

Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
7 MARCH 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Rob Hill, Acting Service Director Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Communities	
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**SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD REPORT**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> Rob Hill – Acting Service Director Communities	<b>Deadline date:</b> Not applicable
<p>It is recommended that the Growth, Resources and Communities Committee:</p> <p>1. Note the progress of the work of the Safer Peterborough Partnership</p>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is presented to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee at the request of the committee members to provide an annual update on the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) Board.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is being presented to update Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee members on the key activity of the SPP Board over the last 12 months.

2.2 This report is for the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference which include;

2. Neighbourhood and Community Support (including cohesion and community safety);

11. Partnerships and Shared Services; and

**3. TIMESCALES**

3.1

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act established partnerships between local authorities, the police and police authorities, fire service, probation service, health authorities, the voluntary sector, local residents and businesses.

4.2 The aim of the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) is to deliver safer communities as set out in the Act and relevant legislation. In doing this the partnership will develop and deliver plans to tackle crime and disorder and help create safer communities.

4.3 The SPP's objective is to improve integrated working, to deliver safer communities across

partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Boards, and other partnership boards such as domestic abuse/sexual violence, substance misuse and the county housing board.

4.4.1 The SPP Board meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Chief Executive of Cross Keys Homes.

#### 4.4.2 **Membership**

- Peterborough City Council
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Probation Service
- Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire Community Rehabilitation Company
- Head of Adults and Children's Safeguarding Partnership Board
- Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services
- Cabinet member for Communications, Culture and Communities

4.4.3 The Partnership is also supported by key local agencies from both the public and voluntary sectors. Registered Social Landlords have a key role to play in addressing crime and disorder and they are represented by Cross Keys Homes.

#### 4.5 **Safer Peterborough Partnership Priorities 2020/2021 – 2023/2024**

**The following key priorities were agreed in 2020/21 as the long-term strategic themes:**

1. High Harm / High Risk Offenders (this now includes focus on Knife Crime through Operation Guardian)
2. Drug Intervention / Operation Spotlight
3. Street Working / Sexual Exploitation

#### 4.6 **Problem Solving Group / Youth Problem Solving Group**

4.6.1 The SPP Board has a fully established Problem-Solving Group (PSG) to bring together partners to assess and respond proactively to community-based challenges. The overarching aim of the group is to be an operational delivery arm of the SPP Board, managed and co-ordinated by representatives from the Police and Peterborough City Council.

4.6.2 The PSG meets monthly to respond to a wide variety of location-based issues. Emerging problems can be referred into this group to direct shared partnership activity most effectively.

4.6.3 **Activities:**

- Over the last year, the PSG has overseen a total of 91 case discussions centred around protecting the vulnerable, supporting victims, and identifying appropriate interventions against perpetrators that are proportionate to the extent of their anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crimes. Outcomes include Closure Orders, referrals to support services, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) for gating, landlord enforcement of tenancy breaches associated with ASB as well as patrols/enforcement at hot spot locations.
- We have established a Youth PSG, bringing added focus to Youth related concerns across Peterborough. We are working to extend the reach of this so that it can be used for referrals from a wide variety of forums. For example, we have worked via the Safer Schools Officer to promote its existence through our schools to invite referrals where it is felt a partnership response can help.
- The PSG are exploring introducing the use of 'Youth Disruption Notices' to Peterborough. These are currently used in the Metropolitan Police area as an initial intervention/prevention tool for young people and are seen as an effective alternative to former 'Guardian Awareness Programme' as a trigger to parents that Police have

concerns regarding their children. Views of Scrutiny Members would be welcomed to help inform this further.

- The City Centre PSPO is due for renewal this year. The PSPO allows for the enforcement of various offences in the city centre which impact on business and visitors. A public consultation launched in January, to extend the PSPO for another 3 years.
- Following on from the findings of the cross-party task and finish group, agencies are working together within the PSG to collate evidence for the introduction of a city-wide injunction as well as introducing new PSPO to hot spot areas.
- Operation Luscombe continues to be delivered in the city centre to address street begging and street based anti-social behaviour. Joint patrols between the Police and Council officers continue in the city centre to identify street drinkers, individuals begging and those committing persistent breaches of the PSPO to allow for engagement and enforcement work to take place.

#### Funding Announcements:

##### 4.6.4

A successful bid was submitted to Home Office for Safer Streets 4 funding. Peterborough has been awarded funding to deliver the below interventions.

- City Centre Anti-Social Behaviour/Problem Solving Officer
- 6 x Temporary CCTV cameras
- Additional CCTV monitoring
- Environmental Improvements in around the Burghley Road areas including gating, removal of shrubs and graffiti.

##### 4.6.5

Along with the above, the bobby scheme, neighbourhood watch, police cadets and street pastors also received funding to increase their activity in the city. The development of a VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) accreditation scheme within the Night-time Economy is also progressing through Safer Streets 4 funding to secure and promote a safe and welcoming space.

