

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 September 2019
Subject:	Community Safety Update Report		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership Annual Review 2. Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership priorities 2019/20		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership's most recent community safety work.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the community safety work of the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Gloucester City Council hold responsibility for delivering community safety work across the City. Community safety is a statutory obligation for local authorities; the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 requires local authorities and the Police to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in their areas.
- 3.2 The Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership (SSGP) is Gloucester's community safety partnership. Previously known as Safer Gloucester, the partnership was reviewed and rebranded in late 2017 during which it broadened its focus to incorporate health and wellbeing in recognition that crime, health, wellbeing and levels of deprivation can be intrinsically linked and should be looked at together in order to successfully address the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3 The review of the Safer Gloucester Partnership was conducted with stakeholders in September 2016 to take stock of the work that the partnership was doing, look at how we worked and where we could work better. This work coincided with the countywide review which led to the establishment of Safer Gloucestershire. The

Gloucester review was completed between August and October 2017 through interviews with key partner agencies and stakeholders who had been part of the Safer Gloucester Leadership Group.

- 3.4 The Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership held its first meeting in November 2017 with attendance from key partner agencies and has maintained increased engagement from partners since with 15 regularly attending, almost doubling previous attendance. A list of key partners can be found in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The SSGP has evolved to become more outcome-focussed, with clear objectives agreed upon by all partners who all commit to being part of the delivery. The role of the SSGP is seen as one of influencing and conveying the benefits of partnership working, continually looking to enhance the partnership work across the City. Focussing on what we can only do together, looking to co-commission, being mindful of practitioner and community input alongside data to understand our communities better, and incorporating ABCD in our joint way of working we have seen some positive and progressive work taking place within our City.
- 3.6 The SSGP has several offshoot partnerships including DaySafe and NightSafe, and sets up Task & Finish Groups for relevant issues. In addition, it links in to and is mindful of the aims and objectives of other partnerships including Safer Gloucestershire, the Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Locality Partnerships, the Prevention and Self Care Board, Safeguarding boards, Gloucester BID, the Early Help Partnership, various culture boards and place-based groups.
- 3.7 The Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership focusses on key priorities each year which are categorised in to three subjects: Prevention, Protection and Response. The priorities are agreed in partnership, have input from all and are backed up with local knowledge and data around the subject matter so that we can ensure we are addressing issues which are relevant to our communities.
- 3.8 For 2018/19, the SSGP focussed on the priorities described in appendix 1. The work around these agreed priorities is undertaken in addition to “business as usual” work by individual partner organisations.
- 3.9 Community safety incorporates many strands. Day to day work for the Council and SSGP partners over the past year has included:
 - General crime and anti-social behaviour (including Solace ASB casework)
 - Domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV)
 - Modern day slavery
 - Drug related issues including dangerous drug networks, county lines and exploitation
 - Alcohol related issues including street drinking, licensing and the Bluelight project
 - Violence issues including knife crime and prevention work
 - Night-time economy specific issues such as alcohol related disorder and personal safety
 - Daytime economy specific issues such as shoplifting, drug dealing and begging
 - Homelessness/rough sleeping and associated vulnerabilities which can lead to victims/perpetrators of crime

- The safety of public spaces, incorporating Public Spaces Protection Orders and prevention workstreams such as Street Aware
- CCTV across the City
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Safeguarding, and the recognition that places as well as people can be safeguarding concerns
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Strengths based problem solving around any crime or ASB issues which may be affecting the community
- Focussing on building community strength and resilience
- Supporting victims, communities and perpetrators, all of whom may be leading chaotic lives and have complex needs
- Bringing together enforcement and support agencies to encourage greater partnership working and understanding of each other's roles
- Exploring co-commissioning with partner agencies

