

Safer Sunderland Partnership

Community Safety Plan

April 2025 to March 2029

Including Reducing Reoffending Strategy

City of **Safety**
Sunderland

Foreword

I am delighted to present the new Community Safety Plan for Sunderland, which sets out the priorities and commitments of the Safer Sunderland Partnership for the next four years.

Community safety is a high priority for the city's residents with everyone having the right to feel and be safe as they live, work, study, visit and enjoy the wide-ranging opportunities our city has to offer. Feeling and being safe determines how people see their neighbourhood and community, and so reducing crime and the fear of crime is essential to improving our residents' quality of life.

Sunderland's continued economic growth and prosperity is also driven by feelings and perceptions of safety. Therefore, this plan has an important role to play in reinforcing the city's reputation as a great place to invest, where businesses are supported to thrive in a safe and secure environment.

Some excellent progress has been made in recent years by partners working with communities to address a range of community safety and anti-social behaviour issues, but we recognise that more needs to be done.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership, together with communities and organisations across all sectors therefore have a role to play in achieving our shared vision that the 'communities of Sunderland feel safe, protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods.'

This partnership plan outlines four key strategic community safety priorities for Sunderland and the main areas of activity being planned to address community safety challenges in our city.

In future, as we progress with detailed delivery plans, you will see more frequent communications from the partnership asking for your views on how best to address community safety issues. We will explain how our work and activities will be delivered, what progress is being made and how the actions we are taking are having an impact.

By working together to deliver our community safety plan, we can and will make a difference, ensuring that everyone feels safe in Sunderland, and we play our part in achieving the City Plan vision of Sunderland as 'a connected, international city with opportunities for all.'



Cllr Kelly Chequer

Deputy Leader of the Council and portfolio holder for Health Wellbeing & Safer Communities, and

Chair of the Safer Sunderland Partnership

Vision

Our vision is to contribute to making Sunderland a clean, welcoming and attractive city, with people feeling safe in their communities and in all areas of Sunderland, and to foster more resilient residents and cohesive, inclusive communities, in line with the City Plan 2025-2035.

Introduction

1. This Community Safety Plan is based on the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment prepared in January 2025 and the feedback from the consultation carried out in February 2025.

2. It is based on four key priorities:



All four priorities were supported in the limited consultation exercise carried out.

3. The Plan also fulfils the requirement for the Partnership to put in place a strategy for reducing reoffending, and the impacts of drugs and alcohol are considered in relation to each of the four priorities.

4. During the summer of 2025 it is intended to develop more detailed Annual Action Plans to guide the delivery of the aims set out in this Plan. The Council agreed a substantial increase in its budget for work on Community Safety, with effect from April 2025. It is likely to take up to six months to undertake the necessary consultation, recruitment and induction of new staff. These Annual Action Plans will be based on the Aims set out in each section of this Plan, but they will be more specific and measurable.

5. In the same period a performance management system for the Partnership will also be developed.

Links with other plans, strategies & partnerships

This Community Safety Plan aims to be consistent with and to influence other key relevant documents, including the Sunderland Youth Justice Plan, Sunderland Strategy to End Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls, Sunderland Alcohol Strategy, Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy, the Northumbria Combatting Drugs Partnership (NCDP) Strategic Plan and the Regional Drugs Strategy agreed by the North East Regional Strategic Governance Group (NERSGG) for Operation Sentinel.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership will work cooperatively with the partnerships responsible for those plans and strategies. It will provide both support and challenge to ensure that they address community safety in Sunderland and will engage constructively with any feedback from those partnerships and other key groups, including Northumbria Serious & Organised Crime (SOC) Governance Group, Northumbria Strategic ASB Board and Northumbria CONTEST Board.

During the lifetime of this Plan it is likely that changes in the partnership landscape will take place and we will respond positively if this happens.

Community safety is a foundational building block of health. Safe communities enable access to education, employment, housing, and social connections, which are critical components for health equity. Unsafe environments, by contrast, limit these opportunities and perpetuate cycles of disadvantage and ill health.

