

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
10 MARCH 2016	Public Report

Report of the Service Director for Adult Services and Communities

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SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN REVIEW

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Committee on the progress of delivering the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) Plan during 2015/16 and set out proposed priorities for the three-year period commencing April 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee are recommended to:

- a) note the progress made by SPP in tackling community safety priorities over the last year and,
- b) provide feedback on the proposed SPP priorities for the forthcoming period

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The work of the SPP in tackling community safety priorities directly links to objective 2 of the Sustainable Community Strategy – Creating Strong and Supportive Communities

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The SPP brings together the responsible authorities as set down in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006 for the purposes of tackling local community safety priorities. In 2014, the SPP produced a three year plan detailing how the partnership will address the community safety priorities for Peterborough, namely:

- Addressing victim based crime by reducing re-offending and protecting our residents and visitors from harm
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Building stronger and more supportive communities.

- 4.2 The Partnership continues to monitor performance across all areas of the Plan and has had a number of successes over the last year as detailed throughout and in the refreshed plan (see Appendix 1). Key achievements for the Partnership over the last year include:

- the reductions in those killed or seriously injured on our roads
- the work of the Victims' Hub in supporting 6000 victims of crime across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Continued reductions in offending linked to prolific offenders who form part of the Integrated Offender Management Scheme.

- 4.3 Given the emergence of new priorities, it is proposed that a new three year SPP Plan be produced for the period commencing April 2016, and an early draft of this plan is attached for the purposes of consultation.

4.4 The SPP has recently been recognised by the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (IESE) Awards 2016. The awards panel deemed the partnership was “an excellent example of a high quality service in the sector and should be awarded a Certificate of Excellence.”

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Reducing levels of victim based crime remains a challenge for the partnership. Despite significant decreases in the preceding three years, there has been an increase in this crime type over the last 12 months, by around 6%¹. The increase in crime can be attributed to a change in the process of how the Police record crime, with a shift towards ensuring that all crimes are ethically recorded and actively encouraging more victims of sexual violence, domestic violence and hate crime, in particular, to come forward. Having an accurate picture of crime levels is critical to informing our ongoing response and has enabled us to have a renewed focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for victims of crime.

5.2 Emerging Crime Types

Following an assessment of a range of crime and disorder issues, the Partnership have identified a number of emerging themes.

- **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

5.3 Modern Slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. A large number of national and international organised crime groups and individuals are involved in modern slavery and systematically exploit large numbers of individuals by forcing and coercing them into a life of abuse and degradation.

5.4 In response to this growing area of criminality, a joint multi-agency team called Operation Pheasant was set up to support and respond to incidents of human trafficking and modern day slavery through a victim-centred and collaborative community effort. Within the last six months, Operation Pheasant has identified over 18 brothels and 55 off street sex workers. The partnership provided a package of support to victims, which ranged from providing access to sexual health services to reconnecting victims with their home country, if they wish.

- **Gangs**

5.5 Work has been commissioned by the Partnership over the last twelve months to ascertain whether a gang problem exists within the city. The report found little evidence of an organised gang culture in the city, but did find some examples of occasions where groups of young people came together, sometimes with a criminal intent.

5.6 The Partnership, particularly through the Safer Schools programme and the Youth Offending Service, have put in place a range of measures to ensure that any issues relating to gang activity are quickly addressed. This has included funding diversionary activities over the summer for young people and working on ensuring that vulnerable locations, such as Pupil Referral Units, are protected.

- **Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing from Home**

5.7 The link between children going missing and being sexually exploited is well documented. There were 294 incidents of children going missing from home or care in 2014/15 in Peterborough and it is estimated that running away places a significant amount of these young people at risk of serious harm and could in some instances also increase the risk of radicalisation. There have been a number of high profile cases relating to child sexual exploitation in Peterborough, Operation Erle saw a total of 10 male defendants convicted of 59 offences against 15 young females, these offenders received custodial sentences totalling over 114 years.