3.11 The safety of our public spaces has been a key piece of work over the last two years, with Public Spaces Protection Orders introduced across the City in November 2018. A full report on this came to Council in 2018 following widespread consultation, and a review report will be submitted within the next 12 months.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 We have consciously woven ABCD and strengths-based problem solving in to our community safety approaches in order to support residents to feel better connected to their neighbours and neighbourhoods. It is recognised in ABCD research that when residents know the names of their neighbours they feel safer in their area, and that when residents do things together the area becomes safer.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 Creating safer and stronger communities across our City is a key aim for Gloucester City Council. Key to this is working in partnership and by building and continuing to create strong relationships with partner agencies including statutory organisations, communities and the Voluntary and Community Sector, we are able to work together to build stronger relationships with and amongst our communities. The environmental implications of this are that areas feel safer and residents feel happier where they live.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The City Council realised that it was important to review our community safety partnership and our approach in order to work more systemically and be able to link key themes together to achieve sustainable change within our communities. As a result, we have seen further increased joint working and more positive outcomes, especially in groups with vulnerabilities and complex needs.

6.2 The Council could have remained working as Safer Gloucester rather than review the scope of our work, however since establishing the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership we have seen a reduction in duplication of work, increase in partnership working on various subjects and a greater understanding amongst partner agencies (for example from support and enforcement backgrounds) of the work that each

other does and how we can support and compliment joint aims to co-ordinate our work better and achieve better outcomes for residents.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 No recommendations are made in this report, it is for information only.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 In addition to day to day work and following on from the 2018/19 work of the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership, the SSGP has recently reviewed its objectives for 2019/20. Priorities are agreed in partnership and link in to the aims of the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as the other partnership boards mentioned earlier in this report. The SSGP's aims for 2019/20 continue to include those from last year and additionally focus on:

8.1.1 Prevention

- **Vulnerable Women's Project**

Continue to co-commission bespoke and holistic support to a cohort of up to 16 vulnerable women to improve their lives and reduce engagement with statutory services.

- **Health**

Support the work of partners in public health and Integrated Locality Partnerships by exploring co-production with the aim of reducing health inequalities in the City. Particular focus on mental health, obesity and physical activity

8.1.2 Protection

- **Intensive Engagement in Widden**

Piloting the intensive engagement method in Widden. Area chosen because of issues with crime and anti-social behaviour, street drinking and sex work.

- **Knife Crime**

To monitor, understand and respond to local trends. To ensure communication is balanced and thoughtful and provide public reassurance. Partners to update on work being undertaken to impact on knife crime, particularly focussing on the root causes of knife crime and the support available to prevent escalation

8.1.3 Response

- **Street Aware**

Continue to increase the safety and attractiveness of Gloucester City Centre particularly in relation to ASB. Strands for Begging, Street Drinking and Youth ASB. Work effectively with partners in City Centre, focus throughout 2019 on youth ASB

- **Gloucester Park**

Work in partnership to increase the safety and attractiveness of Gloucester Park, increasing positive uses of the park to overcome negative ones

8.2 The SSGP's priorities dashboard for 2019/20 is included as Appendix 2.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report as it is an update report covering activities funded through the budget and remit of the Council or via shared resources as agreed through the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership. (Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 Community safety work is a statutory duty, local authorities have a responsibility to work with local police to address crime and disorder in their areas. The work of the Stronger Safer Partnership and the Council fulfils this duty.
(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 There are no risks associated with this update report.

11.2 The City Council and the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership take or create opportunities where possible to increase public reassurance, encourage responsible reporting of issues and implement prevention strands or proactive work in response to trends in order to increase resident's safety and feelings of safety.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant for this report as it is giving an overview of work undertaken rather than proposing service changes.

12.2 Considerations are given when undertaking all community safety work to ensure that we do not adversely impact on any group and that we are fostering good relations and promoting advancement of opportunities within the community.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 The contents of this report all work towards increasing community safety across Gloucester.

13.2 Our community safety work has evolved to include ABCD and strengths-based problem solving. From a community safety point of view, we have found that working with residents, including alleged perpetrators, has led to more creative problem solving and solutions that are more sustainable because they are led by the individual or community rather than the agency.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 None

Background Documents: None