

Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24)

Date: 17 November 2021

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing and 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

What is this report about?

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

- This report presents the appended **Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24)** and sets out the strategic direction of Leeds community safety partnership, the Safer Leeds Executive, which has responsibility for holding partners to account in keeping communities in Leeds safe by tackling crime and disorder.
- The Plan focuses on three strategic outcomes:
 - ❖ Keeping people safe from harm,
 - ❖ Preventing and reducing offending and
 - ❖ Creating safer and stronger communities
- The Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24) will replace the Safer Leeds Strategy 2018-21 and forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. As such, its adoption is in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules for consideration by Executive Board prior to formal approval by Full Council.
- This Plan will contribute directly to the Best Council Plan (2020-2025) specifically in relation to the Safe, Strong Communities element and the overarching ambition that: *'People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets and the places they go'*.
- The Plan links directly to the Youth Justice Plan which is also included within the November Executive Board agenda, and considers its place within the City Ambition previously considered at the Executive Board on the 20th October 2021 (Shaping our City Ambition); which aims to 'demonstrate the interlinked nature of the key priorities shared by the council and its partners.'
- This Plan will also be aligned where appropriate to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

Recommendations

The Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Endorse the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24) and refer the Strategy to Full Council with a recommendation that it is formally adopted as Council policy.
- b) Note that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment will lead and implement this.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The Safer Leeds Executive has a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. Locally, this strategy will be known as the **‘Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan’**.
- 2 The Plan sets out the overarching ambition of the Partnership: **‘People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets and the places they go’**.

The Strategic Priorities are:

- Keep people safe from harm (victim)
- Prevent & reduce offending (offender)
- Create safer, stronger communities (location)

The proposed Shared Priorities are:

- 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 (Inc. Rough Sleepers and Sex Workers)
- Violence and Sexual Crime (Inc. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking)
- Violence Against Women and Girls

- 3 The partnership’s strategic priorities of ‘victim, offender and location’ denotes a universal, targeted, and specialised approach to addressing community safety concerns, regardless of the issue, with a recognition that to achieve the desired outcomes the emphasis must be on ‘people and place’.
- 4 As a partnership, we are ambitious and will look to maximise all opportunities to apply and embed the newly formed, Safer, Stronger Communities approach, which places a greater emphasis on early identification, prevention, and intervention, so we can be responsive to local needs by working with communities before a crisis point and thus prevent future victimisation and offending.
- 5 The Safer, Stronger Communities approach will guide strategic thinking and operational activity across all the shared priorities, so we can seek to address the impact of inequalities experienced by some members of our communities, who may be more affected by incidents and/or crimes, and thereby:
 - ❖ Strengthen the safer and stronger elements of partnership working,
 - ❖ Address crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people safe from harm, and;
 - ❖ Be responsive to local needs, to create thriving, resilient communities that promotes respect.
- 6 The approach is based around a ‘people and place’ approach encompassing all aspects of lifestyle and identity. This includes neighbourhoods where people live and the places they go, but also communities of interest and groups with which a person will interact and can be applied at the following levels: Individual/family, community/ neighbourhood, city-wide/ strategic.

