

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	SOUTHAMPTON SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REVIEW		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	11 JANUARY 2024		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CHAIR OF THE SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>SSCP Chair</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Children and Learning</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Rob Henderson</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 4899</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>robert.henderson@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Head of Service – Stronger Communities</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Chris Brown</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 4175</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>chris.brown@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
N/A			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
<p>This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with an update for 2022/23 on community safety in Southampton and the Southampton Safe City Partnership (SSCP). It includes information on the recently completed Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment, as well as updates on operational work to tackle priority issues from the Safe City Strategy.</p> <p>The data refers to the period April 2022 to end March 2023 - this is the latest full year data available for analysis.</p>			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	That the Committee considers and notes the report.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership, at least once a year.		
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>			
2.	None.		
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>			
3.	<p>A Safe City Strategy was published in early 2022 and covers the period 2022-27 (“the Strategy”). The Strategy was informed by the findings of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Safe City Strategic Assessments as well as the annual public Community Safety Survey and sets out the Safe City Partnership’s priorities for keeping Southampton safe over the next five years.</p> <p><a href="https://www.southampton.gov.uk/southampton-safety-strategy">Safe City Strategy (southampton.gov.uk)</a></p>		


4.	<p>Community Safety Partnerships (“CSPs”) were established in law under sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In Southampton, the CSP is known as the ‘Southampton Safe City Partnership.’</p> <p>The SSCP is managed by the Council’s Stronger Communities team on behalf of the following statutory partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.</li> <li>• Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service.</li> <li>• Hampshire, Southampton, and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board</li> <li>• National Probation Service (Southampton).</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Under section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act the SSCP (of which Southampton City Council is a statutory member) has a legal obligation to formulate and implement:</p> <p>(a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and</p> <p>(b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in the area; and</p> <p>(c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.</p>
6.	<p>The previous Chair, Barbara Swyer from the National Probation Service, changed roles within NPS in April 2023 and was unable to continue as SSCP Chair. Supt Phil Lamb, as Vice Chair, offered continuity and Rob Henderson, Director of Childrens Services, SCC, came forward and was appointed as the new Chair in December 2023.</p>
7.	<p>The Partnership has identified three main priorities for keeping Southampton safe over the five-year period 2022 to 2027. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priority 1: Keeping people safe from harm</li> <li>- Priority 2: Preventing and reducing offending</li> <li>- Priority 3: Creating safe and stronger communities</li> </ul>
8.	<p>There is a Statutory requirement for CSPs to undertake a ‘Strategic Assessment’ each year. The purpose is to assist the partnership in revising the Community Safety Strategy and as such it should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and alcohol and drug misuse in the area,</li> <li>• Identification of changes in those levels and why these have occurred,</li> <li>• Views of people living and working in the area,</li> <li>• Recommendations for matters which should be prioritised.</li> </ul>
9.	<p>This report demonstrates how the partnership has aimed to deliver its strategic objectives and responded to local need. It also responds to the latest Strategic Assessment (2022/23) and sets out next steps for the partnership and strategy.</p> <p>This report should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Assessment which can be found at:</p> <p><a href="https://southampton.gov.uk/southampton-scp-strategic-assessment-2022-23">Safe City Strategic Assessment 2022-23 (southampton.gov.uk)</a></p>

	<b><u>Strategic Assessment</u></b>
10.	<p>Priority areas highlighted as part of the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft offences</li> <li>• Sexual offences</li> <li>• Violent crime</li> <li>• Domestic crimes</li> </ul>
11.	<p>Theft offences emerged as a top priority for the first time in 2022/23, given increases in both volume and severity, likely linked to the cost of living crisis, whereas sexual offences, violent crime and domestic crimes have consistently featured among the top priorities in the last five years.</p>
12.	<p>Repeat victimisation and offending remain substantial issues in the city. The impact of wider determinants, such as poverty and the cost of living issues in this period are significant factors, which partners have sought to ameliorate by supporting communities through warm places, food banks etc.</p>
	<b>Community Safety Survey</b>
13.	<p>Analysis of the 2023 Community Safety Survey identified the following key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidence in the Partnership remains low: just 14% of respondents in the 2023 survey agreed that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area.</li> <li>• Feelings of safety after dark remain a substantial issue in Southampton, with females and respondents with a disability feeling significantly less safe after dark in all settings compared to the survey average.</li> <li>• Crime reporting: the majority of respondents indicated that they did not report crimes they had witnessed or been a victim of in the last 12 months.</li> </ul>
	<b>Crime statistics</b>
14.	<p>In 2022/23, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 144 crimes per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average and remains the highest amongst comparator CSPs.</p>
15.	<p>Southampton accounted for 20% of total recorded crime across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary in 2022/23 and has the ninth highest total recorded crime rate among English and Welsh CSPs with a valid crime rate (296 total).</p>
16.	<p>There were 35,485 police recorded crimes in Southampton during 2022/23, which is an increase of +3.8% (+1,296 crimes) compared to the previous year (2021/22). This increase is in line with local and national trends, with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary experiencing a +2.8% increase and England (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police) a +4.6% increase over the same period.</p>

