



# Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Report

2017-2018

## **SAFER SUNDERLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

### **REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE POLICY LEAD FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 This purpose of this report is to share the progress made by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) in 2017-18. This added value multi-agency activity is contributing to achieving the long-term outcome of making Sunderland a city which is, and feels, even safer and more secure, where people can enjoy life without the concerns of being a victim of crime or being harmed.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Safer Sunderland Partnership is statutory. Membership of its Board consists of 6 responsible authorities:

- Sunderland City Council
- Northumbria Police
- Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

- 2.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership is supported by a number of delivery networks such as the Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership (SDVP); the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Groups; and time limited task and finish groups.

- 2.3 The Safer Sunderland Partnership had 2 key strategic priorities for 2017-18

- Priority 1: Prevent crime and disorder, re-offending and maintain high levels of feelings of safety
- Priority 2: Protect and support our most vulnerable people and places from harm

Underneath this, there were 5 key work areas around which its 2017-18 delivery plan was structured:

- Work Area 1: Substance misuse related crime and disorder (with a stronger focus this year on alcohol-related crime and disorder)
- Work Area 2: Domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Work Area 3: Citywide and local area problem solving with a focus on LMAPS and responses to crime, community safety and cohesion issues
- Work Area 4: Safeguarding and feelings of safety as cross-cutting issues with a key focus on newer and emerging threats and harms such as serious organised crime, sexual exploitation; modern day slavery, trafficking; and preventing violent extremism and radicalisation.
- Work Area 5: Partnership Development and Collaboration

- 2.4 Section 3 of this report provides a summary of some of the progress made against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2017-18.

### **3.0 Summary of Improvement Actions in 2017-18**

#### **3.1. Substance misuse related crime and disorder (with a stronger focus this year on alcohol-related crime and disorder)**

##### 3.1.1 Action the Safer Sunderland Partnership has taken:

- The Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) engagement work was completed in 2017. There is now a joint plan in place with Trading Standards and Public Health to get agreement for the first CIP in Sunderland by June 2018. The legal process, by which a CIP may be introduced, commenced with a report to the Licensing Committee on 5 February 2018. The statutory consultation process for the CIP closed in June 2018. The CIP will be presented to Council for their approval no later than November 2018 for publication in January 2019.
- A Reduce Alcohol Harms Officer Group' and a Reduce Alcohol Harms Members Reference Group were established. The aim of the groups were to enable elected members and officers to examine and propose a range of options in relation to alcohol harms across Sunderland in order to inform the development of a Council wide policy. The continuation of the CIP zone work was also included within the remit of both groups. They have discussed priority areas such as:
  - Addressing key alcohol harms including what does the evidence say and what next around licensing and developing policy;
  - Vision for the city; and vision for the Council and Statement of Licensing Policy;
  - Children and young people, supporting vulnerable adults, and gathering intelligence; and
  - Economy and employees in the city and Council HR policies
- Public Health is now developing an alcohol policy for the City which will aim to:
  - Support responsible retailing and restricting the availability of new licences;
  - Identify ways in which intelligence can be gathered through a range of networks;
  - Consider approaches to dealing with the harmful impacts of alcohol in relation to children and young people;
  - Identify proposals to reduce the affordability and acceptability of alcohol including supporting responsible retailing and restricting the availability of new licences;
  - Consider proposals to reduce alcohol harms across the workforce; and
  - Develop principles that can underpin all council policies to ensure a consistent approach in relation to alcohol.
- Also see section 3.3 on citywide and local problem solving.

##### 3.1.2 The impact this activity has had on the Safer Sunderland Partnership key priorities is:

- Consideration of how the council can influence its partners to ensure a joined-up approach to alcohol across the city.

- Greater collaborative work to maximise the available tools and powers in the Statement of Licensing Policy; and improved responses (from the responsible authorities) to licensing reviews where there are concerns around the licensing objectives for crime and disorder, public safety and safeguarding children.

### **3.2 Domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)**

#### **3.2.1 Action the Safer Sunderland Partnership has taken:**

- Domestic Homicide Reviews and Child Serious Case Reviews nationally, regionally and locally have highlighted the need to strengthen the role of GP Practices in identifying and responding to domestic violence and abuse (DVA), particularly as they are often the only statutory agency the victim has engaged with. The Safer Sunderland Partnership has supported the development and implementation of a pilot scheme to introduce routine enquiry on domestic abuse with 12 x GP practices in Sunderland. This is part of a domestic abuse health advocates project operating across Northumbria. It will allow for earlier identification of victims and earlier referrals to specialist support. Activity carried out during 2017-18 to set the pilot up has included:
  - Successful cross-boundary Northumbria-wide funding applications developed and submitted to OPCC for joint funding for year one 2017-18 and year two 2018-19;
  - Project planning to develop project outline, project essentials and project plan;
  - Briefing events leading to 12 Sunderland primary care GP practices identified as willing to participate and signed up;
  - Performance scorecard developed stating the outcomes to be achieved and the performance measures needed to demonstrate this. This included work to establish reporting/recording systems on GPs electronic system (called EMIS) to measure outcomes identified in the scorecard;
  - Routine enquiry training film produced and used to support the GP practices training;
  - Survey carried out with clinical staff at all participating GP practices to establish baseline on skills, knowledge and confidence; and
  - Training Programme outline developed which will be delivered in 3 phases to equip practice staff with the skills, knowledge and confidence to routinely ask patients about DVA.
- Sunderland has been part of a Northumbria-wide consortium which delivered a project to support domestic abuse victims with complex needs. This was funded under the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) domestic abuse fund. A total of 78 women and 7 children were accommodated in the Sunderland complex needs refuge; and 80 women with complex needs were engaged through assertive outreach work (between January 2017-March 2018). This has funded proactive specialist services to support the most vulnerable victims through a trauma-informed and needs led manner.
- A cross partnership Domestic Abuse Strategic Projects Group (DASPG) was set up in November 2017 to improve joint working around domestic abuse across the Safer Sunderland Partnership, the Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership, the 2 Safeguarding Boards, and the Children's Strategic Partnership. It has carried out a series of mapping exercises to better understand the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse on children, adults and their families; the strategies

and plans in place to reduce the level and impact; identify areas/services for improvement; and improve outcomes for those affected. It has also carried out a benchmarking exercise against the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Statement of Expectations. This work will continue into 2018-19 where the findings will be fed into a cross-partnership action plan to identify the gaps across Sunderland and will inform the development of a VAWG Joint Commissioning Strategy.

- The Partnership has funded 3 levels of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training. Between July 2015 and March 2018, 888 multi-agency staff trained. Evaluations have been positive with a 96% increase in learners' overall knowledge, skills and confidence for level 1; 95% for level 2 and 100% for level 3. Evaluation surveys were carried out to assess the level of improvements to staffs' competencies.