##### 4.6.6

A successful bid was submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner's community fund for taxi marshals over the festive period. The scheme assisted with dispersal in the city centre by providing a presence and reassurance at the main taxi ranks. The scheme also built on work already being undertaken through Safer Street funding in relation to violence against women and girls. The scheme received positive feedback from business and visitors to the city centre.

#### 4.7

##### **Key Updates: High Harm**

##### 4.7.1

High Harm/High Risk is a key priority for the partnership, which requires a multi-agency response. Below are some examples of ongoing operations tackling offenders and supporting vulnerable victims of crime.

##### 4.7.2

- **Operation Jetfire** – Peterborough focused operation which looks at youth group/gang/peer ASB and violence. The city contains several groups of young people who identify in different ways, some groups are longer established and some newer with a high degree of fluidity around those involved and would not always fall inside the ambit of what is a 'gang'. The groups tend to be aligned with a specific area of the city i.e., Werrington, Paston, Hampton, Orton etc. Police (and therefore to a degree partners) intelligence systems are scanned and a cohort for focus identified each week. This can drive patrol activity, direct engagement and intervention with the young people and their parents, referrals to youth PSG and other problem-solving activities. The police are increasingly, after internal review, referring young people into the youth PSG as a result of Op Jetfire. Although some of the group's activities are lower level there is more serious offending sometimes involved including threats to cause serious harm and violence.

##### 4.7.3

- **Operation Guardian** – Constabulary response to knife crime and serious street-based violence. This operation focuses on the people and locations most associated with knife

crime. There is a specific cohort of people identified who are then managed through neighbourhood policing, many of them are young people and again there is a desire to increase the use of youth PSGs to make sure there is appropriate partnership work around some of the young people involved. Patrols linked to intelligence for hotspots are also regularly tasked alongside work such as intelligence led weapons sweeps in communities which do recover weapons which have been hidden with criminal intent.

- 4.7.4
  - **Operation Beaufighter** – Response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the Lincoln Road/ Millfield area of the city where there is generally seen to be a concentration of these issues. This is an internal police structure which makes sure intelligence around potential CSE victims, those connected to offenders and locations is owned and actioned appropriately, it does not replace existing partner structures. General focus in early 2023 has shifted to more work around potential suspects and locations based on the intelligence which is available.
- 4.7.5
  - **Operation Electron** – This is the specific response to high levels of ASB and crime reported around the Puttstars venue and Queensgate at the end of 2022 and into 2023, this has included serious offences like robbery and is mainly driven by young people. There has been positive engagement between partners including the use of an extra ordinary PSG. There have also been significant police resources dedicated to patrols at the location.
- 4.7.6
  - **Clear, Hold, Build** – This is a Home Office initiative to look at targeting serious organised crime groups (OCGs) by working with partners and the community across a ‘staged’ approach - the clearing of groups, the holding of areas and the building of local resilience. The area proposed to work in is the Lincoln Road / Millfield area. This is still at an early stage but there have been successes in other force areas using this approach.
- 4.7.7
  - **Serious Violence duty** – This new duty places a requirement on partners to actively address serious violence. It is at an early stage with a local needs assessment commissioned to inform areas of focus. Details will be brought before future Scrutiny meetings for review and discussion.

#### 4.8 **Key Updates: Drug Intervention - Operation Spotlight**

4.8.1 Operation Spotlight was refreshed in 2022 following the publication of the Government’s ‘Harm to Hope’ Strategy. The partnership worked together to complete a new mission and delivery plan for 2022-2024.

#### 4.8.2 **Mission Statement**

A committed partnership, dedicated to implementing a whole system approach, with its primary aims focussed on prevention and safeguarding the vulnerable, it seeks to tackle the impact of drug addiction, drug-related crime/ASB and the associated serious street-based violence which blight the neighbourhoods of Peterborough.

There are four strands to the plan, led by different partners.

4.8.3 **PREPARE** - To work in partnership to understand the scale and impact of drug supply and drug related serious street-based violence in Peterborough and be responsive to it

*(Police - DCI Nikki Hall – Northern District Crime Manager)*

4.8.4

**PROTECT** – To work in partnership to identify those at risk of drug related crime or those vulnerable due to being involved in drug supply and drug related serious street-based violence.

*(Change Grow Live – Claire Thatcher - CGL Services Manager)*

4.8.5

**PREVENT** – To work in partnership to support and divert individuals away from involvement in drug supply and drug related serious street-based violence.

*(Peterborough City Council – Laura Kelsey - Community Safety Neighbourhood Manager)*

4.8.6

**PURSUE** – To robustly and tenaciously target those high-risk offenders involved in drug supply and drug related serious street-based violence.

