



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Report to Full Council

Date: 1st July 2013

Subject: Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-2014

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. As the city's Community Safety Partnership, the Safer Leeds Executive has a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, referred to locally as the 'Safer Leeds Strategy' (appendix 1). This strategy also forms part of the council's budget and policy framework, and requires approval by Full Council.
2. Following the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012, local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies are expected to have regard to the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan for the wider police area. In March 2013, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner published the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018.
3. The Safer Leeds Executive considered the draft Safer Leeds Plan 2013/14 at its meetings in April and June 2013. It was then scrutinised by the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board on the 16th of May. The strategy was then presented to Executive Board on the 19th June 2013. The views of all these groups have been included in the attached version of the strategy.
4. The strategy proposes that the partnership focuses on the following priorities:

Safeguarding

 - Domestic violence and abuse
 - Child sexual exploitation
 - Hate crime and extremism

Burglary

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Families First Programme

Crime related misuse of drugs and alcohol

Re-offending

Recommendations

4. Full Council is asked to approve the Safer Leeds Strategy, as the city's Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2013-14.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 Full Council is asked to approve the Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-2014.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 replaced Police Authorities with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), and introduced Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the PCCs and assist them in carrying out their functions.
- 2.2 On 15th November 2012, Mark Burns-Williamson was elected as the first West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and will hold office to May 2016.
- 2.3 One of the key responsibilities of a PCC is to produce a five year Police and Crime Plan in liaison with their Chief Constable, based upon identified local priorities. There is also a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. In doing so, these local strategies are expected to have regard to the objectives set out in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.4 Safer Leeds is a long standing partnership body with statutory representation from Council, Police, Probation, Health and Fire. The partnership is augmented by the representatives from the voluntary sector, HMP Leeds and the Crown Prosecution Service. In the last few years the top priorities have been to reduce burglary, which was significantly higher than in comparable cities and combat anti-social behaviour, which was of great public concern.
- 2.5 This work has been very successful. Burglary has fallen from over 9,000 (9/10) to 5,305 in 12/13. A new approach to anti-social behaviour, drawing together Council, ALMO and Police and Fire service staff, combined with victim support, has dramatically improved satisfaction.
- 2.6 These issues remain important for the city but there are also other pressing issues to which the partnership can make a difference. The strategy seeks to set out a limited number of priorities that key partners will work on over the next 12 months.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies are expected to have regard to the objectives set out in the wider Police and Crime Plan produced by the PCC.
- 3.2 The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel formally considered and commented on the draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018 during its meeting on 8th March 2013. On 27th March 2013, the PCC published the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018.
- 3.3 The local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, also forms part of the council's budget and policy framework. As such, the Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-14 is must be approved by Full Council.

- 3.4 The plan has been developed using intelligence provided in the Leeds Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) 2012/13, and in consultation with the Safer Leeds Executive, the city's statutory Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.5 Furthermore, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board discussed the draft plan at their meeting on the 16th May, which was also attended by Mark Burns-Williamson, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The Board were supportive of the Strategy, and made the following suggestions to help make the plan more user-friendly:
- The inclusion of a range of quantitative measures which will be used to measure performance over the year.
 - Include links to key documents within the strategy on-line, so that these are easily accessible to the public, and include narrative to explain this.
- 3.6 The strategy was presented to the Council's Executive Board on the 19th June 2013. Executive Board has recommended to Council that it approves the Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-14.
- 3.7 The strategy has been developed in conjunction with representatives of both the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board, who sit on the Safer Leeds Executive. There are particularly strong connections with regard to tackling domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and the drug and alcohol agenda. Cross representation will ensure that the city develops a coherent and complementary package of measures across all three boards.

3.7 Safer Leeds Priorities - 2013/14

- 3.7.1 During 2013/14, the Safer Leeds Executive has agreed to focus activity on the following priorities. Details of the issues and key actions are set out in the accompanying plan.

3.8 Improve safeguarding with our partners in Leeds

- 3.8.1 **Domestic abuse** - There were over 13,000 incidents of domestic violence reported by the Police in 2012/13, which was a reduction from 2011/12, when over 14,000 incidents were reported. It is thought that this may represent just a fraction of the problem. Domestic violence takes a huge toll on both public sector structures and families. There is a significant opportunity through better co-ordination between services such as the Police, Health, the Council and voluntary sector, to improve services for victims and reduce incidents.
- 3.8.2 **Child sexual exploitation** – During 2012/13 there has been an increasing awareness of the sexual exploitation of children, both through the involvement of high profile celebrities and networks operating across the West Yorkshire sub-region. Leeds does not have dissimilar issues to other areas across the country, therefore the partnership needs to focus work on what can be done to better protect children and improve reporting arrangements.
- 3.8.3 **Hate crime** – Raise awareness of the reporting arrangements in operation across the city, and ensure that partners are working together to tackle repeat victimisation in high risk Hate Crime cases, and improve community relations.

3.9 Domestic burglary in Leeds

Build on the momentum delivered over the past 18 months through the Burglary Reduction Programme, which has seen significant reductions in domestic burglary across the city.