Level 1 training evaluations showed:

- 100% agreed that they can recognise and understand coercive and controlling behaviour and how it can manifest in an abusive relationship;
- 100% agreed that they can recognise and describe the impact, and intended impact, of coercive and controlling behaviour on a victim and their children;
- 100% agreed that they understood the difficulties, the barriers to leaving and the reasons why a victim might stay with a perpetrator;
- 100% agreed that they understood some of the strategies that perpetrators can use to control victims;
- 98% agreed that they knew how to utilise 'best practice' skills when working with perpetrators / victims / children to ensure that professional practices do not increase risk to victims; and
- 98% agreed that they felt suitably equipped with practical, adaptable tools to enable them to improve their frontline role in responding to domestic abuse.

Level 2 training evaluations showed:

- 100% agreed that they could recognise signs and symptoms of domestic abuse including those within at risk populations;
- 100% knew how to safely ask a victim about DVA;
- 100% agreed that they knew how to respond appropriately to a disclosure of domestic abuse with empathy and understanding;
- 100% agreed that they knew how to assess someone's immediate safety to ensure that actions do not put victims and children at greater risk;
- 95% agreed that they knew how to conduct a risk assessment and offer referral to specialist services;
- 86% agreed they knew how to develop a safety plan with anyone suffering from DVA and the importance of monitoring and reviewing risk assessments and safety plans;
- 100% agreed that they understood the importance of safe practice when working with perpetrators/ victims/ children to ensure that professional practices do not increase risk to victims; and
- 100% understood referral routes to protect/support victims and children and the local, regional and national help and support is available.

Level 3 training evaluations showed:

- 100% said they could describe the impact that DVA has upon the emotional, neurological, physical, social and psychological development of children;
- 100% understood how domestic abuse can impact on parenting capacity;

- 100% understood how to be able to provide appropriate support/responses to the non-abusing parent/carer and hold the perpetrator accountable for change;
  - 100% understood how perpetrators can 'use' children to extend control over their victims;
  - 100% agreed they had a better understanding of the additional impact of complex needs and the interplay between DVA, mental health, substance misuse from both victim and perpetrator perspectives;
  - 100% agreed that they knew how to utilise 'best practice' skills when working with perpetrators to ensure that professional practices do not increase risk to victims; and
  - 100% understood how reasons perpetrators often give for abuse could be safely challenged.
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- Across Northumbria, work began at the end of 2017-18 to develop a 'domestic abuse practitioner standard' (DAPS) of accredited training. This is funded through the Home Office's Violence Against Women and Girls Transformation Fund. It is being developed in collaboration with key partners including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, local authority DVA leads, specialist DVA organisations, local specialist trainers, academic institutions and accrediting bodies. This stemmed from a Northumbria-wide review of DVA training that took place in 2016 which revealed a postcode lottery around the degree to which professional training was being offered and delivered with some areas offering very little training compared to other areas. The review also revealed the need to embed the wider principle that DVA is 'everybody's business' and that professionals across Northumbria require quality training to deliver effective support to clients who they are currently encouraged to immediately refer to specialist DVA services. The aim of DAPS is to standardise, accredit and expand the DVA training available in each of the six local authority areas within Northumbria. DAPS will ensure that each local authority area has access to four levels of training: 'Awareness Raising' (level 1), 'Ask and Act' (level 2), 'Trusted Professional' (level 3) which will enhance the ability of some key professionals to offer ongoing support in the early stages of change and 'Specialist Provider' (level 4) training for staff within specialist DVA services. The development of Level 1 training was completed by March 2018. This work will continue throughout 2018-19. A 'Training the Trainer' course is being developed to create a pool of people who will be fully trained and equipped to deliver the training in their local area.
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- Operation Encompass was launched in Sunderland in April 2017 following joint working between Northumbria Police, Sunderland City Council and Together for Children. 100% of Sunderland schools nominated an Operation Encompass lead and deputy who were trained around the scheme. In 2017-18, a total of 2,370 children living with domestic abuse were supported in school through the scheme. The type of support given to children includes; children given an opportunity to call home; uniform, PE kits and breakfasts provided; children referred to counselling services; referrals made to specialist domestic abuse services; children given opportunity for time out of lessons; due to additional information disclosed from children, safeguarding referrals have been submitted; open and honest conversation taking place with parents; team around the family meeting organised; schools have collected children from their home taking them to school after domestic abuse incidents ensuring they are in a safe place.

- Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) meetings have taken action against 31 serial domestic abuse perpetrators in Sunderland in 2017. This has resulted in reductions in the frequency, severity and gravity of their domestic abuse offending.
- The BIG programme is funded through Big Lottery monies and is managed by Impact Family Services, Barnardos and Gentoo. It is 'Respect' accredited which sets out an evidence-based, safety-focused framework which identifies good practice and offers guidance for organisations to ensure that they are meeting the needs of service users safely and effectively. By evidencing that they meet the Respect Standard, organisations demonstrate their competence in working with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse with the safety of survivors and their children at the heart. Local data on the first 15 offenders to complete the BIG voluntary perpetrator programme between Sept 2015-March 2017 showed that the offending (reported to the police) before the programme and after, reduced by 89%. In the two year period before each of the 15 men began their intervention they had a combined total of 159 DVA incidents at start of the programme. In Sunderland, the 15 perpetrators had 159 DVA incidents at start of the programme and this reduced to 17 offences by January 2018 (for most this was around 14-24 months after completing the programme so this has shown a sustained reduction).
- Changing Lives secured funding from Virgin Money for 12 months to develop its 'Women at the Edge' (WATE) project. This began in October 2017. The project supports female victims/survivors of domestic abuse who are living in one of the city's private hostels, or who are street homeless. The project is aimed at women who have fallen through the safety net of mainstream domestic abuse provision or find that provision difficult to access because of their multiple and complex needs. Working alongside Changing Lives' hostel in-reach team, one full time member of staff and specialist sessional staff (including a specific group work facilitator) have attended hostel in-reach sessions and drop-ins, engaging the women there and slowly building trusting relationships. This pilot project has capacity to work with 20 women. The Changing Lives' approach to this work is encapsulated in the following:
  - A three-stage model of change (Being, Becoming, Belonging) which is used across all its' services as a foundation to help women to transform their lives. This underpinning framework is used ensure services are meeting the aspirations and needs of the people it works with;
  - Staff take a trauma-informed approach, recognising that experience of trauma can affect women's reactions to situations and their ability to cope;
  - Staff recognise that behaviours and attitudes often mask trauma; their priority is not to re-traumatise clients with repeated assessments or internal processes. Instead they focus on engagement, using empathy, consistency and good boundaries to build strong, trusting relationships;
  - Staff use Dialectic Behavioural Therapy (DBT) skills in their interactions with women to help them understand what has happened to them, validate the emotions they are experiencing, and learn to process, manage and contain their emotions. This supports women to recover from trauma, address destructive patterns of behaviour and access the support they need;
  - Services are delivered in psychologically informed environments (PIE) where the overall approach and day-to-day delivery of the intervention has been designed to take into account women's emotional and psychological needs, especially those who have experienced complex trauma. The purpose of a