*(Police – DI Lee Levens – Neighbourhood Policing Inspector)*

4.8.7

#### **Key highlights of Operation:**

- Four separate partnership weeks of action were undertaken during the last 12 months. Previously these had been very focussed against offenders and whilst this work has continued by both the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Force's Serious Crime Team the approach to compliment this work has seen the weeks specifically focussed on prevention and protection.
- The launch of a 'cuckooing' pathway for the public and professionals to report any concerns they have about people that maybe 'cuckooed' took place in May 2022. All partners have played key roles here in engaging in training and awareness sessions for their staff. This has been supported by Neighbourhood Watch who have engaged with the public, supported intelligence gathering and have their own publicity materials to assist with future promotion. The launch included a tactical toolkit and has involved police cadets delivering leaflets, work in Peterborough City Hospital publicising cuckooing and was supported by a media campaign.
- As a result of partnerships formed with Op Spotlight some of the most exploited and vulnerable people in the city (children and those being exploited through drugs running) have been successfully safeguarded. Building the confidence of these individuals has only been possible due to partnership working between police, housing, drugs and the targeted youth service and the combined effort in two recent separate cases has led to nine people currently in prison awaiting trial.
- As a number of the weeks of action were led by prevention and protect strands it is difficult to quantify the annual results, but we have become much better at tracking these. For example, the week of action in November 2022 saw the following undertaken:
  - o 34 joint visits to properties either by housing/drugs workers and police.
  - o A design out crime survey completed around a high harm hotspot for drugs. (This set out 13 recommendations to improve the area which are now being tracked)

- o 10 separate dedicated shifts on foot patrol by officers in City Centre, New England, and Central Ward
  - o 63 officers attending presentations by CGL (drugs service) and LADS (Liaison and Diversion Service) to assist in ensuring they know how to direct people to support.
  - o 6 persons referred to support agencies
  - o 4 arrests for Breach of a Closure Order and Production of Cannabis
  - o 6 new intelligence items
  - o Leaflet drops by cadets and support by Neighbourhood Watch to raise awareness of cuckooing
- 4.8.8 o Targeted Youth Service engaged with police and implementing longer term intervention plans so all agencies are sharing information on individuals

4.8.9 After some evaluation following the week of action CGL reported an increase in referrals from Police, particularly Neighbourhood Policing Teams and a 100% increase in the number of people in custody being Drugs Tested in Q3 and thus getting referred for support.

4.8.10 The partnership continues to be supported by Anglian Ruskin University who are currently working with victims of cuckooing to try and learn from their experiences to ensure we get the right approach first time.

4.8.11 Op Spotlight has also looked at best practice around this work and thus in January 2023 visited Surrey Police to see their 'Centre of Excellence for Prevention'. This highlighted that Op Spotlight was effective in its approach and was itself an example of good practice, and, with some tweaks to embed practices more consistently and wider across Cambridgeshire further benefits would be realised.

As a result of increased funding for the drugs service there are considerably more interventions and pro-active work undertaken by CGL and the benefits of the relationships now cemented under Op Spotlight is seamless working as 'business as usual' with drugs outreach workers linked in with Neighbourhood Policing colleagues and the City Council to ensure there is no duplication of effort and all services wrapped around persons/problems together.

#### 4.9 **Key Updates: Street sex working and street exploitation**

4.9.1 **Op Glazier** is the Community Safety Partnership response to street sex working in the north of the city centre and exploitation. This is a long running operation which was refreshed in 2022 with reframed strands and re-invigoration of the partnership working required across the three strands (safeguarding, community, and suspects). These strands now report into a meeting chaired by the Neighbourhood Policing Chief Inspector:

- **Communities strand** – chaired by the city council – there is currently a reduction in the levels of ASB and other issues experienced by residents, there will be some bespoke engagement in spring 2023 to gauge the current community sentiment.
- **Suspect strand** – chaired by the police - there are current challenges around a lack of intelligence relating to those who may be exploiting those engaged in street sex working, the police are attempting to develop this intelligence further to allow better focused efforts to pursue those responsible for exploitation.
- **Safeguarding** – temporarily chaired by Police Liaison Officer - Some good progress has been made here but there are some challenges to make sure that all the relevant partners are present in this forum and ensure that this effectively looks to identify and manage risk.

