other groups of understanding why offenders commit crimes
- 4.8 Focus groups held from January to March 2022 with protected characteristic groups provided more detailed qualitative information that confirmed the key priorities and will be used to inform the development of delivery plans.
- 4.9 In relation to geographic communities, the outcome of Ward Plan consultations which took place in summer 2021 were analysed. Common themes related to community safety included in ward priorities were:
- Locality based partnership action to tackle crime and ASB
 - Preventative action (encouraging reporting and projects to tackle root causes of problems)
 - Road safety
 - Environmental – fly tipping, litter
- 4.10 During discussion within Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, members challenged the breadth of the consultation and asked that officers review future plan to ensure they are as inclusive as possible and take consideration of issues such as rural communities. This resulted in an additional recommendation as follows:
- That wider engagement takes place to inform future and refreshed plans, including rural communities, disabled people, minority ethnic communities and those with other protected characteristics.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Actions supporting each SRP priority were implemented from 1 April 2022. Delivery is being monitored through a quarterly performance dashboard to the SRP Board who are overseeing delivery of the plan. The annual report of the Safer Rotherham Partnership will be subject to scrutiny as described in section 3.3.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications as a result of the recommendations detailed in this report. However, any identified need for the Council to procure goods, services or works in relation to achieving the plan should be referred to the Corporate Procurement Service. This will ensure all projects are procured in line with both the relevant internal financial and procurement procedure rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended), and that social value commitments are secured.
- 6.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership has received revenue grant funding of £120k in 2022/23 from the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, which is hosted by the Council, in order to deliver the priorities set out in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Community Safety Partnerships were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the responsible authorities that are party to a Community Safety Partnership are required to formulate and implement:
- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
 - (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
 - (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.
- 7.2 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a Community Safety Partnership and require:
- (a) A partnership plan for the local government area, setting out the Community Safety Partnership's priorities;
 - (b) A county level community safety agreement, setting out the ways the responsible authorities in the county might work more effectively to implement the identified priorities by joint working.
- 7.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the local policing bodies and the responsible authorities to have regard for each other's priorities and objectives and requires cooperation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 7.4 Further Regulations introduced in 2012 (The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2012) require information sharing and provide power to the Police and Crime Commissioners to require the attendance of the responsible authorities at a meeting to assist in the formulation and implementation of strategies relating to the local government area.
- 7.5 The Community Safety Partnership is required to produce and implement a plan setting out its priorities. Failing to do so would be a breach of its statutory duty under the above-mentioned legislation. The implementation of the plan should ensure that all other statutory duties are met, where they exist.
- 7.6 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. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, require this committee to meet annually. 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 this report

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Protecting vulnerable children and protecting vulnerable adults have been adopted as continuing priorities by the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The SRP Plan 2022-25 sets out information about crime and community safety risks, threats and vulnerabilities relating to children and vulnerable adults and the priorities and commitments to address them. Delivery plans, governance structures and performance management is in place for both the Protecting Vulnerable Children and Protecting Vulnerable Adults priorities.

- 9.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership works closely with the relevant strategic partnerships in Rotherham, including the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Health and Well-Being Board. Where delivery overlaps, officers will ensure the relevant consultation and where possible, joint delivery takes place. The relationship between the partnerships is supported by the Safeguarding Joint Protocol, which is an agreement across the Strategic Partnerships.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to support the development of the SRP Plan 2022-25 and is included at Appendix 2. The report shows how crime and community safety risks were assessed through data analysis, taking into account victim and offender demographic information. It also describes the consultation process that took place with multiple stakeholders including Equality Act 2010 protected characteristic groups. The Safer Rotherham Partnership plan meets the needs of different communities and groups by driving action to achieve its key priorities which are fully inclusive of protected characteristic groups. It identifies and puts in place actions to protect the most vulnerable people and communities within the Borough. By addressing the crime and community safety issues impacting Rotherham's diverse communities, the policy is designed to promote equality and good community relations.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken which is included at Appendix 3. The SRP coordinates existing partner activity and resources, therefore no specific impacts have been identified related to the SRP Plan 2022-25.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are wide-ranging implications for partners, who have been involved throughout the process of developing the SRP Plan 2022-25. The plan sets out how the Safer Rotherham Partnership (which is the borough's

Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) will achieve the duties of the responsible authorities to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:

- Probation Service
- Clinical Commissioning Group (now South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board)
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police

12.2 Voluntary Action Rotherham is an additional SRP member, representing and promoting the role of the voluntary and community sector. The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire is also represented at Board meetings, helping to join up work on local priorities with the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

12.3 All the above partners are involved in the SRP Plan delivery and governance structures.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks primarily relate to capacity to deliver strategic intentions and uncertainty about the availability of external funding for specific initiatives, for example, Government funding for Domestic Abuse and the Police and Crime Commissioner community safety grant funding, which are notified year on year. The Safer Rotherham Partnership is able to facilitate the involvement of mainstream services, across a variety of partners, in work to achieve Safer Rotherham Partnership priorities and outcomes. Opportunities are therefore sought through partnership meetings and structures to seek opportunities for better collaborative working and pooling of resources.

Accountable Officer(s)

Sam Barstow, Interim Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene.

Emma Ellis, Interim Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Report Author: Carol Adamson, Community Safety Service Manager

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