



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME LOCAL POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2020 - 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Partnership formed as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory duty on the statutory partners; Police, Borough Council, County Council, Health, Probation Trust and Fire Authority, to work together in order to develop and implement a community safety strategy designed to reduce crime and disorder within their area. The Partnership actively engages with a variety of other partners from the private, voluntary and community sectors in order to achieve a truly collaborative, community-based multi-agency approach.

The Partnership aims to deliver two overarching priorities, which are: tackling vulnerability and enhancing economic growth. Partners have committed locally to work towards achieving the key objectives of improving People's lives; improving the Places in which we live, work and visit and enhancing the opportunities for creating Prosperity in the Borough. In order to achieve delivery of 'tackling vulnerability', the Partnership aims to work together to reduce crime and the fear of crime and also to address risk, threat and harm to victims and our communities.

As a Partnership we are working to encourage and empower more resilient, supported and confident communities; contribute to a safer, healthier and more sustainable Borough and in turn create increased opportunities for our residents, visitors and businesses.

The Partnership is required to have three-year Community Safety Plan, which is refreshed annually. This Plan sets out the priorities for the period 2020 – 23, based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues. Each year, the Partnership prepares a Strategic Assessment to assist in revising the plan and the community safety priorities for the Borough. The assessment includes; an analysis of the types and levels of crime, including identifying communities at greatest risk; changes in crime since the last assessment and additional challenges; views from partners and the community on matters that need to be prioritised and recommendations.

Staffordshire Commissioner's Office has set out their priorities of early intervention and prevention; supporting victims and witnesses; managing offenders and public confidence in their strategic plan 'Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire' and the Partnership is required to consider how the local Plan will also contribute to these priorities.



WHAT WE KNOW

Newcastle has a population of around 129,000 people. Levels of overall deprivation here are broadly in line with the rest of Staffordshire but there are pockets of considerable deprivation – with some areas ranking in the top 10% nationally. Average earnings are lower than national average and there is a higher younger population than elsewhere in the County. The Borough has a mix of rural fringe communities and urban and suburban areas.

Partnership working in Newcastle-under-Lyme is effective and we are proud of it. It is essential in improving outcomes and opportunities for our communities and ensuring that our collective resources are used efficiently and effectively. We continue to challenge the way in which the public sector has operated previously to initiate change. We recognise that in many cases we can deliver solutions by bringing together the skills and experience from existing partner organisations without always needing additional money or resources.

We are aware of the challenges we face – not least financially – but we aim to remain focused on the work we want to do and will continue to seek to deliver, but also be mindful of how our work is impacting on the Borough as a whole linked to the delivery of complimentary strategies.

Against a backdrop of significant welfare reform and the challenges of financial exclusion, it is inevitable that some of our more vulnerable residents, particularly those in our more deprived communities, may be at an increased risk of experiencing socio-economic hardship and unhealthy lifestyles.

OUR PRIORITIES

While Newcastle has seen some improvements in key quality of life indicators in recent years, there are still a number of areas where families and communities face multiple issues such as unemployment, low income, low qualifications, poor housing, social isolation and ill-health. With this in mind, the Strategic Assessment has identified the following priorities;

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and Public Place Violence (PPV)

We are committed as a Partnership, to reducing ASB and PPV and it continues to be a priority to improve the quality of life for local people and reduce fear of crime within our communities. We are also keen to promote understanding, tolerance and respect and to encourage residents to resolve issues themselves wherever possible. We recognise that PPV in our town centre is above average in the County. We will continue to work together to focus on early intervention and prevention, including commissioning diversionary activity but where problems escalate into more serious and wide spread issues, the Partnership will provide a timely and proactive response using the most appropriate enforcement powers.

County Lines

We know that drugs make their way into Newcastle from other areas. There are number of 'hotspot' areas across the Borough where drug possession and misuse are a major concern. It is recognised that drug use can be a factor in the commission of other crimes such as acquisitive crime and violence and that young males in disadvantaged communities and adults with drug or alcohol dependency are particularly at risk of being criminally exploited. We will continue to work as a Partnership to engage with young people to raise awareness of the issues and to share information and intelligence to disrupt this activity at every opportunity using the most appropriate powers.

Domestic Abuse

We understand that over half of domestic abuse incidents are unreported, meaning that many victims suffer in silence and continue to be at risk of significant harm. Domestic abuse also has a wider negative impact where children are present in the household, along with a substantial number of young people who are in their own abusive relationships. Newcastle has seen a significant upward trend in reports of domestic abuse over the past few years, following campaigns to raise awareness with the public and professionals. Whilst an increase in reported incidents can be considered positive because more victims feel confident in coming forward, there is a significant impact on public services and their capacity to manage the issue. We will therefore continue to develop our practices to de-escalate risk, reduce repeat demand and providing additional support for vulnerable victims and their families.

