

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Safe City Partnership – Southampton Safe City Strategy 2022-27
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to work together with representatives from the police, fire and rescue services, health, and probation to make Southampton safer. Working in partnership, these organisations must formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in Southampton (known as the ‘Safe City Strategy’). A new Safe City Strategy has been prepared for the period 2022-27 (“the Strategy”). The Strategy sets out the priorities for keeping Southampton safe.</p> <p>Southampton City Council and its partners are committed to working in partnership to create safer and stronger communities. Stronger Communities manages the Safe City Partnership (“the SCP”) on behalf of the Council and its statutory partners. In addition to the statutory partners, membership of the SCP includes organisations from the voluntary, community and business sectors, including Southampton Voluntary Services and GO! Southampton which represents the Business Improvement District. The SCP has several core functions and is responsible for governance of the locally commissioned services to prevent and reduce offending, support victims, provide treatment services and build a safer community. To carry out these functions, the SCP has a series of sub-groups with oversight of specific areas of community safety, for example the Southampton Prevent Partnership Board. The SCP is also responsible for establishing whether or not a domestic homicide meets the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review and informs the Home Office of its decision.</p> <p>The Strategy is aligned to the Hampshire Police & Crime Plan and also the vision for Southampton as set out in Southampton City Council's Corporate Plan. It is consistent with the key aims, objectives and activities of other key strategic boards, including the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>	

The current Safe City Strategy was due for renewal on 2020, however this was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the strategy was extended until December 2021.

A new strategy has been developed by statutory and other partner agencies for publication in 2022, subject to public consultation and approval at Full Council, on the recommendation of Cabinet.

Summary of Impact and Issues

The priorities and objectives set out in the Strategy provide the framework for the SCP to focus on over the next five years. The SCP is committed to working together with partner agencies and residents, understanding that in the face of increasing financial pressures and demand for services, there are opportunities to do things differently. The pandemic has highlighted how new and sophisticated forms of crime such as cyber fraud or modern slavery can target the most vulnerable. The pandemic has also impacted those communities most at risk from anti-social behaviours such as fly tipping, motor vehicle nuisance and more impactful crimes that involve violence. It has also amplified the impact of crime on those communities most impacted by health inequalities and deprivation, where there is a strong correlation between high levels of more serious violence and high harm activity, including domestic abuse.

The SCP has identified three main priorities for keeping Southampton safe over a five-year period. These are:

- Priority 1: Keeping people safe from harm.
- Priority 2: Preventing and reducing offending.
- Priority 3: Creating safe and stronger communities.

Ultimately, the SCP agrees it must aim to protect the most vulnerable and apprehend those who perpetrate harm against them, whilst seeking to prevent future harm. Raising the community's confidence that they can report crime is a priority for the SCP.

The Strategy has been informed by the findings of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Safe City Strategic Assessments as well as the annual public Community Safety Survey, setting the direction of travel for the SCP and its annual reviews and will be supported by strategic planning and operational delivery plans.

Potential Positive Impacts

The Strategy provides a framework for partner agencies to work together to understand and respond to the causes of crime and disorder; maps the areas of the city at greatest risk and why; and provides the framework for an annual Strategic Assessment which will track the SCP's performance using data and community feedback to inform the delivery of the SCP's strategic aims. The Strategy aims to have a positive impact on the lives of all who live in, work in or visit Southampton, including those with protected characteristics.

The Strategy intends to ensure people of all ages are safer and feel secure. Particularly, the Strategy places children and young people at the heart of the

response, for example by preventing and reducing offending by children and young people by using a whole system approach to supporting vulnerable young people, and by working across Southampton City Council/Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and other organisations to support those providing opportunities to young people and others to be engaged in meaningful activities that will deter them from anti-social behaviour.

The Strategy also aims to strengthen support for victims of domestic abuse and work together to tackle violence against women and girls, and increase access to safe places across Southampton, where all women can reach out for help and support.

The Strategy commits to supporting collaborative working across the voluntary sector, with places of worship and youth run organisations.

The Strategy commits to communicating information with local residents, including children, which will help them to keep safe, in a way that is accessible to all residents.

The Strategy commits to communicate and engage with underserved communities, targeting investment into areas of deprivation and high crime, and to understand the social disparities in local areas and how they impact on inequalities and serious violence and promote these amongst public services.

The Strategy aims to improve pathways and links between services for people with substance misuse and mental health needs and improve support in place for perpetrators who have mental health and drug and alcohol issues leading to reduced or eliminated incidents.

The Strategy also aims to protect vulnerable adults in society from being scammed through financial and online crime.

Responsible Service Manager	Jason Murphy
Date	25.1.2022
Approved by Senior Manager	Mary D'Arcy
Date	25.1.22

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Disability	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Gender Reassignment	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Race	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Religion or Belief	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Sex	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Sexual Orientation	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Community Safety	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Poverty	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Health & Wellbeing	No identified negative impacts.	N/A
Other Significant Impacts	No identified negative impacts.	N/A