

Briefing note: Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership Annual Report – Partnership Scrutiny March 2023

Background

As outlined in the Scrutiny cover report Safer Newport is the city's community safety partnership, delivering on emerging local community safety issues including antisocial behaviour (ASB), serious and organised crime (SOC) and local neighbourhood issues, with a particular focus on the city centre.

Safer Newport was established to under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as a community safety partnership board providing strategic oversight and governance of identifying, preventing, and protecting community safety issues across the city.

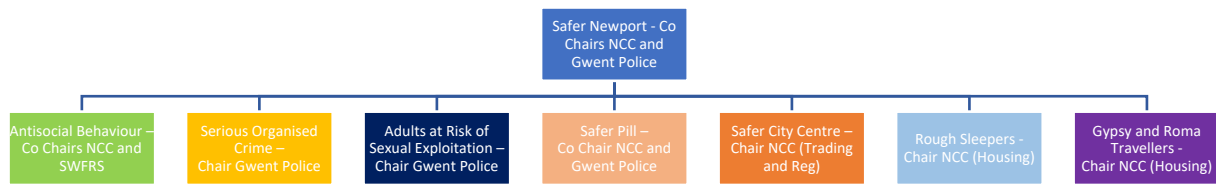
As a community safety partnership Safer Newport has a history of collaborative working and has statutory and non-statutory in its Board and subgroup meetings including Gwent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, officers from across Newport City Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Public Health Wales, Gwent Probation Service.

This will be the Committee's first consideration of the Safer Newport Partnership as a standalone partnership as it has previously formed part of the update from OneNewport as the local Public Services Board. From this year OneNewport will become a local delivery group under the Gwent Public Services Board and as such Safer Newport will be considered separately by the committee.

Work is ongoing on an updated strategic needs assessment to support the work of Safer Newport with the results forming the new updated action plan for the partnership. With committee's permission these will be presented for scrutiny at future meetings.

Safer Newport Priorities

To identify priorities for action Safer Newport members reviewed police data, local data including information from local needs assessment alongside organisational and community intelligence to agree the key priorities and these form the basis of the Board and subgroups structure as illustrated below. This structure delivers on tactical and operational issues, supported by relevant task and finish groups, and ensures delivery of priorities and immediate problem solving when issues arise.



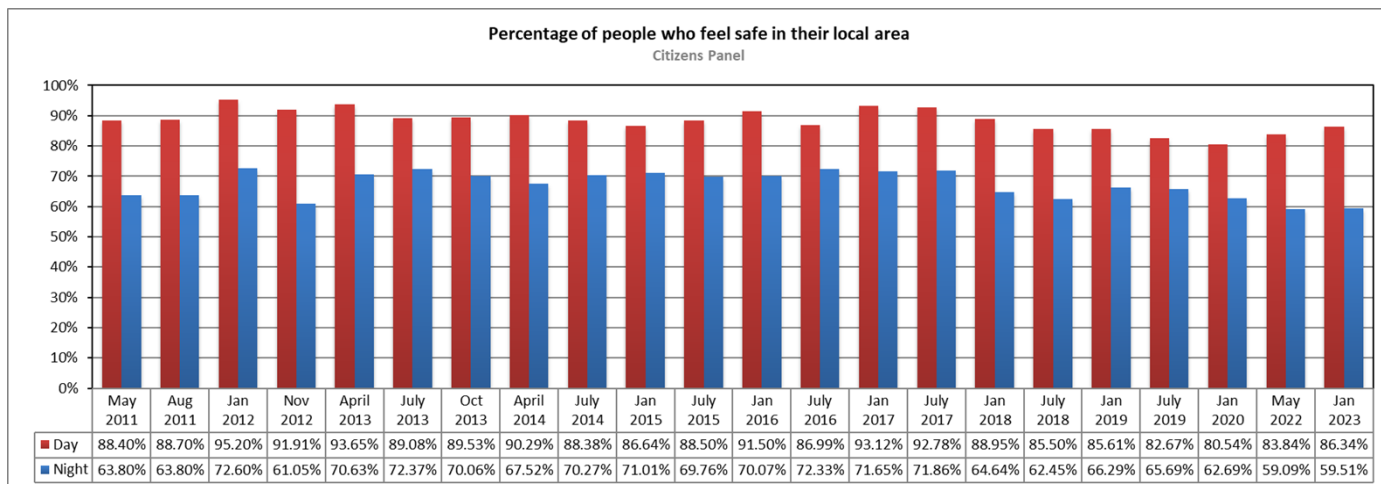
Impact of Partnership

Key examples of the partnership activities undertaken during the year include -

- Engaging with communities through action days, community assist days and neighbourhood walkabouts with a focus on tackling ASB.
- Extensive programmes with communities through organised crime funding, including work with schools, community engagement and direct prevention work with families and young people.
- Partners worked together to ensure Newport retained its Purple Flag accreditation for the evening and night-time economy, which it first achieved in 2019. Areas awarded the Purple Flag are recognised for providing a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and well-being of visitors and residents. Highlights from Newport’s submission to retain the award include the proactive work being done around drugs and drink spiking, and the Newport Explorer signage.
- Working in partnership, The BID, Newport City Council and Gwent Police have used Safer Streets 3 funding to employ two Community Safety Guardians. The Night Ambassador Scheme funds these guardians to deliver high visibility reassurance patrols within the city centre to make residents and visitors feel safer when walking around the city. Awareness raising will also take place with particular focus on violence against women and girls. The Night Ambassador Scheme has run since July 2022 and has helped provide reassurance of safety in the city centre with 64 shifts completed by the end of February 2023 during which time 1,052 incidents were responded to in relation to violence and antisocial behaviour and assistance provided to women and girls, the police and local door staff.
- A successful bid to the Home Office for Safer Streets 4 funding has greatly supported community-based work with children and young people in Alway during this financial year. In addition to supporting the refurbishment of Alway Community Centre kitchen for community use, this funding has enabled facilitation of diversion and education groups for young people. This included REALL Always Girls group focusing on healthy relationships and other issues associated with exploitation and Violence against

Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, and the BELIEVE project focused on educating and preventing knife crime.