- PIE is to help staff understand causes of behaviours, and work more creatively and constructively to address them;
- Staff take a 'strengths-based' approach and use bespoke tools in a personalised support model, focussing on people's strengths, talents, goals and aspirations (rather than a focus on the things women lack) to help build their identity and increase self-efficacy, independence and resilience; and
  - These interventions prioritise working at women's own pace and focus on what her priorities are, rather than what agencies consider to be her most pressing needs. Staff focus on building trusting relationships and making assertive and persistent offers of support.
- Specialist domestic abuse support services were re-commissioned in 2017-18 which integrated refuge accommodation with the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and outreach service. One of the IDVAs is based within City Hospital Sunderland and this has helped improve health professionals awareness of domestic abuse and earlier identification of it. Between May 2017-March 2018 hospital staff had made 102 referrals to the Hospital-based IDVA. The specialist domestic abuse service work in a strengths-based, needs-led way that supports domestic abuse survivors and their children to build resilience, and leads to independence. This is in line with Sunderland being one of 3 areas of the country to pilot the 'Change that lasts' (CTL) model developed by Women's Aid. This will be delivered over a 5 year period. The PCC continues to fund the domestic violence and sexual abuse response car whereby police and specialist domestic abuse staff provide a second response to domestic violence incidents on weekend nights. This is helping to increase engagement with specialist support services.
  - Under the Change That Lasts pilot a range of staff were trained to become 'Trusted Professionals' around domestic abuse. In 2017 this included 33 staff working across housing services (Gentoo and the Council) and 25 staff working with older/disabled victims (from Age UK, Sunderland Carers, South Tyneside NHS Trust, Gentoo older persons team, Southwick Health Centre, and Sunderland Hospital). The training places the victim at the centre of any response and the aim is to increase the confidence levels and skills of staff to enable them to provide a more holistic and helpful response to the survivors they are in contact with. Their role can be extended to include 'holding on' to victims, supporting them through the earliest stages of change and referring them on when appropriate; thus increasing early intervention and using specialist services for those with more complex needs. Trusted professionals receive assessment and support planning tools to enable them to provide a safe and needs led response within the limitations of their role. Feedback from those trained has included staff being better able to recognise the warning signs of coercive control; better able to understand the needs of survivors; more confident to respond appropriately to disclosures following training; increased skills in managing and responding to a disclosure; increased ability to understand the needs of people experiencing abuse; and 100% of trained TPs rated that training and the review session as either "good" or "excellent".
  - The 'ask me' scheme (part of the Change That Lasts pilot) went live in February 2018. This is equipping the wider community to take action by training local residents to become 'Community Ambassadors' around domestic abuse. A total of 35 members of the community have been trained in how to start conversations and respond to anyone who is concerned about being in an abusive relationship. The training will equip ambassadors with knowledge and skills to enable them to



'break the silence, raise awareness, listen and believe with compassion, without judgement anyone who discloses abuse to them. The delegates have wide range of backgrounds and communities e.g. mindfulness/life coach company, volunteers working in church settings, food banks, toy banks, LGBT community, local town council, university students, BME community, Children Centres, Carers Centre, local cafes, young people's organisations, Young Asian Voices, church groups, ESOL, Fire Service.

- The Safer Sunderland Partnership supported and helped shape the programme for the Think Family Safeguarding Conference in March 2018 with a number of community safety related topics being covered including: 'so-called' honour based abuse; female genital mutilation and 'Prevent'.

### 3.2.2 Performance data 2017-18:

- Increases in recorded police data on domestic abuse incidents which reflects increased confidence to report and improved police recording of domestic abuse;
- Maintained levels of repeat victimisation for domestic abuse;
- 2,370 children further safeguarded by key adults in their school through Operation Encompass;
- Significant increase in frontline staff's overall knowledge, skills and confidence in tackling domestic abuse (96% increase for level 1; 95% for level 2 and 100% for level 3);
- 35 'Ask Me' Ambassadors and 58 'Trusted Professionals' recruited and trained;
- 78 women with complex needs accommodated in the Sunderland complex needs refuge; and 80 women with complex needs engaged through assertive outreach work;
- 3 Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (including one based in City Hospital Sunderland) providing advocacy and support to high risk victims and those victims going through the special domestic violence court process;
- 90 domestic and sexual violence and abuse workplace champions across 20 organisations in Sunderland;
- 31 serial domestic abuse perpetrators who have reduced their offending levels as a result of being subject to multi-agency tasking and co-ordinating (MATAC); and
- 89% reduction in the offending of 15 perpetrators successfully completing the BIG perpetrator behaviour change programme.

### 3.2.3 The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland Partnership key priorities:

- Improved early help for children living with domestic abuse and strengthened information sharing between police and schools;
- Improved competencies of front line professionals (public, private and third sector) in understanding, recognising and responding to domestic abuse; other

forms of violence against women and girls; and increased awareness of the help and support available;

- Increased opportunities for earlier intervention with victims and offenders;
- Improved outcomes and safety of high risk domestic violence victims;
- Increased number of survivors with a range of complex needs supported in a needs-led, strengths-based and trauma informed way;
- Strengthened partnership working on tackling domestic abuse and wider violence against women and girls across community safety, safeguarding and health; and
- Increased opportunities for action to be taken to support perpetrators of domestic abuse in reducing their offending.

### **3.3 Citywide and local area problem solving with a focus on LMAPS and responses to crime, community safety and cohesion issues**

#### **3.3.1 Action the Safer Sunderland Partnership has taken:**

- A small evaluation was carried out on the impact of the ASB volunteers which showed positive feedback from those who had received the volunteer ASB service.
- The four LMAPS groups continue to meet every 10 weeks to problem solve repeat local issues such as anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, high risk victims, and prolific offenders. The 4 LMAPS mirror the police neighbourhood police team boundaries. Examples of some of the key LMAPS activity in 2017-18 has included:

#### ***City centre and East LMAPS:***

Operation Asteroid is an ongoing operation that has been running since the end of December 2017 with the involvement of LMAPS partners and other agencies such as British Transport Police, Youth Offending Services and Together for Children. The operation involved a group of youths who were frequenting the city centre and using the metro system. These individuals were causing high level disorder, intimidation, targeted attacks against lone individuals and damage. As part of the investigation in excess of 30 young people from across the Southern Area Command were identified. A full partnership intelligence picture on each individual was developed and a plan looking at education and enforcement was implemented. Results from December to March include:

- 21 vulnerable people visited, focussing on safeguarding. They had become involved in serious incidents but were previously unknown. Interventions by Safeguarding, Police and the Youth Offending Service has resulted in no further offending by many of these individuals to date. They continue to be monitored and are continuing to engage with services;
- 10 Voluntary Attenders;
- 1 Community Protection Notice;
- Acceptable Behaviour Agreements;
- Applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders;
- In excess of 50 dispersal notices;

- In excess of 50 arrests have been made; of which the vast majority (90%) have been dealt with positively from the arrest; and
- Reporting of incidents to the Police have also seen a significant reduction.