¹ All victim based crime in Peterborough, January – December 2015, compared to January – December 2014

5.8 In light of the risk identified with these emerging and linked themes, the Safer Peterborough Partnership proposes to adopt a new priority under the theme of High Risk and Vulnerable Victims, with a particular focus on child sexual exploitation and missing from home.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The revised Community Safety Plan will ensure that the Partnership and council continue to meet their statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation on the first draft of the new proposed plan has been carried out with SPP members. Scrutiny Members are now asked to contribute their thoughts and recommendations in order for a final draft to be produced.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The new revised three year plan will be presented to the Safer Peterborough Partnership in March 2016, following feedback from the Scrutiny Committee. If approved by the SPP it will then be presented to the next available Scrutiny Committee before making its way through Cabinet and Full Council for approval.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 - SPP Community Safety Plan

SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP
DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016 – 2019

1. Introduction

The Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2016-2019 sets out how the city of Peterborough, through the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP), is tackling crime and disorder. It builds on the success of the work by the SPP in building more cohesive, safer and confident communities.

This plan demonstrates the progress the partnership has made in making Peterborough safer and how the work of the SPP can help to build understanding, respect and support within and between communities.

The SPP plan is based upon the following principles:

- We are resolute in protecting those who are vulnerable within our communities
- Building understanding, respect and support with and between individuals is critical to developing strong communities
- We are committed to tackling the underlying causes of offending and ensuring that those who continue to offend are dealt with swiftly and effectively
- We take an innovative and genuine multi agency approach to reduce crime and tackle community safety issues

2. Governance Arrangements

The SPP brings together the responsible authorities as set down in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006. The most significant change to the membership over the last 12 months has been that the One Service, who set up a social impact bond to reduce the re-offending rate of prisoners with short-term sentences, was dissolved in June 2015.

The constitution will be reviewed and agreed by the members who make up the Safer Peterborough Partnership. The work and performance of the partnership are scrutinised by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee, who fulfil the requirement for a Crime and Disorder Act Scrutiny Committee in pursuance of section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Each Responsible Authority will also undertake their own internal scrutiny and governance on organisational performance and risk.

Working with the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner is a key partner of the Partnership. The priorities set out within our plan contribute to the Commissioner's [Police and Crime Plan](#), particularly the following objectives:

Objective 3 - Continue to tackle crime and disorder – to drive crime and disorder to lower levels, transferring the fear of crime from the law abiding public to those who persistently commit crime.

Objective 4 - Keeping people safe – resources are dedicated to ensure those people at most risk from harm are protected.

Over the last year, SPP has received funding of £132,339 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to help the partnership to deliver its outcomes. This grant pays for staff who support the Partnership and in addition, also funds some of the activities below:

- Continued support for the Peterborough Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Street Pastors Scheme
- Various young people projects including Gladstone Street Soccer Scheme, Werrington Football and Music Project as well as city wide youth engagement activities during the summer months.
- Crime prevention activities including Meet the Street events, 'Don't Call Us Stickers', and social media clips on street robbery and fraudulent advertising.
- Support for Mental Health Day.
- A week of action in the Millfield and New England area, focussing on improving quality of life issues such as fly-tipping.

3. Current Priorities

A strategic assessment of threat, risk and harm was developed in 2014, which formed the basis for the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan. The designated priorities for 2016-2019 are:

- Addressing victim based crime by reducing re-offending and protecting our residents and visitors from harm
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Building stronger and more supportive communities.

These priorities are delivered through specific areas of work managed through the Safer Peterborough Partnership's performance framework supported by the Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Group. A number of sub-themes fall within each of the priorities; more information on the progress of these can be found in section 6 below.

4. Overview of Performance

The Partnership continues to monitor performance across all areas of the Plan and has had a number of successes over the last year as detailed throughout this document. Key achievements for the Partnership include:

- the reductions in those killed or seriously injured on our roads
- the work of the Victims' Hub in supporting 6000 victims of crime across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Continued reductions in offending linked to prolific offenders who form part of the Integrated Offender Management Scheme.

Victim based crime is a category of offences with a specific, identifiable victim and directly links to the first priority in the plan, 'Addressing victim based crime.'

Reducing levels of victim based crime has always been a challenge in Peterborough. Despite significant decreases in the preceding three years, there has been an increase in this crime type over the last 12 months, by around 6%². The increase in crime can be attributed to a change in the process of how the Police record crime, with a shift towards ensuring that all crimes are ethically recorded and actively encouraging more victims of sexual violence, domestic violence and hate crime, in particular, to come forward. Having an accurate picture of crime levels is critical to informing our ongoing response and has enabled us to have a renewed focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for victims of crime.