- 7 Fundamental to this approach will be connecting the wider social and economic determinants that impact on safer and stronger communities and the interdependences and cross-cutting nature and issues of community safety, regardless of the presenting crime. We will look to do this through effective partnership collaboration with communities and through joint work with local connected boards (e.g., Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board) and key West Yorkshire boards, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and our wider valued and trusted voluntary and community sector.
- 8 Much has been achieved over the last three years across the community safety agenda, including reductions in some recorded crimes and real positive changes in the way victims are supported and encouraged to report crimes but we are not complacent, and we know there is always room for improvement. The pandemic has shone a light on a host of inequalities and through this new Plan we will strengthen our commitment to work with, and for, communities. As a partnership we recognise there is more we can collectively do to keep people safe from harm, prevent and reduce offending and create safer and stronger neighbourhoods.
- 9 From listening to our communities, we have heard how the impact of crime on individuals, families and neighbourhoods can be devastating and we understand how the fear of crime can affect people in their homes, on the streets and the places they go. Some communities will experience crime and anti-social behaviour because of who they are, or where they live, and some may not feel comfortable in coming forward and reporting it. In turn, peoples' experiences and perceptions can have a detrimental impact on their lives. At the same time we know the nature and type of crime is changing and evolving.
- 10 As a compassionate city, preventing victimisation and supporting people harmed by crime is central to the city's work, as is tailoring our response to individual needs. We will listen to, be informed by, and work with people with lived experience to shape services. We will 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. 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.
- 11 The issues and challenges which the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan seeks to address are being put forward for formal approval by Leeds City Council.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:		
Have ward members been consulted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- 12 The Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021- 24) sets out the strategic direction of Safer Leeds Executive and will guide the work of the partnership and its work with and for communities across the city.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 13 Safer Leeds has a statutory requirement to produce an annual 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. This information and intelligence identified several reoccurring themes to shape strategic thinking. Extensive consultation has taken place to inform the development of the draft Plan 2021-24. This has included a Joint Strategic Assessment of the scale and nature of crime and disorder in the city to identify medium to long term issues affecting community safety.

- 14 Evidence from public consultation via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was collated along with intelligence from residents accessing Community Safety services, such as those delivered by Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This information has been used to inform the contents of the strategy. Similarly, a range of Outcomes Based Accountability sessions held with operational professionals and service users during the last 18 months has provided further evidence to inform the proposed approach.
- 15 In addition, this Plan was opened to public consultation during September and October 2021. This also included a direct request for feedback from the equality hubs within the City Council.
- 16 As part of due diligence and scrutiny, at its remote consultative meeting on 15th July 2021 the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board received early sight of the draft Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24). On the 23rd September, in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules, the draft Plan was presented to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) and supported as part of the formal consultation, prior to proceeding to the Executive Board for its consideration
- 17 Finally, 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; and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership have helped shape the new Plan.

What are the resource implications?

- 18 Since coming to Office in November 2012, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner has provided funding to Safer Leeds on an annual basis to support the partnership's work. This has been in line with the West Yorkshire Policing and Crime Plan with an emphasis on 'people and place'. Agreement has been made to continue to passport the Community Safety Fund to local government partners for an additional year, at the same level as 2020/21, demonstrating a commitment to the strong partnership working on this agenda. This year sees transitional arrangements between the Office of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's new Mayoral arrangements. This was agreed prior to the development of the new Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24).
- 19 Accountability for the delivery of the funds sits with the Safer Leeds Executive, through the delegated authority of the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment, who are responsible for ensuring value for money and excellence in service delivery. The table below outlines the proposed local funding allocation for 2021/22.

Programme of Activity	<u>Community Safety Fund</u>	Funding Allocation 2021/22
Community Safety - Safer Leeds	<u>Creating safer, stronger communities (location)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Supporting the Front Door Safeguarding Hub ❖ Delivery of a domestic violence campaign ❖ Delivery and dissemination of lessons learnt from the DHR reviews ❖ Support the prevention of nuisance and anti-social behaviour and Reduce the occurrence and impact of hate crime through the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) ❖ Providing extra capacity to support intelligence products to inform the deployment of resources (via the Safer Leeds Intelligence Team) ❖ Mental Health additional provision ❖ Prevent domestic violence and abuse for those at risk ❖ Implement partnership referral processes and pathways and approaches to tackle domestic violence and abuse ❖ Enhanced security provision via LeedsWatch (CCTV) 	£398,180
DIP Drug and Alcohol Programme	<u>Keeping people safe from harm (victim)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reduce the aggravating effects of alcohol and drugs on crime and ASB ❖ Support delivery of Integrated Offender Management 	£679,712
Youth Offending Service	<u>Preventing and reducing offending (offender)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Breaking cycles of offending ❖ Early identification and interventions for those at risk of becoming involved in criminality 	£198,067
	Total	£1,275,959