**West LMAPS:**

Due to an increase in motor cycle disorder in the Silksworth area, Operation Adjust (via LMAPS) was introduced. Police officers used plain clothes patrols, cycle patrols and high visibility reassurance patrols identifying offenders and using Body Worn Video to gather evidence. Partners carried out leaflet drops within problem areas to identify offenders and social media was also used to promote the ongoing work within the community. Results included:

- 6 bikes were seized;
- 1 arrest and 4 summons raised to prosecute offenders;
- 7 joint home visits carried out looking at individuals tenancies;
- A number of Section 59 notices were issued;
- The number of incidents on a weekend is now minimal;
- Excellent responses from the community in identifying offenders; and
- Work will continue to target those individuals over the summer period.

The West area LMAPS also introduced Operation Knight to deal with incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour and minor crime occurring in the Pennywell area of Sunderland. The following actions were put in place:

- 35 disorders letters forwarded to parents;
- 22 Acceptable Behaviour Agreements served by Police, Sunderland City Council and Housing Partners;
- Community Protection Notice (Warning) letters issued to parents;
- 1 Community Protection Notice issued to mother of one of the youths;
- 7 youths were interviewed as Voluntary attenders for minor assaults, criminal damage and public order offences, resulting in said youths being sent to the Youth Offending service for further action/assistance; and
- A number of youths referred for Early Help.

The issues around the Pennywell shopping centre have reduced dramatically and this is directly related to the specific targeting of the main offenders. The 3 main offenders were also given conditions when charged not to associate and this has had a significant effect on the group dynamics. One of the group is now moving house out of the local area due to pressure from his letting agent.

**Washington/Coalfields LMAPS:**

During November 2017 an ASB issue emerged in Houghton town centre which escalated quickly. Groups of youths were congregating in the town centre and were pulling the engine covers from buses and activating the emergency stop buttons, causing disruption to passengers. As a result, the bus company started to divert buses away from the town centre on an evening. This was broadcast on Twitter and Facebook and rapidly became subject of complaints from the public. In the space of 20 days there were 30 reported ASB incidents linked to this behaviour. A meeting was called with the LMAPS partners, local councillors and representatives from the bus company. A number of short and long term actions were implemented:

- A walkabout, with the above partners, took place in the town centre; which was live streamed on Facebook and within a few days had 37,000 hits;
- Police stepped up patrols within the area;
- Dispersal zones were created and patrols lasted for a number of weeks;
- Any youths who were in the dispersal zones were issued with dispersal notices, where they had to leave the town centre or face arrest;

- Operation Gryphon letters (relating to anti-social behaviour) were sent to the parents of all youths found within the dispersal zones;
- It became apparent that youths were congregating in the town centre due to two of the local pubs offering free Wi-Fi for customers. Police officers attended the two pubs on a regular basis to assess the situation and offer advice regarding securing the Wi-Fi, in order to remove the attraction;
- All of the young persons who were issued with Operation Gryphon letters were also passed onto the Early Help Pilot;
- Council and public meetings were held to reassure the community that the matter was being dealt with and regular updates were broadcast in the press and on social media;
- There was also liaison with the bus company to ensure they resumed the services through the town centre. On occasions, plain clothes officers were deployed on the buses to identify offenders and hotspots;
- There was close liaison with the local schools regarding youths who had been identified. As a result of this, a 'Child Panel' was set up. From the list of youths who were causing the issues, 7 of the highest risk were identified; and
- An assembly was also held, where the police delivered a presentation regarding anti-social behaviour. This was delivered to 68 identified pupils who were likely to cause issues within the school.

By the end of the response the following had been issued:

- Over 20 Home visits were conducted with the police, housing and council ASB officers;
- In excess of 30 Operation Gryphon letters issued;
- 1 arrest for Public Order;
- pedal bikes seized;
- Numerous dispersal notices issued;
- 7 Acceptable Behaviour Agreements;
- After 30 reported incidents in 20 days, the number dropped to 3 reported within the next 10 days; and
- Since this time, disorder has reverted back to the usual low level within the town centre and there have been no reported incidents regarding the buses.

**North LMAPS:**

Due to increases in crime and anti-social behaviour in Witherwack an (LMAPS) operation was implemented. Halfway through the year the operation started to reap results with an 82% reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents reported to police and a 28% reduction in crime between June and December 2017 compared to the first half of the year between January to June 2017. The activity also saw:

- 10 people arrested for racially aggravated criminal damage and public order offences with six charged or cautioned;
- 12 Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABA) issued;
- 1 Community Protection Notice (CPN) issued;
- Four restraining orders granted by the court against individuals preventing them from making contact with a family they had been harassing;
- Tenancy action was taken with three families evicted for on-going issues from premises in Wiltshire Road, Kemble Square and Woodford Close;
- Another family was subject to a postponed possession order with three members subject to an exclusion zone, one subject to a 6 month curfew and all family members prevented from causing harassment, alarm and distress to anyone not of the same household. If they breach the order the possession order will be enforced meaning they will face further court action;

- The disused football changing rooms at Marley Pots field adjacent to Witherwack was demolished;
- Improvements to street lighting on the estate were agreed;
- Community Payback was carried out via estate clean-ups in an area behind Willow Fields Primary School, Witherwack which has been used for fly-tipping;
- Sunderland City Council allocated resources to restrict access to the fields adjacent to the estate which were being used by off-road motorbike riders causing motorbike disorder;
- Work is on-going to permanently close a footpath which leads to the fields; and
- Youth engagement work will begin again on the estate through the 'Raising Aspirations Grant' given to a local volunteer group to engage young people and divert them from crime and anti-social behaviour.

The North LMAPS also launched Operation Ridley aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour over the Halloween and Bonfire period in the Southwick area which also saw fireworks being thrown at the emergency services. Results included:

- 17 arrests were made for a variety of offences including public order offences, arson, and discharge of fireworks in public places, drugs supply, fraud and evasion of custom duty;
  - 70,000 fake cigarettes smuggled from abroad were recovered by police along with two cars and a motorbike used in criminal activity. £3,000 believed to be from the proceeds of crime was also seized;
  - 2 households were subject to tenancy action with more to follow;
  - Area and back lanes were cleaned up by the Council's environmental services;
  - There was a 41% reduction in crime over the period October 2017- March 2018, compared to the previous six months; and
  - There was a successful funding application to the North Area Committee for additional 4G cameras.
- During 2017/18 the City experienced a series of public demonstrations attracting local and national interest. Significant work was carried out to minimise disruption and to respect the right to safe public protest. Extensive community engagement reduced cohesion concerns. The Safer Sunderland Partnership will produce a separate report in 2018/19 in relation to these matters once outstanding criminal matters are concluded by the Courts.
  - The City Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has resulted in 27 warnings and 3 fixed penalty notices being issued. Work is underway to look at how other council staff (e.g. parking enforcement officers) can start enforcing under these orders going forward. Work has also commenced on the citywide PSPO which has included an 8 week public consultation.
  - The Sulgrave and Concord Neighbourhood Management project continued to operate in 2017-18:
    - The Assistant Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner visited the project and it was shortlisted to present at the Northumbria Force Wide Best Practise Seminar. The project received an award of recognition for 'commitment to problem solving and developing a collaborative response with a long term solution; reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and increasing trust and confidence in the community';

- There has been the continuous implementation of new tools and powers as part of the multi-agency approach, alongside major safeguarding work, working with Together for Children and landlords;
- The project also delivered pro-active work around youth disorder hot spots and targeting persistent offenders via the target meetings; and
- The ever increasing community fun week has become an annual multi-agency event held in Washington with, links to Holiday hunger strategy, community engagement, supporting vulnerable people, and litter picks.