3.10 Effectively tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities

ASB continues to be of high concern to local communities. Utilising the multi-agency approach that has been developed through the Leeds Anti-Social behaviour Team (LASBT), Safer Leeds wants to continue to support improvements in service user satisfaction rates and help reduce ASB within communities.

3.11 Support the delivery of the Leeds Families First Programme – particularly in relation to work with families who are subject to anti-social behaviour interventions, and young people involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in crime, and thereby minimising the impact their behaviour has on public resources.

3.12 Reduce reoffending

3.12.1 Crime related to the misuse of drugs and alcohol – in 2012/13 Safer Leeds undertook a review of its drug and alcohol interventions, to ensure that they were fit for purpose and that they reflected the city's drug and alcohol profile, which has changed significantly over the past 10 years. A new focus to support substance users to become drug free is now in place, and a greater emphasis on the use of legal highs and cannabis is in development.

3.12.2 Integrated offender management – there are considerable opportunities to significantly reduce crime in the city through maintaining the partnership's approach to robustly managing offenders. National changes to the way that offenders are managed from 2014 will bring challenges and opportunities which need to be fully understood by the partnership and actions put in place to mitigate potential risks due to changes in service provision. Work to look at other ways to reintegrate ex-offenders back in to mainstream society and away from criminality using restorative approaches will also be developed and deployed by partners.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Key partners such as West Yorkshire Police, Probation, Youth Offending Service and Criminal Justice service partners have contributed and commented on the draft Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-2014 through the Safer Leeds Executive.

4.1.2 The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board have been involved in the development of the strategy and made recommendations on the draft strategy at their meeting on the 16th May 2013. The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Mark Burns-Williamson, attended the meeting of scrutiny and was involved in the Board's discussion on the draft strategy.

4.1.3 The strategy was presented to the Council's Executive Board on the 19th June 2013, where they stated their support for the priorities set out in the strategy, and recommended that the strategy is approved by Full council.

4.1.4 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 plan, alongside information from the Police Authorities residents survey.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The draft Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-2014 makes reference to the Safer Leeds Partnership's commitment to serve all members of its communities effectively and acknowledges that all of its actions and plans should give due regard to implications for different groups and sections of the community.

4.2.2 A key aim of the strategy is to work closely with harder to reach groups, and in particular to improve hate crime reporting and effectively deal with complaints.

4.2.3. The partnership also plays a key role in monitoring community tensions and promoting community cohesion and cultural tolerance.

4.2.3 The Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening document is attached to this report.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The draft Safer Leeds Strategy 2013-2014 sets out the city's approach to reduce crime and disorder and deliver the city's ambition to be "the best city in the UK with the best community safety partnership and services." Linked to this, particular consideration is also given to the relevant priorities set out in the City Priority Plans.

4.3.2 The Safer Leeds Executive also 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. Such intelligence has therefore been used to inform the delivery plans that underpin the overarching Safer Leeds Strategy.

4.3.3 Representatives of both the Adults and Childrens Safeguard Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board, sit on the Safer Leeds Executive, and as the strategy has been developed work has taken place to ensure that the Safer Leeds Strategy links in to key priorities for each Board.

4.3.4 The work of the Safer Leeds Executive links in to the city wide priority; for Leeds to be the best city in the UK with the best community safety partnership and services. The desired outcome of the Executive is that; People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes in the streets, and the places they go.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 In total, £5.29m has been allocated to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Community Safety Fund for 2013/14. The Leeds allocation has been confirmed at £1,927,045. Details of how this funding will be spent are set out in the draft Strategy. The Strategy also acknowledges that from 2014/15, the PCC intends to commission delivery of community safety, reducing re-offending and victim services directly.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information. The Call In procedure does not apply to decisions taken by full Council.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 National changes to government legislation, governing the way in which offenders are managed on their release from prison, will bring challenges and opportunities for the city. These need to be better understood, and actions identified to mitigate potential risks.

5 Conclusions

5.1 As the city's Community Safety Partnership, the Safer Leeds Executive has a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, referred to locally as the 'Safer Leeds Strategy'.

5.2 Following the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012, local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies are expected to have regard to the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan for the wider police area. In March 2013, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner published the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018.

5.3 The Safer Leeds Executive considered the draft Safer Leeds Strategy at its meetings in April and June 2013 and its views are reflected within the attached version. Furthermore, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board made recommendations on the plan at their meeting on the 16th May 2013, which was also attended by the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Both the Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner were supportive of the plan, and made some suggestions on how it could be improved.

5.4 The Council's Executive Board was presented the draft strategy at its meeting on the 19th June 2013, where they stated their support for the priorities set out in the strategy, and recommended that it be approved by Full Council at their meeting on the 1st July 2013.

5.4 The strategy forms part of the Council's budget and policy framework, and requires the approval of full Council.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Full Council is asked to approve the Safer Leeds Strategy, as the city's Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2013-14.

6.2 Background documents¹

6.3 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.