Whilst the renewed focus on ethical crime recording is a significant factor in increasing crime levels, this has not detracted from continuing to scrutinise its performance as a Community Safety Partnership, and to focus on understanding why Peterborough continues to record higher levels of crime than the England average. This reinforces the view that the Partnership cannot stand still and needs to continue to develop our response to community safety. The proposed creation of a new Prevention and Enforcement Team from 1st April 2016 will be an important part of our ambition to reduce victim based crime. Further information on this is detailed below.

² All victim based crime in Peterborough, January – December 2015, compared to January – December 2014

The current performance monitoring framework is outlined in Appendix A, this is being reviewed by the Partnership. The new framework, which will launch in April 2016, will be more focussed on outcomes and how the work of the Partnership directly links to the priorities outlined in the plan.

5. Progress of the Plan

5.1 Addressing Victim Based Crime

a. Reducing Re-Offending - Offender Management

The Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan acknowledges that the best way to reduce crime is by taking a partnership approach, tackling those most disproportionately responsible for the bulk of that crime.

The main focus of the Offender Management theme is to reduce the level of offending and re-offending for both adults and juveniles, particularly prolific offenders. It further includes an outcome which aims to reduce the number of young people who become victims of crime.

Integrated Offender Management Scheme

The Integrated Offender Management scheme focuses on the most prolific offenders by working intensively with them to stop their offending behaviour and to provide an agile and swift response to re-capture those who are continuing to offend. The scheme has been successful over the last 12 months showing a number of positive outcomes, with significant reductions in offending committed by offenders following their involvement in the programme.

Based on a cohort of 53 of the city's most prolific offenders, offending reduced by 40% during their time on the scheme. Critically, following exit from the scheme, their offending continued to reduce by 68% compared to their offending before they joined the scheme. This reduction in offending also contributes to a reduction in the cost of crimes committed by these individuals with a reduction of around £0.5million linked to this cohort of 53 individuals³. This success fully supports the continued investment by the partnership in this area of business.

One area for focus over the coming months will be on the relationship between the IOM scheme and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), who, following changes to the National Probation Service, have the responsibility for the management for the majority of offenders in the community. The CRC remains in the early stages of development, the Partnership will work with the CRC to ensure the effective work delivered to date on reducing serious acquisitive crime is maintained.

Young Offenders

The Partnership continues to focus on young people who offend. The number of young people who have entered the criminal justice system for the first time, per head of population, has risen over recent months. In addition the rate of re-offending for young people has also risen. Whilst in actual numbers, the increase remains small (only 15 more young people entering the criminal justice system), we have put in place a number of initiatives to ensure that this increase is quickly addressed.

The Partnership continues to work to divert young people who have offended away from the criminal justice system, for example by focussing on restorative justice approaches which allows the Partnership to deal with minor offences more effectively, without the need to criminalise the young person. A further area of focus is on how to prevent offending in the first place and there are a number of initiatives in place to address this, for example by offering a prevention programme to young people whose older brothers or sisters are developing an entrenched pattern of offending. The Partnership will continue to focus on the preventative approach over the next 12 months.

³ Data taken from ID-IOM, the Home Office's tool to measure success of the IOM programme on a national basis

b. Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Partnership has continued to prioritise, develop and improve the city's response to domestic abuse and sexual violence over the last 12 months. This has been done through the prioritisation of a number of key themes.

The first is raising awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence and its impact on people within the city. Teaching young people about 'healthy relationships' has been a key part of this priority and the Partnership has engaged nearly 400 school pupils in the last year.

This programme raises awareness amongst young people, aged eight to eighteen, about the causes, consequences, penalties and impact of domestic abuse and sexual violence and broader crimes.

Over the last year we have increased the number of people trained in the early identification of domestic abuse. The team have run a number of courses to educate staff from across a range of organisations, including children's centres and the Extended Hands Organisation (a community based women's outreach team) who may come into contact with groups of people who may be at higher risk of domestic abuse or sexual violence.

The Partnership continue to support victims and perpetrators affected by domestic abuse to access commissioned services and programmes, with over 1,500 people supported during 2014-15.

The Children and Young People's Service, which works with families affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence, has seen a significant increase in demand for the service since it started last year. The Partnership have put in place measures to manage demand and reduce waiting times. Currently there is no waiting list to access the Adult Service, although demand continues to be high.