### 3.3.2 Performance data 2017-18 (also see section 4.0):

- 33% of residents identifying at least one community safety problem in their local neighbourhood;
- 13% of residents think anti-social behaviour is a fairly or very big problem in their local area in 2017-18;
- 8% of residents think crime is a fairly or very big problem in their local area in 2017-18; and
- 5 additional anti-social behaviour volunteers were recruited in 2017-18.

### 3.3.3 The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland Partnership key priorities:

- Residents' perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour at a neighbourhood level has remained stable backed up with reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour in the targeted areas;
- Increased use of new tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour;
- Improved safety of vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour;
- Reductions in repeat problems across the city;
- Improved safety plans that are tailored to needs of the victim and thereby reducing risk and improving outcomes; and
- Improved information sharing across agencies has resulted in increased intelligence and co-ordinated work leading to a more joined-up, tailored approach.

## 3.4 **Safeguarding and feelings of safety as cross-cutting issues with a key focus on newer and emerging threats and harms such as serious organised crime, sexual exploitation; modern day slavery, trafficking; and preventing violent extremism and radicalisation.**

### 3.4.1 Action the Safer Sunderland Partnership has taken:

#### ***Sexual Exploitation***

- Tackling child sexual exploitation is being addressed through a specialist multi-agency Complex Abuse Unit. This includes staff from Together for Children, council social workers, and voluntary sector agencies who have been supporting victims and

providing a strong interface with wider vulnerable children and vulnerable adult services.

- Generally children who go missing are considered as potential risk of harm. The most persistent who go missing would be considered within the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked group (MSET) which considers high and medium risk cases. The MSET group considered 679 assessments (January 2017-January 2018) which include children who go missing but may not demonstrate a risk of exploitation). Of these, 111 cases were considered at full MSET of which 40 were deemed high risk. Action taken has included disruption of offenders, which has included offenders being imprisoned for sexual activity with children. The value of this type of disruption is highlighted in the recently published Serious Case Review in relation to young people involved in the Newcastle based Operation Sanctuary (published by the Newcastle Children's Safeguarding Board on 28th February 2018). MSET has also been able to gather and share intelligence at the early stages when no offences were being disclosed.
- There are no "hotspots" of child sexual exploitation as it can occur in a wide variety of situations and locations, but vulnerability areas include locations where young people gather such as retail, fast food and leisure outlets. The extent of online abuse and grooming is unknown and the threat of on line perpetrators is a national issue. The North East Regional and Serious Crime Unit covering Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland Forces established a dedicated online abuse investigation unit. An updated profile is being commenced with partners.
- Transition to adulthood remains an area of focus as abuse can continue and feature into adulthood. Partners delivered a successful funding bid for £70,000 from DCLG in early 2017 to run a pilot transitions programme for 12 months with Changing Lives. This focussed on a number of child victims as they transition to adulthood and included victims involved in criminal trials as witnesses. The funding covered costs for 1.5 staff appointed with 1 based in Team Sanctuary South and also delivered outreach work linking with Police Teams and partners particularly in one area of the city where there were potential Serious and Organised Crime concerns relating to accommodation.

### ***Modern Day Slavery***

- In July 2017 whereby Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland police forces worked alongside government agencies to run a multi-agency operation (Operation Kestrel) targeting modern day slavery and foreign national offending. During the 2 week operation, police worked alongside Immigration Enforcement and Border Force to carry out a range of tactics, including executing warrants, checks at 2 of the region's ports and visits with Immigration Enforcement to nail bars, supermarkets and brothels. Cannabis farms were dismantled, girls destined for sex work safeguarded and labour exploitation rings disrupted. Almost 2,000 vehicles were stopped and searched, 194 premises visited and 87 people were arrested for a range of offences. Thirty three people were safeguarded from exploitation.

### ***Preventing Radicalisation***

- All 118 schools in Sunderland have been supported in implementing the Prevent duty through the development and dissemination of a Prevent Schools toolkit to their designated safeguarding leads.

- Support was provided to Together for Children around building 'Prevent' into the face-to-face training on "Safeguarding the Welfare of Adults and Children" for Taxi Drivers and Escorts. A total of 262 drivers/escorts trained in 2017.
- The Prevent referral process has been continually reviewed and embedded into the safeguarding children and safeguarding adults policies and procedures, and shared widely with partner agencies.
- Support was given to Show Racism the Red Card to deliver the 'Building a Stronger Britain Together' funded 'Routes Project'. This helps build the emotional intelligence and critical thinking of young people aged 13-16 (and those not reaching the Channel threshold) in accepting opinions and views different from their own; and supporting them in building resilience to far right extremist, radical and racist ideas. This has included the development of clear referral pathways and promotion of the project across Sunderland secondary schools. In Sunderland, Show Racism the Red Card has worked with 8 young people who were directly referred to the project and 29 of their peers across a mainstream school, a SEND school and the Youth Offending Service. Feedback has been extremely positive.

### ***Serious Organised Crime***

- The Safer Sunderland Partnership has supported the implementation of the Home Secretary's plan in relation to serious organised crime (SOC).
- Organised crime groups have been comprehensively mapped in accordance with national guidance, maximising the identification and assessment of active organised crime groups in the force area, prioritising activity against those who cause the greatest threat and harm in the community with a clear focus on vulnerability. There is a sophisticated understanding of emerging as well as traditional serious and organised crime threats, developed in conjunction with partner organisations. The serious organised crime profile, produced by Northumbria Police, has been shared with the Safer Sunderland Board. The local profiles include the consistent use of a wide range of intelligence sources (e.g. from Neighbourhood Police Teams, the community, partner agencies and digital intelligence) which is increasing the understanding of Serious and Organised Crime.
- Operation Magnat meetings demonstrate partnership working where together with Northumbria Police they have a suite of options to proactively target and disrupt organised crime groups and active lifetime management of offenders to prevent re-offending. A pilot was established in one area of the city to identify disruption e.g. via property licensing inspection work; intelligence and linkages to potential risks around sex work; and sexual exploitation. This has also included investigation in relation to illegal money lending. This is on a tactical level and activity is reported to the Safer Sunderland Board to provide oversight and scrutiny.
- The Serious and Organised Crime Audit commenced in January 2018 which is a methodology that allows local authority internal audit teams to scrutinise business operations to establish where there may be vulnerabilities to serious and organised crime. Partnership's contribution to tackling this issue will further develop in 2018-19.
- A Serious Organised Crime Board has been set up at a Northumbria-wide level and has brought together a single representative from each of the 6 Community Safety Partnerships in Northumbria; with each representative bringing a particular knowledge base to assist in developing future planning to the SOC Strategy e.g.



Public Health, Licensing, Housing, Offending and Community Safety specialisms are represented.

#### 3.4.2 Performance data 2017-18 (also see section 4.1):

- 97% of residents said they felt safe living in their local area. The target was to maintain this at a level of 96% of above.

