

Title of meeting:	Cabinet decision
Date of meeting:	9 March 2021
Subject:	Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2021-22
Report by:	Lisa Wills, Strategy and Partnership Manager
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	Yes

1. Purpose of report

This community safety plan is a statutory requirement for all local authority areas. In Portsmouth this plan will inform the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and consideration of the priorities set out in the plan will enable the Council to discharge its duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act to:

*'...exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area'*¹

2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet:

- i) Recommends to Full Council it endorses the strategic priorities contained in the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2021-22 (appendix 1)
- ii) The council aligns the relevant budgets to support activity in line with section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).

3. Background

- 3.1 The Safer Portsmouth Partnership was incorporated into the Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2019. The constitution of the board was amended to take on the statutory duties of a local community safety partnership. The Health and Wellbeing Board is now the vehicle through which the five statutory partners - council, fire, police, health and probation² - work together to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending as required by Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).³

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/17>

² Also referred to as the 'responsible authorities'

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/5> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/6>

- 3.2 The responsible authorities are required by sections 5 of the Act to produce a detailed piece of analysis (strategic assessment), that identifies local priorities for action. The strategic assessment 2019-20 was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2020.
- 3.3 The priorities identified in the strategic assessment are directly reflected in the statutory partnership plan for 2021-22. The plan was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 3rd February 2021.
4. **Strategic Assessment for community safety** - the partnership strategic assessment will in future be produced by the Public Health Intelligence Team. This detailed document uses a range of data from partner agencies, including police recorded crime, and provides a summary of local and national analysis and research that:
- Check the partnership's current priorities and identifying any emerging issues
 - Provide a better understanding of local issues and community concerns, by triangulating key data sets
 - Provide knowledge of what is driving the problems to help identify appropriate responses
- 4.1 The 2019-20 recent strategic assessment shows crime reported to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has been fairly stable over recent years, following a sustained reduction since levels peaked in 1995. Meanwhile, crimes recorded by the police nationally have increased slightly, which may still be due to improvements in recording practice. Overall police recorded crime for Portsmouth was also found to be stable and this is reflected in the findings from our local community safety survey.⁴
- 4.2 However, detailed analysis shows that this stability doesn't apply to all crime types. Some types of crime have decreased since 2018/19, particularly acquisitive crimes, while **others have increased, for example stalking & harassment, public order, robbery and drug offences.**
- 4.3 **Domestic abuse continues to be the most common known driver of assaults,** but while the proportion of assaults between spouses/partners/ex-partners has remained fairly constant (30%) over the last seven years, the proportion of assaults between family members has been increasing. It is now double what it was in 2012/13 (9% compared with 4.3%). Meanwhile, the number and proportion of **assaults taking place in the main night-time economy areas has reduced by 22% (n163) since 2016/17.**
- 4.4 Serious violence had seen an upward trend locally since 2014/15, but has been fairly stable overall for the last two years. **Three quarters of victims of serious**

⁴ Community Safety Survey 2020

violence were male and the peak age groups were 10-17 and 18-24 years.

Analysis has found that perpetrators of serious violence in Hampshire had often been convicted of at least one prior offence, been a victim themselves (on average at 14 years of age) **and two thirds had either experienced, witnessed or perpetrated domestic abuse.**

4.5 Anti-social behaviour recorded by the police has also been on a downward trend both locally and nationally. The Office for National Statistics report that these figures should be treated with caution as improvements in police recorded crime could mean that incidents that would have been recorded as 'anti-social behaviour' are now being recorded as crime. Conversely, our local survey found that more people were witnessing and experiencing anti-social behaviour. This indicates that **anti-social behaviour is likely to be increasing, but that residents may be increasingly reluctant to report incidents to the police.**

4.6 See summary and conclusions from the strategy assessment attached at appendix 2. The full strategic assessment can be found here:
<http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/strategic-assessments/>

5. The impact of Covid-19

5.1 The strategic assessment 2019-20 only includes data up to the end of March 2020. Analysis of most types of police recorded crime⁵ found a substantial dip in April 2020 when lockdown measures were imposed, followed by a return to pre-lockdown levels by June as measures were eased.

5.2 While levels of violence dipped overall, some types of violence increased in Q1 2020/21 compared to the previous quarter, or Q1 2019/20. In particular, public order offences increased by 14% (n89), other sexual offences (not rape) by 21% (n22) and possession of a weapon offences by 40% (n24) from the previous quarter. Domestic abuse crimes saw a 4% increase (n38) from the previous quarter, and some additional analysis provided by the police found that the number of domestic abuse crimes has risen further in July.⁶

6. **The Community Safety Plan for Portsmouth 2021-22** - the community safety plan is a high-level strategic document, pulling together activity set out in three existing plans⁷ in order to avoid duplication.

- Tackling violent crime; continuing to focus on domestic abuse, serious violence, and knife-enabled violence
- Tackling drug misuse in the city
- Early identification of and interventions with children and young people at risk of exploitation or abuse, of misusing substances and of perpetrating anti-social behaviour or offending

⁵ From iQuanta website retrieved 17/08/20

⁶ Hampshire Constabulary, August 2020, Covid Risk Indicators YTD comparison (District Level).

⁷ Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy, Violence Reduction Unit Response Strategy, and the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy.

6.1 The plan also demonstrates the extent to which community safety focus and activity now runs through mainstream services.

6.2 Progress will be monitored by the partnership support team and reported by exception to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its quarterly meetings.

7. Reasons for recommendations

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) Secs 5 and Sec 6 set out the requirements for the council to work with the responsible authorities previously mentioned to produce the partnership plan. The partnership plan identifies three main priorities that address the underlying issues of crime and anti-social behaviour. By providing collaborative leadership alongside our partners in order to address these issues, the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour should reduce and make residents safer.

8. Integrated impact assessment

A preliminary Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed for this plan (see appendix 4. Separate EIAs for agreed delivery activity are undertaken as necessary.

9. Legal implications

The report is clear in addressing the relevant issues. The report is compliant in that it is a statutory function to produce a community safety plan. The plan seeks to cover a number of key areas without placing any group that may have particular protected characteristics in a disadvantaged position.

10. Director of Finance's comments

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within the report. The services being monitored through this plan by the Health and Wellbeing Board will need to continue to operate within their approved Cash Limit.

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Signed by:
Corporate Strategy Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Community Safety Plan 2021-22

Appendix 2 - Strategic Assessment 2019-20 Summary and Conclusions

Appendix 3 - Community Safety Survey 2020 - Findings

Appendix 4 - Integrated Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Safer Portsmouth Partnership Strategic Assessment 2019-20 2. Community Safety Survey 2020 3. Safer Portsmouth Partnership plan 2018-20	Strategy Unit and/or www.saferportsmouth.org.uk

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: