

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	05.09.2022
	Cabinet		14.09.2022
Subject:	Community Safety Partnership and Activity Update		
Report Of:	Councillor Padilla - Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. None		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the work that Council officers have undertaken regarding community safety, and the work of the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the information contained in the report and make any recommendations to Cabinet.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the work undertaken by council officers, the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership, elected members and council partners regarding community safety be welcomed.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership is the City's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). A CSP is a statutory requirement of local authorities, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and brings together key partners to tackle crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in their areas.
- 3.2 Gloucester's CSP has been in existence for over 20 years and in 2017 was refreshed to incorporate health and wellbeing partners in order to more effectively tackle root causes of crime and ASB. The new version of this group was named the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership (SSGP).
- 3.3 The SSGP meets bi-monthly and focusses on work that we can only do together. We recognise the diversity of work that our member organisations do day to day, and we seek to build on that together. Each year we agree an updated set of priorities for our joint work; these are based on local knowledge, data trends and feedback from communities and practitioners.
- 3.4 The SSGP workplan is split in to three themed areas – Prevention, Protection and Response. Since 2020 the Response theme has largely focussed on COVID

related activity, with Protection looking at reactive work and Prevention focussing on intervention work.

- 3.5 The 2021/22 workplan is in the process of being updated, and this happens annually in May. It is usual for some themes of the workplan to remain the same or similar for longer than a year, as we recognise that a lot of the work we do requires more than 12 months focus in order to create systemic change, influence amongst partners and to see results in our communities.
- 3.6 Often, the priorities that we have held via the SSGP become business as usual in either the Council or another partner's work or lead to the creation of a longer term partnership or project. Some examples of this from previous years include:
- ACEs - Adverse Childhood Experiences. This is now integrated into a multitude of partnership work from Police interventions to social care/Early Help.
 - Bluelight Group – holistic and assertive outreach work with entrenched, change resistant drinkers to reduce the impact of their alcoholism on blue light services and their own health.
 - Vulnerable Women with complex needs project - co-commissioned bespoke and holistic support to a cohort of vulnerable women to improve their lives and reduce engagement with statutory services. Ongoing work now led by Nelson Trust.
 - NightSafe partnership - aimed at keeping the City safe during the night time economy. This year NightSafe is being relaunched to incorporate DaySafe too.
 - Street Aware - Increasing the safety and attractiveness of Gloucester City Centre, by tackling street-based nuisance and anti-social behaviour. Partnership work led by Solace, this approach has strands for Begging, Street Drinking and Youth ASB

4.0 Community Safety work in 2021

Over the course of the past year, we have delivered on the following work as part of the SSGP priorities:

4.1 Tackling Health Inequalities together

- 4.1.1 Input to the Healthy Communities Together programme, Gloucester City Health Equalities Plan and Integrated Locality Partnership.
- 4.1.2 A key piece of work via the Health Equalities Plan is research into the scale and capacity of VCSE organisations led by racially minoritized communities in Gloucester. Close working with the Gloucester City Commission for Race Relations and associated VCSE, the research partner is the Black South West Network. This work has been led by the Clinical Commissioning Group, with research conducted and currently being written up.
- 4.1.3 Work to tackle food poverty. Gloucester City Council are fulfilling delivery of a food equality officer role which is focussing on building links with partners, identifying gaps in delivery of food provision and highlighting best practise in order to implement it in our communities. The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is a flagship part of this work and has been delivered with key partners during every school holiday over the past year. The programme offers a range of activities for children and their families including family play days, football camps, cinema tickets, arts and craft and more. Many of these activities provide food and in addition there are home cooking kits and activity packs that can be collected from various locations across the City.

4.2 Promoting Equality & Diversity in Gloucester

4.2.1 This intersectional work spans across the SSGP and the Council's own Equalities Working Group (a report on which came to Cabinet in March 2022). Through the SSGP specifically, we have delivered investment in a callisthenics project in Parry Field (outdoor gym equipment), supported work from the 2020/21 Race Commission with equalities and Black Lives Matter events and activities and supported our Early Help (children and families) colleagues with a school transitions project which supported children in year 6 who were moving up to secondary school.

4.3 Raise awareness of DASV, support and services

4.3.1 The SSGP has a statutory responsibility for commissioning and overseeing domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) and commissions DHRs in conjunction with Safer Gloucestershire. A DHR is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by: a person to whom they were related, a person with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. DHRs can also be implemented in cases of suicide where the above criteria apply.

4.3.2 Gloucester did not have to commission any DHRs before 2018, but since 2018, 3 DHRs have been completed so far (one of which was a joint DHR and Serious Case Review following the murder of a mother and child). We currently have 3 outstanding DHRs which are in progress and will be published once complete. All of our published DHRs can be found on a dedicated page of the Council's website.

4.3.3 The Council and other SSGP partners take part in the 16 Days of Action each year, which promotes information around domestic abuse and sexual violence, and the agencies who can help victims and perpetrators. We also support initiatives such as the FLARE app, which is an anonymous reporting app for people to report public sexual harassment.

4.4 Making our public spaces safer

4.4.1 A priority for us this year has been working with community safety partners to increase public safety in our open spaces. This work is ongoing and learning from each of the below projects will help to shape a safer spaces strategy which will be developed over the next 12 months.

4.4.2 Oversight of the Area Action Plan in Barton & Tredworth:
Addressing nuisance, crime and anti-social behaviour and promoting community engagement. The working group focus on issues that are prominent for residents and identified these priorities through various means including analysis of reports to the Council and door knocking to speak to residents directly. Littering and fly-tipping came out as the top issue for residents because it gives a negative perception of the area as well as causing nuisance. Through engagement and analysis we narrowed down our focus area to six streets off of Barton Street in order to enable intensive engagement using strengths-based approaches. The Council have employed additional waste enforcement officers who have been proactively working in the area, and we have also tied in strands of Safer Streets work which is detailed further below.

4.4.3 Oversight of the Area Action Plan for Kingsholm:

The Council set up a multi-agency task force to identify issues and actions to address low level anti-social behaviour and nuisance (particularly street drinking) that impact on the local community and the reputation of the ward. There has been a focus on an asset-based approach and action plan, with work including:

- Continued engagement with local off-licenses to limit the selling of high-strength alcohol
- Intensively engaging with rough sleepers in Hillfield Gardens
- Private Sector Housing Team commissioning a stock condition survey as part of a countywide piece of work which is about to start.
- Direct feedback from Ward Councillors to the Private Sector Housing Team to help address issues with properties which continually reoccur.
- Solace have worked with partners using the City Council's partnership "Street Aware" approach to tackle ASB and particularly street drinking in Kingsholm.
- We have worked with Solace to explore all options for addressing ASB from street drinking and they have sought and been granted two injunctions on persistent street drinkers that have affected the area
- Redevelopment of the 'Rose Garden' (corner of London Road/Great Western Road) has been completed and the area is to open again soon (around £30k of GCC funding)
- Work in the area is ongoing and we are still considering expansion of the current alcohol free zone PSPO into the Kingsholm ward- consultation with partners will take place soon

4.5 Implementation of Safer Streets funding

4.5.1 The Council worked with the OPCC to put together a detailed bid to round 3 of the Home Office Safer Streets fund. The funding criteria this time focussed particularly on making spaces safer for women and girls. Scoping work identified Gloucester Park, Napier Park and Sinope Street as key areas to invest in.

4.5.2 The Council and partners were able to match fund over £300,000 in kind, and received £545,000 from the Home Office in October last year to carry out the following work:

- Installation of 17 fixed location CCTV linked to force control room. Cameras have been installed around the perimeter of Gloucester Park, covering all entrances, and have also been installed at Napier Park and Sinope Street.
- Upgrade to 4 existing analogue CCTV in the City, 2 at Glos Park to digital.
- 6 redeployable CCTV cameras (to be placed in Barton locations for first year) with link to force control room.
- Lighting improvements in Gloucester Park. Lighting has been installed around Gloucester Cricket Club which is a key commuting route, at the war memorial entrance to Gloucester Park, throughout Gloucester Park, at the skate park areas and at Napier Park.
- Funding to Nelson Trust to expand their sex worker outreach project.
- Fund for an engagement role at the Council along with a small funding pot for community ideas to make Gloucester Park and Napier Park safer or better used.

4.5.3 The Safer Streets funding has kickstarted our safer spaces work and our aim is for Gloucester Park to be a flagship of this. Gloucester Park has suffered from a negative reputation for a number of years and has suffered with various crime and anti-social behaviour. Our long-term aim is for Gloucester Park to achieve Green Flag status and become a destination of choice, and we have been working with various colleagues, partners and community members to start this work. We held several engagement events in Gloucester Park and feedback from park users

helped us to direct the CCTV and lighting installations as well as contribute to ideas for the future.