Specific groups of people often face barriers to accessing services and are at greater risk of poor health outcomes, including:

- People experiencing homelessness
- People with multiple and complex needs
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- People leaving prison

In particular, Community Safety Partnerships are required to 'have regard to' the objectives set out in the Police & Crime Commissioner's Police & Crime Plan. The latest version of this Plan was published in February 2025 and is based on the following priorities:

- (a) Police connectivity and response to communities**
- (b) Crime and ASB**
- (c) Serious Violence and Organised Crime**
- (d) VAWG**
- (e) Hate Crime and Community Cohesion**
- (f) Victims and Justice**

The roles of the PCC and SSP are quite different so their priorities are unlikely to be identical but should be broadly consistent. Points (a) and (f) above follow from the statutory responsibilities of PCCs, but points (b) to (e) are reflected in our Plan.

We recognise the importance of working closely with Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership on issues of mutual interest, and we will look to strengthen our links with those bodies.

Reducing reoffending

Background

A large amount of offending is carried out by the same people over and over again, so any progress we can make in changing their behaviour will make a big contribution to cutting the overall level of crime and anti-social behaviour. This is particularly true for some types of crime, notably Domestic Abuse, the activities of organised Crime Groups and offending by people addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.

The obvious key agencies within the Partnership for the purpose of reducing reoffending are the Probation Service, who have responsibility for managing adult offenders, and the Youth Offending Service (YOS), who manage young offenders and work with young people identified as being at higher risk of becoming involved in offending. However, other partners can support the work done by Probation and the YOS through their work on the factors which are recognised as having a strong influence on offending behaviour, including both physical and mental health, housing, drug and alcohol treatment services, education, training & employment (ETE), and finance & benefits.

For each of the priorities set out below we have looked at the implications in terms of reducing reoffending.

What do we know?

- There are at least three ways to measure reoffending: the 'binary' rate (did the person reoffend or not?), frequency (if they did reoffend was it more or less often than before?) and gravity (the seriousness of the offences committed). Reductions in all three contribute to lower crime levels.
- The principal aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending (including reoffending) by children (as set out at section 37 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998). 'Children' here means anybody under 18.
- The binary reoffending rates for Sunderland for the most recent three years available (given the unavoidable time lag on the figures) are shown below:

Age Group	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Three year rolling average
Young people 10-17	33.3% (23 of 69)	32.7% (17 of 52)	26.4% (14 of 53)	31.0% (54 of 174)
Adults	28.6% (541 of 1,889)	25.9% (514 of 1,988)	28.2% (500 of 1,773)	27.5% (1,555 of 5,650)

- The most recent national data, based the cohort of offenders from January to March 2023, shows reoffending rates of 33.1% for young people and 26.2% for adults.
- There is a challenging relationship between the drive to reduce the numbers of young people coming into the youth justice system ('first time entrants', or FTEs) and the drive to reduce reoffending rates.

Current arrangements

The Sunderland Youth Justice Plan sets out in detail the intentions for continuing to prevent and reduce offending by young people, and the Delivery Plan from the Area Executive Director for the North East, Yorkshire & the Humber does the same for HM Prison & Probation Service.

Our aims

Reduce reoffending rates in both age groups from the three-year rolling average baselines shown above.

Receive updates on the Government's proposals for the development of Prevention Partnerships and agree how the Safer Sunderland Partnership can best be involved.

Review the following services from the point of view of reducing reoffending and explore with service providers whether any adjustments can be made to improve outcomes (NB this is unlikely to be possible in 2025/26).

- **physical and mental health services**
- **housing**
- **drug and alcohol treatment services**
- **education, training & employment (ETE)**
- **finance & benefits**



Reducing serious violence

Background

The Serious Violence Duty covers the requirements set out in Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (also reflected in amendments to the Crime & Disorder Act 1998). It requires specified authorities for a local government area to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area. The 'responsible authorities' for this purpose are Northumbria Police, the Probation Service, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Youth Offending Service and Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service.

The agreed approach to the Serious Violence duty across Northumbria is that the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) within the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) leads on Needs Assessment and the preparation of an overall Strategy, and each of the six Community Safety Partnerships, including the Safer Sunderland Partnership, prepares a Local Action Plan.

What do we know?