Over the next year we will work to support more families affected by domestic abuse through the use of additional funding, provided by the Police Crimes Commissioner. Ormiston Families have been commissioned to deliver a programme for 10 families with children aged 9-11 who have been victim or witness to incidents of domestic violence. The programme supports mothers but also puts a particular focus on supporting children to recover and make positive future outcomes. The programme is due to start in summer 2016.

c. Substance Misuse

There is a clear link between dependent users of Class A Drugs (like heroin and crack cocaine) with crime. The effects of alcohol mean it is often more likely for a person to either be a victim or perpetrator of offences such as burglary, robbery, theft and prostitution. Its use is particularly linked to incidents of domestic abuse and violence. Treatment for drug and alcohol users, particularly young people, is important so that their health and well-being is safeguarded and they make a positive contribution to their local communities. During 2014-15, 1335 users attended substance misuse services.

The Partnership will continue to offer help to those who need support and target those who commit crimes to proliferate substance misuse across the city. It is recognised that substance misuse affects many different facets of city life and uses resources from across our statutory and voluntary sector partners. To this end the strategies for drugs and alcohol, based on national guidance, have been designed to utilise all the experience and support available across the city, to reduce the overall impact on city life and build safer more confident communities.

The overarching aims of the substance misuse strategies are to:

- Increase the number of people free from drug and alcohol dependence (and substitute medication) and in sustained recovery
- Improve the health and wellbeing of people with substance misuse issues
- Reduce harm experienced by individuals, families and the community arising from problematic substance misuse
- Reduce crime experienced by individuals, families and the community associated with problematic substance misuse

- Prevent future demand on health, criminal justice and treatment services

The focus of the past 12 months has been to re-tender the substance misuse services for young people and adults into one cohesive service, which will provide consistency of treatment delivery and one point of access for all those seeking help. The redesigned Young People and Adults combined substance misuse treatment service will begin full operation on the 1st April 2016. This will bring together the treatment system under one provider, CRi, bringing with it several benefits, the main being that recovery workers will be trained in working with both alcohol *and* drug misuse, ensuring all aspects of a client's substance misuse is dealt with by one person. This will increase continuity of treatment and consistency with no need to transfer between services.

We will rigorously monitor and scrutinise the delivery of the substance misuse service over the next 12 months, to ensure that the new service is effective in reducing the number of people with drug and/or alcohol dependence and in sustained recovery.

d. Victims and Witnesses

The Partnership continues to place victims and witnesses of crime and disorder at the heart of what we do. Organisations across the Partnership work together to reduce the number of victims of crime and provide support to those people who do become victims.

The Victims' Hub

Since its inception in October 2014, the Victims' Hub has developed into an effective service helping victims of crime to cope and recover from their experience. Since October 2014, support has been provided to over 6,000 victims of crime across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, with 171 of these victims assigned to a volunteer for personal support.

The Hub has been bolstered through the addition of mental health support for victims of crime, with Community Psychiatric Nurses working alongside staff from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Women's Aid. This has enhanced the expertise available to assist and support victims linking in with the Hub.

In August 2015 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) reviewed the constabulary's response to recognising and managing safeguarding and vulnerability. HMIC highlighted the effectiveness of the Victims' Hub and considered it be a strong example of national best practice.

Restorative Justice

In April 2015 the Restorative Justice (RJ) Hub was launched, providing a range of restorative justice interventions to all victims of crime within Cambridgeshire. To ensure all victims of crime are being offered RJ (where it is appropriate), training of front line Police Officers and PCSOs has been delivered throughout the county.

The Hub are working on a range of cases from petty theft to murder and sexual assault, which shows RJ has the potential to work for every victim of crime, should the victim chose to engage in the process.

Work continues to maintain strong relationships with existing partners as well as engaging with a number of other organisations throughout the county to ensure we work effectively together. One of the most successful partnerships being with HMP Peterborough, who we are now working closely with the Police to create a 'restorative prison'. The relationship has been extremely beneficial, giving the Police access to prisoners who wish to engage in RJ.

RJ is not suitable for all victims of crime, but those who have taken part have reported a positive experience. One example is a meeting held between two men, where the victim had been assaulted. The victim did not want to press charges but he wanted to meet the offender to discuss the impact the crime had had on him, and to get reassurance that it wouldn't happen again. By the end of the meeting both men were discussing their common interests and shook hands before wishing each other well for the future.