Fraud

Fraud is a growing issue in Staffordshire and we know that in Newcastle, our older people in our more affluent communities, who may be socially isolated and spending time at home, are likely to be most affected. Fraud is becoming more sophisticated and organised and often occurs without face to face contact. We will ensure that we work together to raise awareness of these issues through proactive communication and campaigns with other County wide partners.

Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding (including mental health and substance misuse)

We recognise that mental ill-health and the misuse of drugs and alcohol are key risk factors for offending behaviour and is a cross cutting issue throughout all of our priorities. We know that the effects of drugs and alcohol misuse have a detrimental effect on mental health. Hospital admissions in the Borough relating to both mental health conditions and alcohol-related harm are both significantly higher than the County averages. We also know that adults with drug and/or alcohol dependency may be vulnerable and at risk of being exploited, particularly those living independently but who are socially isolated. We will work together to develop our practices to contribute to de-escalating risk, reducing repeat demand and providing support to those in need.

Criminal Exploitation of Children and Adults is often hidden but we know that it exists in Newcastle. Young people who have been placed in care, or excluded from school, are particularly at risk due to unstable and often limited social and other support networks. This has a devastating impact on its victims, their families and the wider community, so it will always be a high priority for the Partnership. We are working hard to gather intelligence in order to be sure that we are aware of the prime risk locations, victims and offenders in the Borough. We will work together to engage with young people to raise awareness of the issues and to focus on prevention and early intervention. We will continue to share information and intelligence to disrupt this activity at every opportunity using our collective powers and provide support to those in need.

In addition, other challenges have been identified in the Strategic Assessment, requiring a local Partnership input as part of a bigger County footprint and these are;

- Business Crime
- Community Cohesion and Hate Crime
- Counter Terrorism, Domestic Extremism and Prevent
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Serious Violence

We are committed and will contribute to the challenges above, through active involvement and participation in the appropriate County wide forums. We will continue to effectively engage and cascade key information back to our local partners for interpretation and delivery in our communities.

DELIVERING OUR VISION AND ACHIEVING OUR OUTCOMES

When we come together as partners to support people experiencing problems in the places where they live, work, shop and socialise, that's when real partnership work happens.

As a Partnership we are working to encourage and empower more resilient, supported and confident communities. Using our shared vision and strategic framework we will work with partners and our community to challenge ourselves and transform the way that we commission in order to deliver efficient, effective and quality services whilst reducing duplication and adding value.

Whilst the priorities we have identified in this plan are predominantly crime and disorder related, the Partnership is focused on achieving its overarching outcomes by working together on more holistic priorities, which encompass themes such as health and wellbeing and economic growth. We believe this interactive approach will increase opportunities for those experiencing the most entrenched vulnerabilities and those most at risk of becoming perpetrators, or indeed victims of crime.

The 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' provides more detail about the tasks and projects that the Partnership will deliver during 2020-23.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

We will monitor the delivery of the 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' through regular reporting to our Partnership Board and Operational Groups.

We will continue to actively monitor performance through qualitative and quantitative information obtained from our partners and commissioned service providers to ensure that we are making a contribution to a reduction in crime and disorder.

We will monitor customer satisfaction and fear of crime by the use of service user questionnaires and the 'Feeling the Difference' surveys.

GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved to help us deliver sustainable outcomes for the benefit of our residents and wider communities as part of the plan for the Borough.

Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNPs) have been established in each district of Staffordshire by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (SCO). The SNPs ensure that policing in Staffordshire is open and transparent, giving local people the chance to influence how their area is policed. The role of the panels is to ensure residents are better informed and involved; scrutinise all elements of local policing to ensure both the SCO and police priorities are delivered; provide regular feedback to local policing teams and other community safety forums; assist in the building of further community engagement opportunities and to contribute to the wellbeing of the local area. For further information see www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteer/snp/

Local Councillors

Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the Council and partners should carry out various activities. They represent the public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which they have been elected to serve a term of office. Local Councillors are keen to establish the views of residents, address issues of concern and to assist in developing ideas for improvements. They have regular contact with the general public through council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk their Councillor face to face and these take place on a regular basis. To get in touch with your Local Councillor please visit the Council's website www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or contact the Council on 01782 717717.

Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs)

There are a number of LAPs in the Borough who bring together partners from the community, public, private and voluntary sectors. The LAPs focus on issues that are significant to the communities in which they operate and seek to prioritise, co-ordinate and deliver appropriate responses. Contributions are welcomed from all residents and partner organisations. For further information about getting involved with LAPs see www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/community/partnerships/locality-working

Voluntary and Community Support

If you are a voluntary organisation, charity or social enterprise based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, advice and support is available from Support Staffordshire, who offer assistance in starting up a new community group, grant funding, organisational development and can also assist with project management and volunteering opportunities. To get in touch contact;

Support Staffordshire - 0300 777 1207 - info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk - www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Police and Crime Plan 2020 – 2023 or any of the information in this document please contact sarah.moore@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or visit our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