- About 25% of the recorded crime in Sunderland is violence (including the 'assault without injury' category), although only about 1% of recorded crime is 'most serious violence'.
- Although all age groups are affected, more than half of the Serious Violence in Sunderland, as elsewhere across Northumbria, takes place between individuals in the 25-45 age group.
- Over half of the victims of Serious Violence (56%) were women and girls, with about a quarter of cases relating to Domestic Abuse, and 75% of suspects/offenders were men and boys.
- Violence was the most common offence category in a recent snapshot of Sunderland offenders managed by the Probation Service, accounting for nearly a third (32.7%) of cases, and in the last three years violence has been one of the top three categories in the Youth Justice Service caseload (along with public order and criminal damage), although the numbers of offences falling within the definition of Serious Youth Violence used by the Youth Justice Board for England & Wales have averaged about eight per year in recent years.
- A multi-agency audit of seven cases of Serious Youth Violence reported to Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership in 2025 identified non-attendance at school, or disrupted education, as one of the key risk factors
- At early March 2025 29 of the 30 Sunderland offenders on the caseload of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team had a history of violent offending.
- Revised guidance on the Serious Violence Duty is expected in Spring 2025
- According to the VRU update to the SSP Board in March 2025 there was a 5.8% decrease (1,385 offences) in the levels of serious violence in 2024, compared to 2023, across Northumbria, with violence reducing by 2.8% (127 offences) in Sunderland. By contrast, the level of knife enabled serious violence has decreased by 5.7% (66 offences) across Northumbria, with levels now just below the national average rate per 100,000 (Northumbria 80.2, national 81.9 whereas in Sunderland offences decreased by 9.6% (22 offences).
- The Focused Deterrence element of the SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) project in the City Centre has had a positive impact in reducing crime and ASB by the young people who have taken part in it.

Current arrangements

The current Northumbria Response Strategy for Serious Violence runs from 2024 to 2029 and is based on these five priorities:

- Create stronger systems to address serious violence.
- Data, evidence, information sharing and evaluation.
- Prevention and Early Intervention.
- Criminal Justice and Enforcement.
- Supporting communities through communication, engagement, and reassurance

Reducing reoffending

Nearly all of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team caseload have been involved in violence. For violence in the context of Domestic Abuse, see the next section of the Plan.

Involvement of drugs & alcohol

The Northumbria Needs Assessment tells us that 25% of victims of Serious Violence were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at the time and that 36% of offenders/suspects were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Our aims

Reduce both the level and the rate of Serious Violence, developing more detailed baselines and targets, using averages over the last three years and excluding assault without injury.

Ensure that the Sunderland Serious Violence Action Plan is fully implemented and that progress, and any challenges, are regularly reported to the Safer Sunderland Partnership Board.

When staff capacity allows, undertake more detailed analysis of serious violence in Sunderland to provide a better understanding of types, locations and times, including the extent of involvement of OCGs and the Night-Time Economy.

Develop the work of Operation Sentinel to tackle Organised Crime Groups.

Support the continuation of the Integrated Offender Management programme.

Ensure that Sunderland is well represented at the Northumbria Serious Violence Strategy Board and Northumbria Serious Organised Crime Group and that there are effective two-way communications between those bodies and the Safer Sunderland Partnership

Ensure that robust links are in place with the related work of Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board, Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership and Sunderland YJS Management Board.

Develop a pathway to identify young people at risk of involvement in serious violence and pilot this with a small group of schools.

Build on the success of the Focused Deterrence initiative within SAIL.

Domestic abuse

Background

In February 2025 Sunderland Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Executive Board published a 10-year Strategy to end Domestic Abuse and VAWG, based on the four 'pillars' used in the national and regional strategies for VAWG:

Prioritising prevention

Supporting victim/survivors

Tackling perpetrators

Creating a stronger system

The Sunderland Strategy also sets out the following five partnership principles:

1. We will prioritise prevention across the life-course.
2. We will take a survivor-led approach, whilst being needs and intelligence-led.
3. We will maximise opportunities for co-production and collaboration.
4. We will take a place-shaping approach to intervention.
5. We will communicate clearly and constructively, in a way that avoids victim-blaming, considers space for action and nurtures effective engagement.

What do we know?

