

Safer Leeds Annual Update

Date: 18th September 2024

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing & Environment

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Leeds has a long history of partnership working to address community safety, and the Safer Leeds Community Safety Partnership (Safer Leeds Executive) continues to evolve with a strong commitment to making sure people are safe in the city and feel safe through the delivery of effective outcomes for people and communities.

In November 2021, the Safer Leeds Executive set out a three-year plan to address community safety in Leeds. The plan outlined 9 key shared priorities and a range of key deliverable actions; the purpose of this report is to update the Council's Executive Board on progress. Appendix 1 provides updates for the 9 key shared priorities and information about additional community safety activity.

The Safer Leeds Executive partnership arrangements are aligned and work closely with the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, both of which also report annually to Executive Board. The nature of work undertaken in all three boards, is such that there are several cross-cutting themes aimed at supporting communities, families, and individuals. To ensure effective partnership working on these cross-cutting themes takes place, appropriate working arrangements have been implemented to ensure the necessary leadership and coordination of work is embedded.

Recommendations

- a) The Executive Board is asked to note the content of this annual report and the full overview in Appendix 1.

What is this report about?

- 1 The Safer Leeds Executive is the city's Community Safety Partnership which has a responsibility for holding partners to account in keeping communities in Leeds safe by tackling crime and disorder.
- 2 Safer Leeds and the work of the community safety partnership significantly connects in a number of strategic and operational ways with the work overseen and undertaken within both the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, to ensure efficient and effective partnership working on cross-cutting themes and priorities.
- 3 For example, the front door safeguarding hub provides a joint collaborative working environment for colleagues from a number of organisations and service areas that seeks to best protect victims of domestic violence and abuse from harm, through information sharing, strategy meetings and multi-agency joint support responses. By way of further example, our work to prevent, and effectively respond to the challenges presented by serious youth violence, also has several multi-agency inputs including daily risk management meetings under the 'Project Shield' banner that gives rise to a strong coordinated response highlighted as good practice in a recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI).
- 4 It is a multi-agency group established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Partnership approach is built on the premise that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety issues and that these issues can be addressed more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership. The annual report details progress made over this report period against the key deliverables set out in the plan. But of note, some of the effective partnership successes are:

The introduction of Neighbourhood Partnership under the leadership of West Yorkshire Police, using the 'Clear, Hold, Build' strategy model to dismantle organised crime groups, since its introduction in Harehills 16 months ago has seen a 40% reduction in overall crime.

The Front Door Safeguarding Hub has supported 4672 victims of domestic abuse with safety plans between April 2023 and March 2024.

The development and launch in September 2023 of the WalkSafe Leeds app for use by visitors, residents and workers to Leeds. The app has been downloaded by more than 3500 people within the Leeds area and was used over 26,000 times within a 6 month period.

Working in a collaborative partnership with the two main universities in Leeds we have developed a dedicated response focussed predominantly in areas occupied by the students which has resulted in a 50% reduction in domestic noise complaints in 2023/24 in these area.

- 5 The Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan 2021 – 2024 sets out the strategic direction for the Safer Leeds Executive to hold the partnership to account for keeping communities safe.
- 6 The plan was approved at Full Council and delivery of the priorities and objectives within it commenced with organisations from across the whole Community Safety Partnership working across the following nine thematic shared priorities that adversely impact on people and places:

- ASB and Public Order
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Illicit Drugs and Substance Use
- Offending Behaviours
- Organised Crime and Street Gangs
- Exploitation and Radicalisation
- People with multiple needs (Street Users and Sex Workers)
- Violence and Sexual Crime

7 This report is an update to Executive Board on the progress over the last 12 months against the key deliverables set out in The Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan 2021 – 2024 against the above nine priorities.

What impact will this proposal have?

8 This report is an annual update with no decisions required by Executive Board, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

- Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

9 The Safer Stronger Communities City Plan 2021-2024 has been aligned to contribute to the Best City Ambitions:

- to delivering a safe and welcoming city for people of all ages and from all communities in which residents feel more secure;
- understanding that place matters, and positive identity, culture, heritage and pride in our communities are vital assets in a sustainable future for the city and its local centres.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

10 The annual update has been prepared in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities, Customer Service and Community Safety.

11 We have engaged with key stakeholders on the Safer Leeds Executive to ensure that progress against the shared priorities is correctly reflected.

What are the resource implications?

12 There are no direct resource implications, however our strategic, coordinated and inclusive approach to community safety in Leeds provides opportunities to build upon and create effective partnerships and responses to ever changing need, as well as to target our work more effectively based on local intelligence and evidence.

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

- 13 The Safer Leeds Executive meets on a bi-monthly basis and is presented with a regular performance update which identifies any potential community safety trends/risks.

Several strategic operational boards are in place as part of the governance and accountability framework of Safer Leeds, to manage both the risks and threats presented within the strategy as well as providing flexibility to adjust to any new national priorities and/or emerging local issues, linked to the corporate risk relating to community cohesion.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 The Safer Leeds Community Safety Partnership (The Safer Leeds Executive) is a multi-agency partnership established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. S.5 of the Act requires the Partnership to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 15 This in an annual update report rather than a specific proposal so no other options have been considered.

How will success be measured?

- 16 Progress against the key shared priorities are included in Appendix 1 and are monitored on a regular basis through the Safer Leeds Executive.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 17 n/a

Appendices

- 18 Appendix 1 – Safer Leeds Annual Update

Background papers

- 19 There are no further background papers.