17.	<p>There have been notable declines in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overall violent crime (-1.9%)</li> <li>• other sexual offences (-3.8%),</li> <li>• domestic flagged crime (-2.8%)</li> <li>• domestic violence (-4.8%)</li> <li>• residential burglary (- 1.1%)</li> <li>• hate crime (-7.1%)</li> <li>• alcohol affected crime (-10.8%)</li> <li>• modern slavery (-1.6%)</li> <li>• cruelty to children/young persons (-4.9%)</li> <li>• anti-social behaviour offences in Southampton, with a -30.4% decline in the last year (-49.9% since 2019/20)</li> </ul> <p>Similar declines in ASB have been observed across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (-23.5%) and all other districts (-28.7% in Portsmouth) in the last year.</p>
18.	<p>From 2021/22 to 2022/23, there were notable increases in the volume of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sexual offences (+0.8%), particularly rape (+8.3%),</li> <li>• theft offences (+17.7%), especially non-residential burglary (+20.4%)</li> <li>• vehicle offences (+27.9%)</li> <li>• possession of weapons (+17.1%) – police stop and search numbers have doubled, with targeted patrols of hotspot areas</li> <li>• crimes involving a bladed implement (+22.5%)</li> <li>• serious knife crime (+17.9%),</li> <li>• cannabis farms (+19.0%)</li> <li>• drug affected crime (+7.6%)</li> </ul> <p>There have also been increases in the number of firearms offences (+11.1%), although numbers of firearms offences are small and therefore percentage changes should be interpreted with caution.</p>
19.	<p>Notably, declines in total crime between 2021/22 and 2022/23 were seen in the following wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millbrook (-11.1%)</li> <li>• Shirley (-10.2%)</li> <li>• Swaythling (-8.0%).</li> </ul>
20.	<p>The largest percentage increases in total crime were in the following wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harefield (+22.3%)</li> <li>• Thornhill (17.9%)</li> <li>• Bargate (+10.3%)</li> </ul>