- Using data on Domestic Abuse involves the challenge that it doesn't show us the whole picture. All the research on Domestic Abuse tells us that the cases which come to the attention of public services are only a fraction of what is taking place, so it is important to bear this in mind when considering the figures below.
- About 20% of the recorded crime in Sunderland, across all crime types, is related to Domestic Abuse.
- In 2022/23 there were 1,546 recorded crimes of Serious Violence in Sunderland which were identified as Domestic Abuse, making up 34% of the Serious Violence total.
- Sunderland has a slightly higher prevalence of Domestic Abuse than the Northumbria average (21% of the incidents, 19% of the population).
- In recent years 72% of the victim/survivors of Domestic Abuse in Sunderland have been female and 41% of the incidents have involved children.
- 98% of victim/survivors supported by WWiN in recent years have been female (WWiN data/PSIA January 2025).
- During 2023 and 2024 8,087 people in Sunderland were identified as perpetrators of one or more incidents of Domestic Abuse.
- Nine Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews) have been completed or started in Sunderland since 2011.

Current arrangements

The Sunderland Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Executive Board is supported by an Alliance Group and a peer led Assurance Group to ensure that the voices of survivors remain front and centre. The main provider of services in Sunderland is WWiN, commissioned by the Council and the OPCC. Their services are supplemented by various specialist services, mainly commissioned by the OPCC.

Reducing reoffending

Domestic Abuse is arguably the most predictable crime series. In many cases we know the identities of both offenders and victim/survivors and we can usually predict the locations and even the times where offending is most likely to take place. Some offenders are prolific, abusing multiple victims. In order to make further progress in preventing reoffending we need to pursue a range of aims and any opportunity to increase the capacity of behaviour change programmes, backed up by robust enforcement.

Involvement of drugs & alcohol

In recent years 32%-34% of Domestic Abuse incidents in Sunderland have been identified as involving alcohol, compared to the Northumbria average of 30%. Perpetrators of domestic abuse sometimes encourage their victims to misuse drugs and/or alcohol as a way of increasing control over them, and victim/survivors sometimes turn to drugs and/or alcohol to 'self-medicate' for the distress which they experience.

Our aims

Increase accessibility options to create a fair and equitable offer to safe accommodation and support.

Look to increase the capacity of programmes intended to change the behaviour of perpetrators, starting with a review of what is in place across the Partnership.

Ensure that all children and young people in Sunderland learn about healthy relationships and that we 'push back' against misogyny in social media and other contexts.

Ensure that the Safer Sunderland Partnership exercises effective oversight of Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, in accordance with the statutory guidance.

Promote awareness of healthy relationships in the adult population.

Ensure that there are clear and robust links between the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the work of Sunderland Domestic Abuse and VAWG Executive Board.

Promote the use of both aspects of 'Clare's Law' (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, or DVDS), both 'the right to know' and the 'right to ask'.

Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Background

Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 says that it “shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent,

(a)crime and disorder in its area (including **anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment**)”

The section 17 duty applies to the City Council and, via the Police & Crime Commissioner, to Northumbria Police, and, via the Fire Authority, to Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service. It means that these organisations must consider the impact on crime, ASB etc. in relation to their whole span of activities.

What do we know?

- ASB is less clearly defined than most crime types, which are subject to legal definitions and to national counting rules endorsed by the Home Office. ASB is defined as behaviour which is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress, so there is an element of subjectivity involved (what alarms one person may not alarm another), although there is an implied requirement for the reaction to be reasonable, not irrational. Comparisons of ASB between different areas are therefore less reliable than for crime.
- In recent years 7,000 to 8,000 incidents of ASB in Sunderland have been reported to Northumbria Police and about 2,500 incidents have been reported to the Council

- Sunderland has only 9% of the cases across Northumbria which were put forward for Case Review, despite having 19% of the population.
- In the Northumbria Police survey at December 2024 the top 10 ASB issues identified by Sunderland residents (based on 537 responses) were as shown below (overall Northumbria rankings in brackets):

- 1 (same as June) Mini motors/scramblers/off road bikes (1st)
- 2 (same as June) Young people being rowdy/a nuisance in public places (3rd)
- 3 (up from fourth in June) Speeding or dangerous driving (4th)
- 4 (down from third) People using or dealing drugs (2nd)
- 5 (up from seventh) Nuisance neighbours (5th)
- 6 (up from tenth) Inconsiderate parking (9th)
- 7= (down from fifth) Car crime (theft of or from) (6th)
- 7= (down from sixth) Vandalism, graffiti or deliberate damage (8th)
- 9 (down from equal eighth) Dog fouling (10th)
- 10 (down from equal eighth) Rubbish or litter lying around (7th)

- Key findings from the 2024 survey carried out by IPSOS for the Council included

Residents continue to be concerned by levels of ASB and identify the issue as a key priority. About one in ten (11%) want to see improvements related to ASB in their local area and 15% identify it as an important issue in making Sunderland a nice place to live.

