

Safer Stronger Communities – Annual Update

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Report of: Chief Officer Safer Stronger Communities

Report to: Environments, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

### **What is this report about?**

#### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

This report concerns the annual update against priorities included in the Safer Stronger Communities – Leeds Plan 2021-2024

- a. ASB and Public Order
- b. Domestic Violence and Abuse
- c. Hate Crime
- d. Illicit Drugs and Substance Use
- e. Offending Behaviours
- f. Organised Crime and Street Gangs
- g. Exploitation and Radicalisation
- h. People with multiple needs (Street Users and Sex Workers)
- i. Violence and sexual crime

The report aims to capture progress made and challenges experienced in our efforts to respond to the impact of crime and anti social behaviour on individuals, families and neighbourhoods.

Some communities in our city will experience crime and anti-social behaviour because of who they are, or where they live and we know some may not feel comfortable in reporting it, this is not right because peoples' experiences and perceptions can have a detrimental impact on their wider lives. In addition, we also understand how the fear of crime can affect people in their homes, on the streets and the places they go.

As a compassionate city, preventing victimisation and supporting people harmed by crime is central to our work, as is tailoring our response to individual needs. We are listening to and work with people with lived experience, to shape services. In the last 12 months we have embedded our 'safer, stronger communities' model and this has allowed us to place a greater emphasis on early identification, prevention and intervention so we can be responsive to local needs and work with others to create thriving, resilient communities that promote respect.

We are seeking to place a collective emphasis on meeting the needs and demands of people in this dynamic and diverse city, as well as preventing future victimisation and offending; ensuring we strive to make every contact count because everyone has the right to live in a safe, clean, and tolerant society and everyone has a responsibility to behave in a way that respects this right.

## Recommendations

- The Board is asked to note the content of the report.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. The Board was updated July 2022 on the Safer, Stronger Communities Leeds Plan 2021-2024 and asked for annual updates against the priorities included within the Strategy.

## What impact will this proposal have?

### Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

2. The content of this report should be considered within the context of the city's community safety strategy - Safer Stronger Communities – Leeds Plan 2021-2024'.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

3. The Safer Leeds Executive (SLE) has a statutory requirement to produce a Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) to assess the scale and nature of crime and disorder in the city and to identify medium to long term issues affecting community safety. The JSA includes analysis of a range of both quantitative and qualitative data from across the partnership. It identified a number of reoccurring themes, and this information and intelligence has therefore been used to inform delivery plans that underpin the overarching Strategy.
4. Your Voice Survey - Evidence from public consultation via West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), and intelligence collated from residents accessing services delivered by Community Safety, such as the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, have been used to inform the contents of the strategy.
5. Partners and representatives from a range of stakeholders (Leeds City Council; West Yorkshire Police; West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; National Probation Trust; Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group, the Voluntary and Community Sector, West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company; HM Prison Service, Leeds Children's Trust Board; Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board; Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) have helped shape and contributed to the Safer Stronger Communities City Plan.

### **What are the resource implications?**

6. There are no specific resource implications associated with this update report.

### **What are the legal implications?**

7. This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information. The report is ineligible for Call In, as the Executive and Decision-Making Procedure Rules state: 'The power to call in decisions does not extend to decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules'. This is one such decision. In line with the Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules, the matter has been considered by the relevant Scrutiny Board.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

8. National changes to government legislation and prioritisation have brought both challenges and opportunities for the city. Leeds has the following operational boards in place to manage both the risks and threats that are presented which complement a range of West Yorkshire and a range of other local strategic partnerships including those led by Childrens, Adults, Health, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector and West Yorkshire Police.

- a. Anti-Social Behaviour Board
- b. Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- c. Hate Crime Strategic Board
- d. Health & Wellbeing Board and or West Yorkshire Combatting Drugs Board
- e. Reducing Reoffending Board
- f. Serious Violence & Serious Organised Crime Board
- g. On-Street Sex Work Partnership Board
- h. Violence Against Women & Girls Board
- i. CONTEST Gold and Protect & Prepare Boards

9. A performance update was provided to Scrutiny in against the city priorities in June 2023.

### **Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Update on Priorities from the Safer Stronger Communities – Leeds Plan 2021-2024

Appendix 2 – Safer Stronger Performance Update

Appendix 3 – Police Update to September Scrutiny Board

### **Background papers**

[Safer Stronger Communities – Leeds Plan 2021-2024](#)