20 The table below outlines the funding allocations to local priority areas of work for the Community Safety Programme

<u>Community Safety - Safer Leeds</u>		
Front Door Safeguarding Hub		£128,128
Publicity Campaigns		£10,000
Domestic Violence		£94,000
Intelligence Support		£38,000
Anti-Social Behaviour		£50,000
Locally determined priorities		£78,052
Total		£398,180

- 21 The Community Safety Fund has now transferred to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral arrangements and will be reviewed for the year 2022/23. No further information is available on the timescales for this process, but it is likely to align with the development and approval of the new Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire.
- 22 A process is in place to facilitate effective budget management and reporting to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on a quarterly basis.
- 23 Resources are in place to progress activity against the delivery of the strategy. Efficiencies of £382k have been delivered over the last three years against the net managed budget for Safer Leeds.
- 24 Further efficiency savings have resulted from the work to bring both Safer Leeds and the Communities Team together, to form one new service area the: "Safer and Stronger Communities Team". This coordinated service will build on existing relationships to contribute to the priorities within the new Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan, to take forward the plan, share examples of best practice, review areas of connectivity between teams and to ultimately provide better outcomes for the people of Leeds.

What are the legal implications?

- 25 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information. The matter has been designated a key decision however it is not eligible for Call-in. The Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-2024) will replace the existing Safer Leeds Strategy, which features within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. As a document within the Budget and Policy Framework, the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-2024) is not open to the Call-in process, as Para 5 of the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules provides that "The power to call in decisions does not extend to.... Decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules;".

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

- 26 National changes to government legislation and prioritisation have brought both challenges and opportunities for the city, which the Plan aims to address.
- 27 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 Plan as well as provide flexibility to adjust to any new national priorities and/ or emerging local issues. In addition, connections to other significant boards in Leeds and across West Yorkshire will be maintained and strengthened.
 - Anti-Social behaviour Board
 - Domestic Violence and Abuse Board
 - Hate Crime Strategic Board
 - Reducing Reoffending Board
 - Serious & Organised Crime Board
 - Strategic Sex Working Board
 - Street Support Improvement Board
 - Safer Leeds: City Centre Board
- 28 There are potential risks associated with budget reductions and these have been managed ensuring value for money and by reviewing existing service delivery.

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

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

- 29 This plan supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's outcome of: 'People will live in healthy, safe, and sustainable communities'. Specifically, it links directly to the safer, stronger communities active application of working with and for communities, families, and individuals, so people are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go. The impact of crime and disorder has a direct correlation with people's health and wellbeing, experienced by some members of the communities and different population groups.
- 30 This plan also supports the Inclusive Growth pillar and the ambition for Leeds to have a strong economy within a compassionate city. Specifically, it links directly to the safer, stronger communities emphasis on early identification, prevention, and intervention, so as a city we can be responsive to local needs by working with individuals, families and communities before a crisis point and prevent future victimisation and offending.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 31 No other option was considered in producing a strategy as Safer Leeds has a legislative requirement to do this based on the locally produced Joint Strategic Assessment and consultation.

b) How will success be measured?

- 32 A performance, accountability framework is in place to monitor and track progress against outcomes, performance indicators and activity, including regular highlight reports from the Chairs of the respective Boards.
- 33 Safer Leeds Executive has also agreed to produce an annual report as part of its review, during this cycle, including an annual Joint Strategic Assessment, an intelligence product on risk, threat, and harm of the pertinent issues.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 34 The Safer, Communities: Leeds Plan will be in place for the next 3 years.

Appendices

- 35 Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24)
- 36 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion, and Integration Screening
- 37 Safer Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2018-21 ~ Annual Update 2020/2021

Background Papers

- 38 None