However, a minority of residents (26%) are satisfied with how the Council is tackling this issue, while most (63%) are dissatisfied. The extent of this dissatisfaction is greater in Coalfield, where 38% say they are ‘very dissatisfied’, and 71% are dissatisfied to some extent.

- Sunderland has the lowest number of ASB Case Reviews (formerly known as Community Triggers) of any of the six Northumbria local authority areas, despite having the third largest population.

Current arrangements

Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) is delivered in four locality areas (East; West, North; and Washington & Coalfield, which meet jointly, taking account of Northumbria Police organisational structure). These meetings take place every two months, chaired by the local Police Inspector, and bring together several internal Council services and external partners to discuss **place-based** issues

In addition there are five Preventions meetings, one for each of the locality areas, which meet monthly, chaired by the local Police Sergeant, and discuss **people-based** issues.

Three 'flagship projects' – SAIL in the City Centre, SARA in Southwick, and HALO in Hetton – all report significant reductions in ASB in late 2024.

Operation Capio launched in December 2023 and is a joint initiative between the Council and Northumbria Police aimed at tackling anti-social motorcycle-related crime. It has reported successes in the numbers of bikes seized, an improvement in community intelligence, and has seen increased reporting.

Reducing reoffending

The Preventions team within the Youth Offending Service works with young people who are thought to be at highest risk of becoming involved in offending, and involvement in ASB is one of the key factors in choosing young people for them to work with.

Involvement of drugs & alcohol

About 6% of the incidents reported to the Police are recorded as involving alcohol. This may well be a case of under-recording.

Our aims

During 2025 the Council will make a significant investment in increasing staffing levels in its six Locality Teams, which will enable them to tackle ASB more effectively tackle ASB and priority crime more effectively..

We will review how the Council, Police and Fire & Rescue Service are delivering their section 17 responsibility (see Background section).

We will track the progress of the Crime & Policing Bill, and particularly the parts relating to Respect Orders (for adults only, and to be subject to a pilot scheme before full implementation) and enhanced powers for the Police to seize nuisance vehicles, with a view to making full use of them as soon as possible.

We will review with Gentoo, and other registered providers of social housing, how best to record and categorise ASB incidents and clarify who should do what, particularly in relation to noise nuisance.

We will continue to support the implementation of the Police Operation Capio to tackle motorbike nuisance.

Social cohesion & preventing violent extremism

Background

The Prevent Duty set out in Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015), requires specified authorities (local authorities, Police, the Probation Service, Education establishments, Prisons and NHS Trusts) to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation. The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a legal duty on public bodies to 'foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.'

What do we know?

- A riot took place in Sunderland on 2 August 2024, involving up to 700 people, as part of a wave of large-scale civil disturbances across several towns and cities in England. The immediate trigger for these was the fatal stabbing of three young girls at a dance class in Southport, combined with false claims on social media about the identity of the attacker. Unlike the so-called BOB riots in 2001 (Bradford, Oldham and Burnley) many of the 2024 disturbances occurred in towns and cities without a long history of relatively large non-white communities (e.g. Aldershot, Blackpool, Hartlepool, Hull, Rotherham, Plymouth and Weymouth), where ethnic diversity has been very limited until the 21st century.
- The riot in Sunderland was contained by effective policing, carried out by officers prepared to put themselves in harm's way to protect the rest of the community, and has not been repeated.
- Commonly cited causes of disaffection include poor employment prospects, the inability to 'get on in life' (often associated with low educational attainment), poor housing prospects, and problems with transport and accessibility. When these essentials are missing, people don't just struggle to stay well, they begin to feel disillusioned and left behind. Ensuring strong building blocks - secure housing, education and skills, good work, transport, and financial resources - is essential for building a healthier, more inclusive, and safer city.
- The Home Office carries out an annual assurance process with local authorities to assess local performance in relation to the Prevent Duty. The assurance process is now based on seven benchmarks. In 2025 Sunderland met one of these (Referral Pathway) and did not meet the other six (Multiagency Partnership Group, Referral Pathway, and Training programme) and did not meet the other four (Local Risk Assessment, Partnership Plan, Reducing permissive environments, Communications & Engagement and Multiagency Partnership Group and Training programme).
- Section 36 of CTSA 2015 requires local authorities to ensure that there is a local multi-agency 'Channel Panel' in place to assess and provide support for people susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. This has its own Annual Channel Assurance process. When last completed, in June 2024, this had 17 components assessed as 'green', one as 'amber', and none as 'red'. In the three-year period January 2022 to January 2025 12 individuals were considered by the Sunderland Channel Panel, ten of whom were male and nine were under 18.
- Individuals from Sunderland have been convicted of terrorist offences.