#### 3.4.3 The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland Partnership key priorities:

- The Partnership is fully contributing to tackling sexual exploitation through its work around disruption, and addressing community tensions;
- Feelings of safety have been maintained at a neighbourhood level;
- There has been reduced victimisation and repeat victimisation of vulnerable people;
- Relevant partners are becoming increasingly engaged around supporting the Police's Serious and Organised Crime work around disruption and intelligence sharing through Operation Magnet;
- Serious organised crime groups have been disrupted and vulnerable adults and children have been safeguarded; and
- Partners are aware of the Prevent referral process which is regularly updated in line with safeguarding policies and procedures.

### 3.5 Partnership Development and Collaboration

#### 3.5.1 Action the Safer Sunderland Partnership has taken:

- The Safer Sunderland web content has been fully refreshed [www.sunderland.gov.uk/safersunderland](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/safersunderland)
- The Partnership has continued to meet its core statutory duties around its strategic board; the annual partnership strategic intelligence assessment (PSIA); the partnership (delivery) plan; performance management; and information sharing. The Safer Sunderland written partnership agreement and Induction Pack were refreshed in June 2017. The Partnership has a duty to cooperate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and joint working has included the anti-social behaviour volunteer network, and domestic abuse.
- Stronger links have been developed with the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and the Sunderland Safeguarding Adult's Board, such as the work of the cross partnership working on tackling violence against women and girls.
- Routine horizon scanning work continues and partners are regularly briefed around any issues that may impact on community safety in Sunderland covering: policy, economic-social issues, technological developments, environmental issues, legislation, and organisational changes e.g. National Drugs Strategy; and the Government's 'transforming responses to domestic abuse' consultation.

### 3.5.2 Performance data 2017-18:

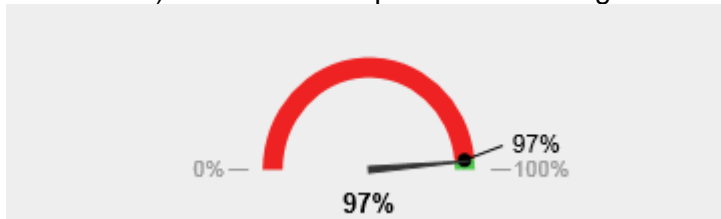
- Strategic assessment, delivery plan and annual report produced;
- Briefings produced on new policy and legislation;
- Safer Communities Survey carried out quarterly;
- Police and Crime Panel member supported in their scrutiny role; and
- Scrutiny committee recommendations for the Partnership are implemented.

### 3.5.3 The impact this has had on the Safer Sunderland Partnership key priorities:

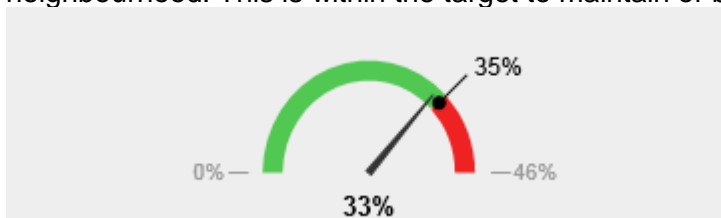
- Specified authorities are meeting their statutory duty to prevent people being drawn into terrorism;
- There is intelligence-led decision-making and identification of strategic priorities through a comprehensive strategic assessment;
- Stronger, more efficient and effective partnership working to achieve shared outcomes, economies and scale, added value, greater collaboration and reduced duplication;
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership responds to its statutory duties and responsibilities to make Sunderland a safer city;

## 4.0 Residents' Sentiments

4.1.1 Residents' feelings of safety have remained stable at 97% throughout 2017-18 (see chart below). The Partnership has met the target to keep this at or below 97%.



4.1.2 For the 12 months to 31st March 2018 there were 938 residents surveyed in Sunderland and of these, 310 (33%) identified at least one problem in their neighbourhood. This is within the target to maintain or be below 35%.

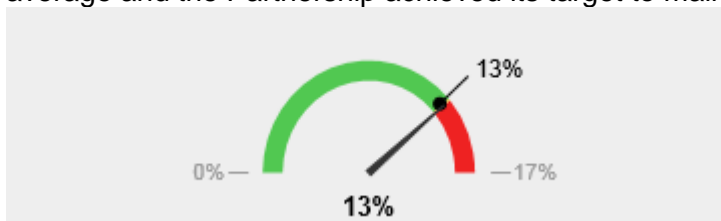


4.1.3 Of the 10 most frequently raised problems, the top 3 issues were:

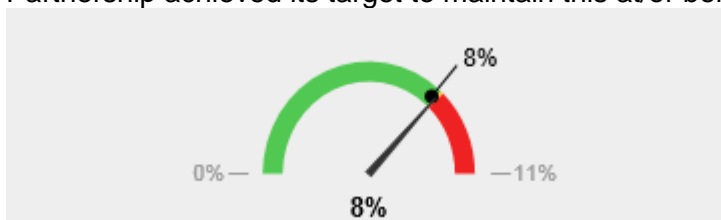
- (i) young people being rowdy or a nuisance;
- (ii) litter or rubbish lying around; and
- (iii) mini-motos/motorbikes/scramblers.

The issue of dog fouling had been highlighted in the top 3 issues throughout most of the year but this has now dropped to the 9th most commonly identified problem.

4.1.4 In 2017-18, 13% of residents thought anti-social behaviour was a fairly or very big problem in their local area. This has been relatively stable throughout 2017-18 and reduced (i.e. improved) from 16% since 2014-15. It remains in line with the force average and the Partnership achieved its target to maintain this at/or below 13%.



4.1.5 In 2017-18, 8% of residents thought crime was a fairly or very big problem in their local area. This has been relatively stable throughout 2017-18 and reduced (i.e. improved) from 9% since 2014-15. It remains in line with the force average and the Partnership achieved its target to maintain this at/or below 8%.



<b>Table 2: Summary of changes in resident’s perceptions of community safety in Sunderland<sup>1</sup></b>			
<b>Safer communities survey measure: Sunderland</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
% of residents who feel safe living in their local area	97%	97%	97%
% of residents thought anti-social behaviour was a fairly or very big problem in their local area	13%	12%	13%
% of residents thought crime was a fairly or very big problem in their local area	7%	7%	8%
The percentage of residents identifying at least one problem in their local neighbourhood stood	37% (408 out of 1,107 surveyed)	33% (391 out of 1,174 surveyed)	33% (310 out of 938 surveyed)
The top 3 community safety problems raised by residents	1. young people being rowdy or a nuisance; 2. litter or rubbish lying around; 3. Inconsiderate parking	1. young people being rowdy or a nuisance; 2. litter or rubbish lying around; 3. dog fouling	1. litter or rubbish lying around; 2. young people being rowdy or a nuisance; 3. Mini-motors/ Scramblers/Off-road motorbikes