Cyber and Fraud Crime

An increasing trend in the numbers victims of cyber and fraud crimes over the last 18 months has led the Police to launch the Fraud and Cyber-crime Investigation Unit (FCIU). The unit consists of 12 detectives, who are currently investigating a number of offences, involving over 600 victims, with crimes ranging from revenge pornography, hacking and large scale fraud using websites.

The Partnership are focussing on preventative work around fraud and have been working with Nat West, Barclays and HSBC banks to speak to customers and raise awareness of scams and provide advice on how to protect themselves. A number of publicity campaigns have been run on television, radio and social media at key times of the year to raise public awareness of fraud, for example a campaign on Black Friday which focussed on how to stay safe online.

5.2 Anti-Social Behaviour

The Partnership focusses on anti-social behaviour (ASB) due to the impact on the quality of life of people living and working in the city that ASB can have. ASB includes any ‘...behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress...’. This broad description sees the Partnership’s ASB team deal with a variety of crime and disorder types, including neighbourhood disputes, noise complaints, harassment, youth-related ASB, disorder in and around play and recreational areas, arson and graffiti.

The highest priority for the Partnership over the last 12 months has been to reduce the number of repeat victims of ASB: those who suffer ASB experience varied levels of harm, but in nearly all cases repeat victims experience far higher levels of impact. The ASB team reduces the number of repeat victims by having processes in place across the Partnership that allow them to quickly identify repeat victims and locations of ASB.

Engagement with local people over the last year has revealed that communities continue to want us to improve the street environment, reduce littering and fly tipping, address anti-social behaviour and criminal and environmental damage. The Partnership have been working together to ascertain how to create greater effectiveness in tackling community and safety issues and have identified how this can be achieved through greater integration between police, council and other enforcement services.

This new service, known as the Prevention and Enforcement Team, which will sit within the Safer Peterborough Partnership, will begin work in April 2016. The service will focus on community enforcement activity through a collection of multi-agency enforcement officers, led by managers from a range of different agencies but who will be directed and governed by one collective leadership arrangement.

5.3 Road Safety

Road traffic collisions have a devastating impact not only for the people directly involved, but also for their families, friends and the wider community. On average every day in the UK during 2014, almost 50 people were killed and another 6 seriously injured in reported road traffic accidents. As well as the personal consequences there are significant financial costs associated with road traffic accidents. Based on information from the Department for Transport we can estimate that the costs associated with all accidents on Peterborough roads in 2014 was £33.4 million.

The number of people killed and seriously injured on roads in Peterborough continues to fall year on year. In 2014 the number of people killed and seriously injured on roads fell to 75, from 88 in 2013. Provisional figures for 2015 are also expected to show a reduction to around 64 people, who were either killed or seriously injured.

Accident data analysis shows that around 95% of all road traffic collisions involve human behaviour as a contributory factor. To reduce the number of accidents on Peterborough’s roads, we need to influence attitude and behaviour through education, engagement, enforcement and engineering. High risk groups

continue to be young drivers, motorcyclists and vulnerable road users and they will be the focus of preventative activity.

The Safer Peterborough Partnership is a key member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership (CPRSPP). The road safety partnership is an existing partnership responsible for reducing road traffic accidents Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The partnership works with a number of organisations to look at the causes of road accidents and understand current data and intelligence, and develop multi-agency solutions to help prevent and reduce future accidents.

One key achievement for the Partnership over the last 12 months is working with the NHS, and in particular Addenbrookes Hospital, which has allowed the partnership to access non-personalised health data to understand more about the individual involved in an accident and assimilating this data to inform targeted prevention work.

A Young Driver Event was held at Huntingdon Race Course in June 2015 for pre or new drivers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Over 1000 students attended the event which was delivered by a range of organisations and partners who have an interest in reducing road traffic collisions. The day covered everything from choosing a driving instructor, driving test, road safety messages to black box technology. Feedback received from students and teachers who attended was very positive with the event likely to be repeated in future years.

5.4 Building Stronger and More Supportive Communities

a. Changing Communities and Community Cohesion

Community Cohesion

In its simplest form, community cohesion is about people from different backgrounds getting on with each other, people contributing to how their community runs and people in the community having a sense of belonging.

We regularly monitor tensions in the city through the multi-agency Tension Monitoring Group to understand emerging tensions within or between communities and identify appropriate solutions to diffuse.