Current arrangements

Whilst in no way representative of the city and its people, the violence and disorder committed by a small minority in Sunderland City Centre on 2 August 2024, in the wake of the tragic events in Southport, provided a perspective on the need to better understand the views and concerns of all of our communities and the impact on social cohesion.

A comprehensive programme of community engagement was therefore commissioned, facilitated and delivered by the Belong Network as independent experts in the fields of cohesion, inclusion and conflict resolution. The work has included individual and group conversations with residents, partner organisations, and Voluntary and Community Sector representatives as well a series of area-based community dialogues.

The insights gathered are being used to help inform and shape a Social Cohesion Strategy for Sunderland, co-created with communities and stakeholders, that will guide activity under agreed priorities to help increase a sense of cohesion, pride, belonging and a connection to opportunities for all residents.

The strategy, set to be launched in September 2025, will also help shape and guide renewed, effective ways of working between communities, partners and stakeholders to ensure shared short, medium and longer-term aims are achieved in relation to creating a cohesive and inclusive Sunderland where equality and diversity are embraced and celebrated.

Reducing reoffending

The Channel and Prevent arrangements are intended to divert and deter people from involvement in terrorist offences.

Involvement of drugs & alcohol

Drugs and alcohol are less implicated in violent extremism than in many forms of crime, although intoxication and loss of inhibitions can make people more inclined to join in with disturbances and rioting.

Our aims

During 2025 the Council will make a significant investment in increasing staffing levels in its six Locality Teams, which will enable them to engage with local communities more effectively.

Review employment creation programmes to ensure that they do not only 'pick the lowest hanging fruit' (helping people who are the nearest to gaining or returning to employment) but are also incentivised to engage with people with a history of offending, drug and/or alcohol problems, and/or mental health issues.

Support the implementation of the forthcoming strategy on social cohesion and clarify how the Safer Sunderland Partnership can do that most effectively.

Ensure that all seven benchmarks of the Prevent assurance process are met. This is likely to involve the establishment of a Sunderland CONTEST Board, updating the Risk Assessment, drawing up a new Partnership Plan and a plan for Communications & Engagement, and taking action to reduce 'permissive environments'.

Include within the new performance management system quarterly updates on the levels of hate crime and hate incidents so that the Partnership is informed about trends and can agree appropriate responses.

Support work to counteract misinformation which undermines social cohesion, including racism, homophobia, transphobia and misogyny.

Drugs strategies

Background

All aspects of drug and alcohol working in Sunderland are overseen by the Sunderland Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Group which has a broad membership representing key stakeholders including criminal justice and health partners. The Drug and Alcohol and Alcohol Harm Reduction Group recognises the impact substance use can have on all types of crime and ASB and helps to co-ordinate all aspects of intervention from enforcement through to education and prevention, and treatment and recovery support for those who need it. Comments on the involvement of drugs and alcohol for each of the four priorities within this community safety plan are set out on the preceding pages.

Additionally, Sunderland has its own comprehensive and coherent alcohol strategy, 'Calling Time: Time to Rethink Drink' with linked delivery plans.

Sunderland is also an active member of the Northumbria Combatting Drugs Partnership and fully committed to driving forward the partnership's shared strategies and actions at our local level.

The NCDP Strategic Plan is based on four priorities:

Reducing supply and offending including reducing drug related drug crime

Improving recovery outcomes including increasing engagement in treatment

Reducing demand, drug related harms, drug use and prevalence

Strengthening leadership, management and governance.

The NERSGG Strategy is based on three priorities:

Reducing supply

Treatment and recovery

Prevention and reduction in the demand for drugs.



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