<sup>1</sup> Note: The changes in 2017-18 are not statistically significant

## 5.0 Recorded Crime Data: Police

- 5.1 Police recorded crime statistics must be interpreted with caution. The police can only record crimes that are brought to their attention and for many types of offence, data cannot provide a reliable measure of levels or trends. However, for some offences, police figures can be useful in informing our understanding of the general picture of crime. This is especially the case for those crimes that generally have high levels of reporting to the police and where audits of recording practices have not highlighted significant concerns about the reliability of the data.
- 5.2 At a national level, Police recorded crime showed continuing rises in a number of higher-harm violent offences that are not well-measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) as they occur in relatively low volumes. This was most evident in offences of knife crime and gun crime; categories that are thought to be relatively well-recorded by the police. The occurrence of these offences tends to be disproportionately concentrated in London and other metropolitan areas.
- 5.3 Police figures nationally, also suggest rises in vehicle-related theft and burglary. These are offence types that are less likely to be affected by changes in policing activity and recording practice and are therefore likely to reflect some genuine increases. While these rises have not previously been reflected in the CSEW there are some signs that these increases in vehicle-related thefts may be beginning to appear in the latest estimates.
- 5.4 These increases are primarily as a result of improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). This aims to improve the consistency of police recording and to better reflect the demands made on the police by victims of crime.
- 5.5 Annex 1 illustrates the recorded crime changes in 2017-18 compared to the previous year and also how the changes relate to those seen at a Northumbria Force level. This information is summarised below.

### 5.5.1 Recorded Total Crime in Sunderland

- Overall crime in Sunderland rose by 31% (7,617 more offences) during 2017-18. This increase has largely been driven by a rise in the crime categories of violence against the person without injury and public disorder.
- A renewed focus on the quality of crime recording by the police in recent years has led to improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), leading to a greater proportion of reported crimes being recorded by the police. Despite improvements made in recording in recent years, the latest UK police force [inspection reports](#) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) suggest that some offences, such as violent crime, are still significantly under-recorded by the police.
- Given the different factors affecting the reporting and recording of offences by the police, these data do not currently provide a reliable indication of current trends in crime and must be interpreted with caution. Although police recorded crime data cannot provide a reliable estimate of trends in the prevalence of crime, they do provide information about demands on the police in relation to these offences<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2017:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdecember2017>

### 5.5.2 Recorded Violent Crime in Sunderland

- Overall levels of violent crime in Sunderland rose by 37% (2,813 more offences). All sub-categories of violent crime recorded increases, but the most notable rise occurred in the category violence against the person without injury (up 54%, 2,306 more offences). Most of the rise in this sub-category is as a result of increases in offences of common assault, malicious communication, stalking and harassment. It is likely that recording improvements are an important factor in this rise, particularly in relation to malicious communication offences due to improved compliance in recording of these new offences over time. Over the past year Northumbria Police has also delivered a training package to staff on stalking and harassment which includes guidance from the Crown Prosecution Service that could account for some of the increase in the recording of these particular crime types.
- The rise in the most serious violence against the person (up 23%, 29 more offences) is likely to reflect a genuine increase in crime. These lower volume but serious offences are generally well-recorded by the police.

### 5.5.3 Recorded Robbery in Sunderland

- There has been a 9% rise in robbery offences in the Sunderland area; however this equates to just eleven more offences. Personal robbery accounts for the majority of the offences. The most commonly stolen items are cash and mobile phones. Recording improvements are likely to have contributed to the rise in this crime category, but the impact is thought to be less pronounced than for other crime types. Therefore, the increase may also reflect an element of a real change in these crimes.

### 5.5.4 Recorded Sexual Offences in Sunderland

- Sexual offences have risen by 24% (169 more offences) which is mainly due to increases in the categories of rape of females under 13 and over 16, sexual assaults on females, engaging in sexual communications and child grooming of females. A factor in the latest rise is improvements made by the police in the recording of sexual offences. Crime Data Integrity inspections carried out by HMICFRS indicates that there is evidence of improvements in the recording of sexual offences. There is however further work to do to ensure that all reports of sexual offences are recorded correctly. Therefore, the increases seen as a result of improved recording may continue for some time. An increased willingness of victims to come forward and report these crimes to the police is also thought to have contributed to the increase.
- There has also been a notable rise in 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting, particularly from health practitioners. High-profile coverage of sexual offences and the police response to reports of non-recent sexual offending are other factors that are likely to have influenced police recording of sexual offences. Almost 17% of sexual offences in Sunderland recorded by the police in 2017-18 were non-recent offences (those that took place more than 12 months before being reported to the police). Given the different factors affecting the reporting and recording of these offences, police figures do not currently provide a reliable indication of current trends in sexual offences.

### 5.5.5 Recorded Vehicle Crime in Sunderland

- Vehicle crime has risen by 49% (647 more offences). Vehicle offences are thought to be relatively well reported by the public, and well recorded by the police, and so the increase in police recorded vehicle crime is likely to reflect a genuine increase.

- There were notable increases in both thefts from motor vehicles and thefts of motor vehicles, continuing the rising trend seen nationally over the last two years. New key fob technology is posing an issue with owners believing their vehicles to be locked when in fact they are insecure. Offenders are also able to easily purchase a device on the internet which they can use to access vans.

#### **5.5.6 Recorded Burglary in Sunderland**

- Overall numbers of burglaries increased by 18% (296 more offences). Burglary offences are thought to be relatively well reported by the public and relatively well recorded by the police and so the increase in police recorded burglary may reflect a genuine increase. However, improved compliance with NCRS has resulted in a notable rise in the number of attempt burglaries that are being recorded. Crimes are created on the basis that a victim perceives an offence has taken place.
- Following changes in Home Office Counting Rules (introduced in April 2017), new sub-categories of residential and non-residential burglary have replaced domestic and non-domestic burglary respectively. Offences recorded between April 2017 and March 2018 were recorded on this new basis and as a result the figures for domestic and non-domestic burglary for the current year are no longer comparable with previous data. A comparison will be available once two years' worth of data has been collected in March 2019. However, total burglary remains unchanged and can be compared to data from previous years.

#### **5.5.7 Recorded Criminal Damage in Sunderland**

- Criminal damage has increased by 19% (834 more offences). Almost all of the sub-categories of criminal damage have risen compared to last year but the most notable increases were in damage to dwellings, damage other, threats to damage and arson.

#### **5.5.8 Recorded Drug Crime in Sunderland**

- Drug offences have decreased by 10% (56 fewer offences). This category is not a true indicator of drug crime; it is a measure of the number of people found by the police committing drug offences.

#### **5.5.9 Recorded Other crime in Sunderland**

- Other crime rose by 33% (3,083 more offences). All sub-categories of other crime except thefts of pedal cycles recorded increases. The most significant increase however was in the category of minor public disorder which rose by 79% (2,090 more offences). Improved compliance with NCRS has meant that many incidents previously recorded as anti-social behaviour are now being recorded as minor public disorder offences. The volume of these offences accounts for a significant proportion of the overall increase in crime in Sunderland.
- Sunderland City Council's decision to charge for replacement wheelie bins unless the wheelie bin has been reported stolen continues to have a big impact upon crime levels in Sunderland. Thefts of wheelie bins account for almost 3% (956 offences) of total crime in Sunderland in the year ending March 2018.