- Community perception surveys help Safer Newport partners to assess the effectiveness of interventions and highlight any key areas of concern. A copy of the latest survey response is below



Links to other Community Safety Related Boards

Safer Newport aims to ensure a partnership approach to preventing and tackling all aspects of community safety across all areas of Newport and works closely with related boards and forums including the Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board, the Area Planning Board and Counter Terrorism processes.

VAWDASV Board

An annual report is presented to committee members separately but progress to note includes:

- Draft of the VAWDASV strategy is nearing finalisation. Hoping to be able to publish the draft strategy for consultation mid-April.
- Training and awareness raising continuing across Newport, including a Group 6 session held last week with members.
- Focus on mapping support for perpetrators following a loss of funding
- Continuing to develop sustainable funding options for the Regional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service.

The link to the VAWDASV Board is critical in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) which the Community Safety Partnership has legal responsibility for. There are currently two active DHRs being undertaken in Newport.

Area Planning Board (APB)

A detailed annual report is presented to committee members. Current issues shared with Safer Newport include:

- An increase in the use of unlicensed Benzodiazepines

- Increase in poly substance misuse
- Increased availability and use of cocaine and crack cocaine
- Harm reduction presentation to be discussed at the next APB
- Young Person's Needs Assessment to be shared and finalised at the next APB

Partnership's role within CONTEST

Within Newport we ensure that activities around counter terrorism are also included within the broader Community Safety discussion.

CONTEST is the UK Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy consists of the following strands:

- Prevent
- Pursue
- Protect
- Prepare

Regional and National structures

Gwent Contest Board provides a regional, co-ordinated and multi-agency response to the delivery of the UK Contest Strategy. It provides strategic oversight, monitors progress against the four strands, engage with the All Wales Contest Board and ensure lessons are learnt from national and local incidents.

The Prevent Duty

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies ("specified authorities" listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This guidance is issued under section 29 of the Act. The Act states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.

As a result of this Duty training is undertaken with staff and third sector agencies to support their identification of susceptibility and vulnerability to radicalisation. Where risks are identified, individuals can be referred through to the Channel Process – a multi-agency approach to mitigating risks that may lead to radicalisation. This is a voluntary process and is chaired by the Local Authority.

The Independent Review of Prevent has recently been published, with a range of recommendations. We await the updated guidance.

Martyn's Law

In February 2020 the Security Minister announced plans to introduce a law which will require owners and operators of public spaces and venues to put in place measures to keep the public

safe from a terrorist attack. The new 'Protect Duty' will reflect lessons learned following the terrorist attacks in 2017 (Manchester and London), as well as more recent attacks.

This new law is now referred to as Martyn's Law, in tribute to Martyn Hett, who was one of the 21 people killed at the Manchester Arena Bombing. Martyn's Law will require venue operators to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and take proportionate and reasonable measures to prepare for and protect the public from such an attack. This could include increased physical security, having training in place, incident response plans and exercises for staff on what to do during an attack.

Protective Security Preparedness Group

In early 2020 Newport became a pathfinder area for the development of a partnership approach, as a precursor to the Protect Duty.

Future Considerations

All aspects of Community Safety are justifiably high on the UK Government's agenda, with some key statutory guidance and reviews supporting the Crime and Disorder Act. These are detailed below, and further updates will be provided to committee members in future meetings.

- The Serious Violence Duty - The Government introduced the Serious Violence Duty ("the Duty") through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. This places a duty on specific organisations (police, justice, fire and rescue, health, and local authorities, known as the 'specified authorities') to plan and collaborate to prevent and tackle serious violence in their local area. The Duty intends to create the right conditions for authorities to collaborate and communicate regularly, using existing partnerships where possible and to share information and take effective coordinated action in their local areas. Funding to undertake this is held and distributed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There are discussions regarding the balance between local and regional work to undertake the required strategic needs assessment.
- Single Unified Safeguarding Review – This aims to create a single review process in Wales where a multi-agency approach is required, incorporating the following review processes
 - Adult Practice Review
 - Child Practice Review
 - Domestic Homicide Review
 - Mental health Homicide Review
 - Offensive Weapon Homicide Review.

Consultation currently open.

- Home Office Review of Community Safety Partnerships – The Home Office is due to consult on recommendations for all CSPs across England and Wales following a review of effectiveness and governance.

Future Reports

As this is the first time Safer Newport has provided a separate report to this committee, members are asked to consider the information required in future reports to ensure the responsibilities of the committee can be discharged.

For more information contact

Rhys Cornwall, Strategic Director Corporate and Transformation, Newport City Council (co-chair)

Dr Carl Williams, Local Policing Area Commander, Chief Superintendent, Gwent Police (co-chair)

Janice Dent, Policy and Partnership Manager, Newport City Council

Rhian Tilley, Partnership Officer (Community Safety), Newport City Council