#### 4.9.2 Activities delivered include;

- Partners are supporting the National Police Chief's Council's review of language/terminology regarding those engaged in sex working to ensure professionals use appropriate language to avoid conscious and unconscious bias which can negatively impact on access to services and outcomes for vulnerable women engaged in street sex working/survival sex.
- The vulnerable women's housing pathway is progressing, recruitment is underway for specialist support workers. Additional Public Health funding for a specialist post to be implemented within Housing Needs from April onwards, will help identify clients with drug and alcohol dependencies on the housing register to provide appropriate focus and support which will also help this client group.
- Joint working between Aspire, Prison and Probation to identify women who are housed under the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS3) from out of area, to ensure that women are supported and diverted away from survival sex/street sex working.
- A number of 'out of court disposals' have been issued to kerb crawlers
- We are establishing a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme to expand community support and joint working in an area subject to elevated levels of street working. The City Centre Problem Solving Officer is supporting Peterborough Neighbourhood Watch with community engagement to achieve this.
- Engagement with affected residents to monitor effectiveness of designing out crime interventions and identify any additional areas requiring interventions.
- Further community engagement/street survey between the Local Authority and Police scheduled for March.
- A detailed assessment has been completed of public spaces that attract sex working. Target hardening initiatives are underway including:
  - Two CCTV cameras have been installed in the Burghley Road/Henry Street/Towler Street hotspot areas with additional locations identified for additional re-deployable cameras procured through Safer Streets 4 funding – Granville Street, Park Road and Henry Street are some of the locations proposed.
  - The Council have worked with landowners to install fencing to secure a disused area of land and gating of a shared passageway. These have proved effective in preventing unwanted behaviours and flytipping at the locations. Joint working with Accent Housing has also resulted in improvements to security at another car park in the affected area.
  - Activity continues to remove graffiti, litter clear up and general tidy up of overgrown trees and planted areas, improving natural surveillance, and tackling the broken window effect on the area.
  - Engagement has taken place with a business regarding investment in designing out crime measures to deter street drinking, drug taking and associated ASB in the Henry Street area. To be fully or match funded through Safer Streets.

#### 4.10 Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Group

The Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Group (SPPDG) was temporarily established to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic with a remit to ensure that vulnerable residents could access support when they needed it through coordinated support.

The SPPDG brought together the voluntary, community, faith and public sectors and has made a real difference to the lives of Peterborough residents coordinating the work of the Covid Community Hub which resolved over 3,000 issues as well as disseminating 318 hardship grants to groups, and 1,000 self-isolation grants to support people to isolate.

Over the past 12 months the SPPDG group has reshaped its membership to focus on a co-

ordinated approach to the cost-of-living crisis and associated issues.

Recent activity includes: -

- Ensuring that local and national cost of living support information is collated and published on Peterborough City Council website as well as the “How Are You” mental health and wellbeing site.
- Secured £185k funding for recruitment of Income Maximisation, Debt and Benefits Advisers through Citizens Advice Peterborough.
- Disseminating key communications in relation to covid vaccine, Homes for Ukraine, death of Her Majesty the Queen and other City challenges to the wider community.
- Cost of Living support information shared with Ambulance Service, Accident & Emergency and Local Health System for referral support.
- 20 Community Winter Support Hubs set up which have seen 13,000 visits, estimated to have supported around 4,000 households with food and essentials.
- Commissioned key infrastructure partners such as Age UK, Citizens Advice and Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough to ensure reach into key client groups.
- Supported the design and delivery of the Household Support Fund which has reached over 10,000 households including 4,800 with pensioners and 2,606 with a disabled person since April 2022.
- Set up referral route for Adult, Childrens Early Help and Housing Needs to link to Community Support.
- Secured £195k to support the delivery of health awareness activity in community hubs alongside cost-of-living work to address barriers to health interventions and screening.
- Supported the training of community hub volunteers in strength-based conversations and links to key services to ensure that community groups can understand the root cause of issues early and provide support.

As can be seen above over the last 12 months Peterborough City Council has been drawing together services, resources and interventions focused on the cost-of-living as part of a coordinated response to the crisis.

In recognition of the impact the cost-of-living crisis will have on our residents the council is committed to doing everything possible to develop services which will meet the needs of our residents moving forward and as part of our corporate priority around Prevention, Intervention and Resilience within our communities.

As such, the council is developing a Cost-of-Living Hub Trial which will draw together a multi-disciplinary team, based in the Central Library offering a coordinated cost of living response offering face-to-face support for those that are struggling financially alongside phone and digital support for those that prefer it.

The trial aims to embed learning from other cities and approaches which have used community spaces and libraries in a different way to reconnect with residents to reach out early and offer enabling support to help improve peoples’ lives.

Design work for the trial is underway, bringing together staff from across the authority alongside Citizens Advice and our Community Partners and is due to start delivery from March 2023.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 Not applicable

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The Scrutiny Committee is expected to review the information contained within this report and respond / provide feedback accordingly.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Scrutiny Committee members to feel assured that appropriate progress is being made on the



SPP priorities.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 The Scrutiny Committee must be kept informed of progress against the priorities identified and meeting outcomes.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 This report is for noting and there are no legal implications arising from what is proposed.

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 There are no significant implications within this category.

### **Rural Implications**

9.4 There are no significant implications within this category.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

10.1 Not applicable

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Not applicable

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