

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 8th November 2023

Subject Safer Newport Draft Strategic Needs Assessment 2023

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate
Janice Dent	Policy and Partnership Manager
Rhian Tilley	Partnership Officer
Dr Carl Williams	Local Policing Area Commander, Chief Superintendent – Gwent Police (Co-Chair)

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the report on the Safer Newport Draft Strategic Needs Assessment.
2. Decide if the Committee wishes to make any comments or recommendations in relation to the report.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 Community safety is a partnership approach to reduce crime and disorder in local communities. The Morgan Report introduced the idea of 'community safety' by taking a 'holistic' local approach to crime reduction and prevention. This was expanded within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, giving key agencies a legal duty to work together to address crime and improve public safety rather than police alone.
- 2.2 Under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) each local authority in England and Wales were given the responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area. The Act also requires the local authority to work with every police authority, strategic health authority, social landlords, the voluntary sector and residents and businesses - known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- 2.3 Safer Newport is Newport's Community Safety Partnership established 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. It delivers on emerging local community safety issues and problem solving regarding a range of themes including:
 - Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
 - Serious and organised crime (SOC)
 - Safer Pill
 - Safer City Centre
- 2.4 Safer Newport aims to ensure a partnership approach to preventing and tackling 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.
- 2.5 Membership of Safer Newport includes Gwent Police, Newport City Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and the National Probation Service. The Partnership is jointly chaired by Gwent Police and Newport City Council.
- 2.6 A Strategic Needs Assessment for Community Safety involves a comprehensive examination of various elements impacting community safety within a specific geographic area overseen by the local authority. The primary goal of this assessment is to pinpoint the underlying causes, patterns, and significant community safety issues, including but not limited to Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence. Through the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, it equips Safer Newport with a profound understanding of the problem at hand.
- 2.7 The Strategic Needs Assessment plays a pivotal role in determining the necessary resources, policies, and strategies required to effectively prevent and address community safety concerns. It is recognised that collaborative efforts between Safer Newport, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Youth Justice Service (YJS), South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFR), and other stakeholders are indispensable for devising a targeted and evidence-based approach to addressing recurrent community safety issues.
- 2.8 It is important to note that while Safer Newport takes direct action in response to this Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), various supporting Boards and Strategic Groups also share responsibility for implementing measures to enhance community safety.

- 2.9 The latest progress report of Safer Newport was discussed at the Safer Newport meeting held on 11th September – September 2023.
(A link to the minutes of the Safety Newport meeting held on 11th September 2023 and Minute is included below.)



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Previous Consideration of the Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment

- 2.10 This will be the Committee's first consideration of the Safer Newport Safer Needs Assessment. Members may recall the Committee's first consideration of the Safer Newport Partnership as a standalone partnership at the meeting held on 29th March 2023.
(A link to the Safer Newport Partnership report held on 29th March 2023 and Minute is included in Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.)

Partnership Committee Terms of Reference

- 2.8 At the AGM meeting of Council held on 16th May 2017 a new Scrutiny Committee Structure was agreed including the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships, the remit of which includes:

Scrutiny of community safety issues and associated partnerships: Designated Committee for Crime and Disorder

- To consider Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) that arise through the council's agreed CCfA process;
- To consider actions undertaken by the responsible authorities on the CSP.

The Committee should therefore focus its questioning on how the Safer Newport Partnership is delivering on emerging local community safety issues.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached for the Committees consideration:

Appendix A - Draft Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment Report

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Consider the information that is included fully.
- Identify any gaps in data or learning that may be present.
- Consider feeding in knowledge that the committee members hold and any case study or emerging themes the members are aware of.

- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance of the Safer Newport Partnership?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

4.1 In considering / evaluating the Safer Newport Partnership (SNP) Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment the Committee may wish to consider focusing questions on:

- What role does each of the responsible authorities play in the SNP's work?
- Are all of the responsible authorities fully engaged in the Strategic Needs Assessment?
- How will the community be involved in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the actions taken to address the community safety issues identified in the report?
- What specific actions will be taken to address the community safety issues identified in this report?
- How will the effectiveness of the actions taken be measured and evaluated over time?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

5.1 The report links with the Wellbeing-being Objectives and Aims of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027;

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

Step 7 links to the Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership;

7	Promote positive community inclusion and culture by engaging with key stakeholders and communities to address issues of anti-social behaviour and crime.
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6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A copy of the relevant EAS Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been produced.

Impact Assessment:

6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

Safer Newport is the city's community safety partnership established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The priorities of Safer Newport have been set based on data and intelligence relating to the key community safety issues for the city. All of the priorities reflect the five ways of working and contribute to a number of the national well-being goals and the interventions in the Well-being Plan.

6.2 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The Safer Newport Partnership has extensive programmes with communities through organised crime funding, including work with schools, community engagement and direct prevention work with families and young people.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Report to Annual Council 16 May 2017 upon New Scrutiny Committee Structures](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 29th March 2023](#)
- [Wales Violence Prevention Unit – Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance for Wales](#)

Report Completed: 8th November 2023