The focus of community cohesion over the last 12 months has been to continue to build a positive dialogue with all communities in Peterborough. There have been a number of key cohesion challenges which are influenced by national and international events. For example the events in Paris, migration from Syria or people travelling to Syria to support terrorist activity. This can place a strain on community relationships and could easily have led to rising tensions amongst different sections of the community. The Partnership have worked hard to develop a trust and rapport with communities to ensure any tensions are quickly identified and provide support where it is needed. As a result there have been no significant community tensions over the last 12 months.

Tackling Hate Crime

In November 2015, a new Hate Crime Officer started in post. The officer is funded by the council but employed and managed by Cross Keys Homes. Since starting, the officer has begun to engage with hard to reach groups identifying what the barriers to reporting are, raising awareness and also what support is being offered. This year, the priority is to engage and support people with disabilities and LGBT groups who it is felt have high levels of underreporting of hate crime.

b. Counter-Terrorism and Prevent

With high profile terrorist events across the world, the risk of radicalisation remains significant across the country. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a specific duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Within the Home Office guidance there is an expectation that Community Safety Partnerships will take a key role in ensuring that a risk based approach is taken by Local Authorities to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The partnership will work with Police to identify vulnerable persons at risk of being drawn into terrorism so that effective support can be provided for the individuals and their families.

The Local Authority leads a multi-agency Channel Panel that provides support for those people who might be at risk of radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism. The Panel can provide a range of interventions tailored to the needs of the individuals and considers all types of radicalisation.

6. Emerging Crime Types

The purpose of reviewing the Plan on an annual basis is to allow for an assessment of whether there are emerging crime and disorder issues which are affecting the city, which require consideration for prioritisation. These are significant issues which affect more than one agency and cannot be managed as business as usual.

Following an assessment of a range of crime and disorder issues, the Partnership have identified a number of emerging themes.

6.1 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Modern Slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. A large number of national and international organised crime groups and individuals are involved in modern slavery and systematically exploit large numbers of individuals by forcing and coercing them into a life of abuse and degradation.

In response to this growing area of criminality, a joint multi-agency team called Operation Pheasant was set up to support and respond to incidents of human trafficking and modern day slavery through a victim-centred and collaborative community effort. Within the last six months, Operation Pheasant has identified over 18 brothels and 55 off street sex workers. The partnership provided a package of support to victims, which ranged from providing access to sexual health services to reconnecting victims with their home country, if they wish.

6.2 Gangs

Work has been commissioned by the Partnership over the last twelve months to ascertain whether a gang problem exists within the city. The report found little evidence of an organised gang culture in the city, but did find some examples of occasions where groups of young people came together, sometimes with a criminal intent.

The Partnership, particularly through the Safer Schools programme and the Youth Offending Service, have put in place a range of measures to ensure that any issues relating to gang activity are quickly addressed. This has included funding diversionary activities over the summer for young people and working on ensuring that vulnerable locations, such as Pupil Referral Units, are protected.

6.3 Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing from Home

The link between children going missing and being sexually exploited is well documented. There were 294 incidents of children going missing from home or care in 2014/15 in Peterborough and it is estimated that running away places a significant amount of these young people at risk of serious harm and could in some instances also increase the risk of radicalisation. There have been a number of high profile cases relating to child sexual exploitation in Peterborough, Operation Erle saw a total of 10 male defendants convicted of 59 offences against 15 young females, these offenders received custodial sentences totalling over 114 years.

Whilst there has been an enormous amount of work to protect children and families, we need to continue to work together as a Partnership to prevent more young people being put at risk and support those that have been. We will continue to identify those children and young people at risk of exploitation in order to protect and safeguard them from further risk of harm. It is also our responsibility to prevent children becoming victims of this form of abuse and reduce the opportunities that offenders may have to exploit children in the future.

7. Conclusion

The Safer Peterborough Partnership has worked over the last 12 months to ensure the priorities outlined in the Partnership Plan 2014-2017 are delivered, and to ensure that we continue to protect those who are vulnerable and tackle the underlying causes of crime, by taking a partnership approach.

Whilst there has been a small increase in victim based crime over the past year, the Partnership has scrutinised this rise in crime and is satisfied that changing recording practices are the main reason for the increase. The Partnership will however continue to closely examine our performance on a regular basis and will focus our efforts on preventing crime and ensuring that victims of crime are fully supported throughout the criminal justice system.