- 4.5.4 During consultation with park users and residents, we have had feedback that there are lots of play park areas for young children but not really any safe spaces for older children who are becoming teenagers and young adults. This is something we aim to look at as work develops and will work with partners to address.
- 4.5.5 Further feedback we have had from women and girls is that they feel safer in Gloucester Park and Napier Park with the additional cameras and lighting. In particular we have seen a surge in numbers of women and girls using Gloucester skate park, and they tell us this is because they now feel safe to go there.
- 4.5.6 In addition, the community at Gloucester skate park have mobilised themselves following the installation of lighting there, and are now fundraising and holding events with the aim of redeveloping the pump track and making the space a welcoming community hub.
- 4.5.7 We have worked with the OPCC to put together two bids to the Home Office Safer Streets round 4 to follow on from the Safer Streets 3 work. Bids to the fund are rated on a primary, secondary and tertiary basis and are assessed in this order. We expect to hear the result of these bids by the end of the summer, and work is currently taking place with partners in case we are awarded any funding – this groundwork is essential because the Home Office have strict deadlines on spending the funding and are not flexible with these, which was the biggest challenge in Safer Streets round 3.
- 4.5.8 Safer Streets 4 primary bid focusses on ASB across the county, and includes a bid for a deputy team leader for Solace and a Street Aware lead officer for Gloucester as well as provision for a funding pot for local community safety partnerships. The secondary bid focusses on neighbourhood crime in rural areas, and the tertiary bid focusses on safety in the night-time economy which will allow for additional funding to street medics and Nightsafe officers, as well as wider work on raising awareness of spiking, stalking and harassment. A large focus of this work will be amongst the student population, so we are working with the universities on this.
- 4.6 **Knife crime and serious youth violence** have become an emerging topic of conversation over the past year and SSGP members have supported community led initiative Gloucester Put The Knives Down (GPTKD) with advice and guidance.
 - 4.6.1 Gloucester Put The Knives Down are working with partners via the SSGP to bring the Knife Angel to Gloucester in November 2022.
 - 4.6.2 The SSGP are in the process of establishing a sub-group focussing on serious youth violence, following the Motion to Council in January 2022 (a particular strand of knife crime that is a growing trend in our City). Gloucestershire Constabulary have set up a pilot team to tackle urban street gang violence and the Council are working with them, via strategic and operational work. Further to this, the Council are applying to the Commissioners Fund and have secured match funding for an engagement role which will focus on supporting community led action and the delivery of the SSGP sub-group and emerging action plan.

4.7 **Solace**

Solace, our multi-agency anti-social behaviour team, continue to operate in Gloucester and Cheltenham and support various strands of work including gang injunctions, supporting Council and Police with their priorities, general ASB casework and the delivery of operational meetings such as Street Aware. Safer Gloucestershire, the countywide community safety partnership, have recently approved a countywide rollout of Solace teams in each district, which is due to happen in the next year.

4.8 **Street Aware**

Led by Solace with policy written by the Council, Street Aware focusses on street-based nuisance primarily in the City centre. Street Aware brings together support agencies with enforcement partners in order to assess each individual who is involved in street based nuisance, whether it's street drinking, begging or anti-social behaviour. Monthly meetings are held to bring together wraparound support for each individual, and put in place tailored support or enforcement depending on their current circumstances. Solace have secured a number of injunctions on repeat perpetrators this year, with terms such as exclusion zones banning them from the City centre as well as positive conditions to try and avoid repeat offending.

4.8.1 Street Aware was re-launched to partners in May this year following a review of the approach. The Council reviewed with partners whether our joint working could be enhanced in any way following requests for a PSPO to deal with begging. After exploring additional tools and powers, partners agreed that the Street Aware approach remains best practise and is hugely successful when partners are all able to commit resources to it. The re-launch in May brought agreements from a number of partners to dedicate resources for the next 12 months to tackle street drinking and begging in particular, and we will review the approach again in February 2023. Street Aware quarterly reviews will also be a standing item on the new DaySafe meetings.

4.9 **Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)**

4.9.1 The Council have reviewed, renewed or put in place 10 Public Spaces Protection Orders over the past year:

- A Citywide PSPO which puts in place dog and alcohol related restrictions
- A City centre PSPO which creates an alcohol-free zone
- 5 PSPOs in various locations across the City which superseded Gating Orders to restrict access to alleyways where ASB has occurred
- 3 new PSPOs to restrict access to areas in Tredworth where ASB and nuisance had been occurring

4.9.2 Each PSPO review involved consultation with partners as well as the community, assessment of evidence in support of the PSPO, consultation with One Legal, consideration as to how, logistically, it could be enforced, the potential outcomes of enforcement proceedings and whether overall the implementation of a PSPO will fit with the Council's objectives and values.

4.9.3 Additionally, the Council reviewed a request from partners to implement additional PSPOs for street trading, charity collection and begging. It was found in all of these cases that there was not sufficient evidence to meet the legal test for implementing a PSPO, and that other more effective tools and powers are also already available to deal with these issues when they do arise.