#### **5.5.10 Recorded Serious Acquisitive Crime in Sunderland**

- This category is a combination of residential burglary, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and robbery. The crime figures in this category cannot be compared to those of last year due to the change in the Home Office counting rules in relation to burglary.

#### 5.5.11 Recorded Racially and Religiously Aggravated Crime in Sunderland

- Racially and religiously aggravated crime in Sunderland has increased by 18% (43 more offences). The rise in this category is most likely attributable to improved recording practises.

### 5.6 Summary of Analysis of Recorded Crime Data

5.6.1 It is important to note that the crime changes seen in Sunderland are mirrored across the rest of the Force area and also across most of the police forces nationally. The increases across the Northumbria Force area in 2017-18 were:

- Northumbria +24%;
- South Tyneside +21%;
- Gateshead +17%;
- North Tyneside +19%;
- Newcastle +22%;
- Northumberland +31%; and
- Sunderland +31%

5.6.2 The changes in crime levels were explored in-depth by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in 2016 and in 2017.

5.6.3 In 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspected every police force in England and Wales for crime data integrity. This inspection program was instigated as a direct result of a report from the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) and concluded that nationally, 19% of crimes are not recorded. The compliance rate for Northumbria was 72%. In 2016, HMICFRS commenced a multi-year rolling inspection programme for crime data integrity. Northumbria was inspected in October 2016 and showed that improvements in recording had been made, with compliance at 92.7%. Northumbria Police had an overall judgement of 'Requires Improvement'.

5.6.4 The Northumbria Police Chief Constable wrote to Local Authority Chief Executives (and Community Safety Partnership Chairs) and noted that understandably there would be concern amongst partners and the community. This set out the important context behind the HMICFRS Audit and the rise in recorded crime. This noted:

- Northumbria Police were subject of a previous inspection where it was identified their crime recording practices required improvement and since that time they have put a huge amount of effort and energy into making the necessary changes including training of all front line staff and investment in technology to design-in compliance. This has resulted in compliance with National Crime Recording Standards rising from 72% to over 92%. Despite this significant improvement the exacting requirements of HMICFRS in this area, 'Good' being 95%, still means Northumbria Police was judged as 'requiring improvement' and they are continuing their work to achieve the level required;
- As previously discussed the increase in recorded crime is largely down to their much improved recording practices as well as other influencing factors such as new categories of recordable offences (malicious communications via social

media) and increased confidence in reporting incidents to police. The latest independent Crime Survey for England & Wales supports their assertion that the increase in recorded crime is for the reasons stated and not because of an actual significant increase in crime;

- Police forces across the country are at various stages of the journey to improve recording practices therefore comparisons with most similar forces and most similar Community Safety Partnerships are in no way reliable at this time and
- It is important that partners are fully sighted on the background and detail leading to the key messages being released to the public.

5.6.5 The number of crimes recorded per incident reported has continued to increase. So, whereas the number of incidents has reduced over the last year, a larger proportion of those incidents are now resulting in crimes recorded. This is sometimes referred to as the conversion rate. There has been little change in the number of calls to the police but improved compliance with the national crime recording standard has led to more of these calls being correctly recorded as crimes.

## **6 .0 Conclusions and Recommendation for Scrutiny Committee**

- 6.1. The Partnership has maintained its strong and effective multi-agency working in a landscape where all community safety partners have continually had to re-shape their organisations in the context of unprecedented budget pressures and change.
- 6.2 Nationally and locally we are continuing to see the crime profile developing away from traditional crimes (e.g. acquisitive crimes) and more towards exploitation of vulnerable people, e.g. modern slavery, trafficking, serious organised crime, sexual exploitation, cyber enabled crimes, increased reporting of domestic and sexual abuse, other forms of violence against women and girls, and hate crime.
- 6.3 There is a need to make best use of multi-agency data and intelligence sharing in order to understand need and risk and ensure responses are multi-agency in their outlook. Good multi-agency problem solving is crucial in this and will continue as the bedrock of the Partnership's work, with numerous examples of this included within this annual report.
- 6.4 Community safety performance across perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour remain positive, coupled with high levels of feelings of safety being maintained. The increases in recorded crime continue to be impacted on as a result of compliance with the national crime recording standard, together with increased confidence to report some types of recorded crime, especially around some elements of violent crime (e.g. sexual violence and domestic abuse). The future is looking positive for community safety if a partnership approach is maintained and stays deeply rooted in problem solving.
- 6.5 The annual Safer Sunderland Partnership strategic intelligence assessment (which informs the strategic priorities for the year ahead) has indicated that the current priorities and work areas remain relevant for 2018-19 and a delivery plan is currently being drafted for sign-off by the Safer Sunderland Board in July 2018.
- 6.6 Scrutiny Committee is therefore recommended to note the information contained in the annual report and agree to accept the next annual report in July 2019.



## Annex 1 Change in Recorded Crime in Sunderland 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

Annex 1: Change in Recorded Crime in Sunderland 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018					
Measure	Recorded Incidents: Sunderland				Force
	Actual 2017-18	Previous 2016-17	Variance volume	(%) Change	(%) Change
Total crime	32577	24960	+7617	(+31%)	(+24%)
Violent Crime	10453	7640	+2813	(+37%)	(+34%)
Violence against the person	9188	6624	+2564	(+39%)	(+35%)
Violence against the person with injury	2596	2338	+258	(+11%)	(+8%)
Most serious violence against the person	156	127	+29	(+23%)	(+12%)
Less serious violence against the person	2440	2211	+229	(+10%)	(+7%)
Violence against the person without injury	6592	4286	+2306	(+54%)	(+51%)
Possession of weapons	263	194	+69	(+36%)	(+20%)
Robbery	137	126	+11	(+9%)	(+2%)
Sexual offences	865	696	+169	(+24%)	(+31%)
Vehicle Crime	1968	1321	+647	(+49%)	(+17%)
Vehicle Interference	244	138	+106	(+77%)	(+23%)
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (TFMV)	1323	900	+423	(+47%)	(+15%)
Theft of a Motor Vehicle / TWOC	401	283	+118	(+42%)	(+19%)
Burglary	1926	1630	+296	(+18%)	(+6%)
Criminal damage	5302	4468	+834	(+19%)	(+12%)
Drug crime	501	557	-56	(-10%)	(+1%)
Other crime	12417	9334	+3083	(+33%)	(+27%)
Theft and handling	7283	6370	+913	(+14%)	(+11%)
Shoplifting	2884	2262	+622	(+27%)	(+9%)
Theft from the person	222	164	+58	(+35%)	(+31%)
Theft of pedal cycle	337	343	-6	(-2%)	(+3%)
Other theft and handling	3840	3601	+239	(+7%)	(+12%)
Fraud and Forgery	47	38	+9	(+24%)	(+88%)
Public disorder	4750	2660	+2090	(+79%)	(+68%)
Miscellaneous crime	337	266	+71	(+27%)	(+23%)
<i>Serious acquisitive crime</i>	3216	2023	+1193	(+59%)	(+37%)
Racially & religiously aggravated crime	286	243	+43	(+18%)	(-4%)