- 4.10 **NightSafe** is a sub-group of the SSGP which has continued to meet quarterly over the past year and is currently being re-launched as a joint DaySafe and NightSafe meeting.

5.0 Social Value Considerations

- 5.1 A lot of our work involves continued engagement and consultation with our residents. By involving them at the earliest opportunity and allowing them to take the lead on the issues which are important to them, we create value and opportunity for people that live in the City.

6.0 Environmental Implications

- 6.1 Tackling ASB often has the knock on effect of reducing littering, especially when focusing on street drinking which often leads to broken glass and dropped cans. The work of Street Aware focuses not only on the safety of our City but also its attractiveness.

7.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 7.1 Community Safety work and the delivery of the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership are statutory provisions.

8.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 No recommendations have been made in this report, it is for update purposes only. However, any input towards our community safety work is always welcomed.

9.0 Future Work and Conclusions Future Community Safety Work

- 9.1 The workplan priorities of the Stronger Safer Partnership are agreed amongst attending partners and strongly aligned with the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities which are:

- Empowering local communities
- Supporting victims and reducing reoffending
- Targeting the causes of crime
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Creating safer communities

The SSGP's priorities for the next year are in the process of being confirmed but are set to include:

- 9.2 Tackling health and community inequalities

There is a recognised link between inequalities and crime and disorder – for example, children who experience ACEs are more likely to offend as they grow up. This priority will follow and build on previous health and equalities work, to support partners with projects to tackle health inequalities, support intervention work and promote equality and diversity within our communities.

- 9.3 Knife Crime (serious youth violence)

It is important to state that this priority focusses on serious youth violence, as there are different categories of knife crime and serious youth violence is a specific strand.

This priority will be on the work plan following input from the Police that it is an emerging concerning trend, and that prevention work is needed to stop issues escalating. The Police have set up a gang related intervention team and the Council and SSGP will support with a knife crime officer role, as well as other work as it is identified over the next year.

9.4 Safeguarding

This will continue to incorporate Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) work, as well as being the lead agency for Domestic Homicide Reviews. The Safeguarding priority will help to ensure that learning from DHRs is embedded amongst partners, and that domestic abuse, harassment and stalking continue to be a priority.

This will also link across with 'making our public spaces safer' as that work intends to identify safeguarding hotspot areas which need to be addressed.

9.5 Making our public spaces safer

Following on from Safer Streets 3, this will continue the work at Gloucester Park and will broaden to identify any other hotspot areas which need investment (whether financial via funding bids, or resourcing investment).

We are awaiting a funding decision on Safer Streets 4 project bids, and if these are successful they will be delivered under this SSGP priority.

We also anticipate that there will be future rounds of funding from the Home Office which we will be required to write bids for.

Street Aware continues to be delivered under this priority, with regular updates due to the SSGP. Solace will also feed into the meeting regularly.

Partnership work continues in Kingsholm and Barton & Tredworth, all of which includes strengths based working and community led initiatives where possible.

This priority will look at making spaces safer for all, but with a particular focus on safer for women, girls, marginalised groups and young people.

9.6 Identifying emerging trends and projects through sub group reporting and partnership updates

Regular updates from partners at the SSGP will help us to plan any reactive work identified through reporting to individual agencies (e.g. Police incidents, ASB reports) and will support the delivery of joint project work and initiatives over the next year.

9.7 Other community safety work in 2022/23

9.7.1 As a council we continue to support the ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews which should be due for publishing in the next 12 months.

9.7.2 The Council has also taken on chairing the district safeguarding network for the next 12 months and will be linking in more closely with the safeguarding executive to deliver on safeguarding priorities.

9.7.3 We will be renewing our safeguarding training for Council staff, creating a directory of support for staff and completing a review and update of our safeguarding policy. We also have to complete the annual section 11 safeguarding returns.

- 9.7.4 We are working with partners in the Police and Private Sector Housing to put together a toolkit for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in HMOs.
- 9.7.5 We will be reviewing the evidence and consulting with partners on an alcohol free zone PSPO for Kingsholm. Current PSPOs are also due to be reviewed in 2023
- 9.7.6 We will be creating a PSPO guidance document for staff and the community.
- 9.7.7 We continue to work closely with the Police on any emerging community safety issues, as well as with Force Control Room in relation to the CCTV partnership.

10.0 Financial Implications

- 10.1 Should the Safer Streets 4 funding bids be successful, there is likely to be significant impact on the day to day work of several council officers in order to deliver the related projects

11.0 Legal Implications

- 11.1 None directly arising from this report

12.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 12.1 None directly arising from this report

13.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 13.1 None directly arising from this report

14.0 Community Safety Implications

- 14.1 None directly arising from this report

15.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 15.1 None directly arising from this report.

Background Documents: None