	<b><u>Examples of Partnership Responses to SSCP Priorities</u></b>
	<b>Priority 1: Keeping People Safe from Harm - Operation Defender/Safer Streets 4</b>
21.	Crime data analysis showed the city centre is a hotspot for violent crime and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) at weekends, linked to the Night Time Economy (NTE).
22.	In response to this, Operation Defender, chaired by Hampshire Constabulary, is a weekly meeting to debrief the previous weekend and plan for the next and following weekends, including RAG rating weekends based on events in the City.
23.	Key Partners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCC Licensing</li> <li>• SCC Stronger Communities</li> <li>• Police Licensing</li> <li>• GO!Southampton</li> <li>• Synergy Security</li> <li>• Street Pastors</li> <li>• Universities</li> <li>• South Central Ambulance</li> <li>• St John Ambulance</li> </ul>
24.	Safer Streets 4 funding of £645K for 22-23 was able to be utilised through Operation Defender to deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra security patrols</li> <li>• Training Police as Behavioural Detection Officers</li> <li>• Bystander training for bar staff</li> <li>• Extra CCTV staff for key weekends</li> <li>• Purchase of five redeployable CCTV cameras</li> <li>• Student safety work with both Universities</li> <li>• Supporting the Safe Places Network (130 premises in Southampton)</li> <li>• 'pop-up' treatment centres with St John</li> </ul> <p>This section of the promotional video covers the NTE:  <a href="#">Safer Streets 4 - VAWG and night-time economy - YouTube</a></p>
	<b>Priority 2: Preventing and Reducing Reoffending – Urban Street Gangs</b>
25.	The 22/23 period saw significant issues of knife crime in Southampton, with a number of stabbings involving young people involved in urban street gangs, the first time recently that groups in the city were defined by police as Urban Street Gangs.
26.	The partnership response was strong and involved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police (local and Violent Crime Task Force)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Justice Service</li> <li>• Childrens Services</li> <li>• No Limits</li> <li>• Youth Options</li> <li>• Stronger Communities</li> <li>• OPCC Violence Reduction Unit</li> </ul>
27.	<p>Police sent a letter to relevant partners and schools, identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The two urban street gangs declared affiliation with postcode areas</li> <li>• Thirty-eight individuals included in mapping the gangs</li> <li>• Serious violence and criminality linked to the gangs</li> <li>• The majority of members are males aged 11-18</li> <li>• There is a strong likelihood of exploitation of younger males</li> <li>• There is a risk that young females could be exploited.</li> </ul>
28.	<p>A lead officer was identified by Hampshire Constabulary, and a series of coordinated activities between partners led to a formation of a '4 P' plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue</li> <li>• Protect</li> <li>• Prevent</li> <li>• Prepare</li> </ul> <p>This led to the prosecution of offenders, safeguarding of those on the periphery of the gangs with the result that the gangs ceased criminal activities.</p>
29.	<p>Operation Meero is an ongoing anti-knife crime partnership group that continues to be developed and refined, involving those key partners. Increased police patrols, better data sharing and use of SCC redeployable CCTV have all been key tactics used.</p>
	<p><b>Priority 3: Creating Safe and Stronger Communities - VAWG and Young People</b></p>
30.	<p>The SSCP VAWG problem profile in 21/22 identified a temporal peak, after the weekend NTE peaks, related to young people leaving school at 3pm.</p>
31.	<p>As part of Safer Streets 4, work was underway with Yellow Door and their male engagement worker to address harmful attitudes against women and girls in secondary schools and universities. This includes breaking down behaviours resulting from toxic masculinity and delivering Active Bystander sessions.</p>
32.	<p>Further work facilitated by Yellow Door, and Solent University, included a Yr9 male peer-led project to address VAWG, with parental engagement and head teacher support. Evaluation of the impact of this project is due in the New Year. However, a gap in support for educators on responding to in-school VAWG issues was identified.</p>

33.	<p>To address the issues around pupil-based VAWG, a Child-on-Child (Peer-on-Peer) abuse toolkit was developed, to encourage a whole school approach to VAWG and bullying behaviours inflicted by peers. The toolkit was created by a multi-agency task and finish group in Southampton, including DSL leads, Child Friendly Policing, SCC Education and Safeguarding leads, and SCC's VAWG Coordinator. It covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An offence guide</li> <li>- A language guide of how to respond 'in the moment'</li> <li>- A flowchart guide of managing incidents of harmful sexual behaviours in Southampton education settings</li> <li>- Risk Assessment for sexual abuse and harassment</li> <li>- Awareness posters</li> <li>- Parent and carer guidance leaflet</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Safer Streets 4 - Education - YouTube</a></p>
	<p><b><u>Emerging issues for 2023/24</u></b></p>
34.	<p><b>Serious Violence Duty</b></p> <p>The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) response plan is being coordinated by the OPCC Violence Reduction Unit Director, which will deliver the statutory responsibilities of the SSCP and SCC.</p> <p>With a VRU and serious violence problem profile since 2019/20, Southampton has been operating the Public Health approach to tackling serious violence, which is the core requirement of the SVD.</p>
35.	<p><b>Theft / Residential Burglary</b></p> <p>The formation of a Police City Centre Unit in 2023 provides an immediate response to the issues of large scale retail thefts in the City centre, with noteworthy results so early in their deployment.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>Safer Streets 5 funding, secured by SCC, will assist in providing property marking packs to areas that suffer the most burglaries. This will include working with the Universities for the 24/25 academic year. This is also a priority for Hampshire and IOW Constabulary, and we will work with their Crime Prevention team in a coordinated response, as well as the Blue Lamp Trust, who help secure properties of vulnerable or repeat victims.</p> </div> </div> <p>(Example of street sign for use in residential areas where property marking kits are implemented.)</p>
	<p><b>SSCP Strategic Workshop</b></p>
36.	<p>The next SSCP Strategic Group meeting scheduled for 29/1/24 will review:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current strategy and action plan</li> <li>• Partnership involvement/funding</li> <li>• Partner/National Emerging Issues</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
37.	The Head of Service, Stronger Communities, continues to function as Partnership manager, supported by SCC staff from Stronger Communities (coordination of SSCP Action Plan), Meeting Support (arranging meetings, minute-taking), Consultation Team (Community Safety Survey) and the Data team (production of Safe City Strategic assessment and maintenance of Data Observatory).
38.	The SSCP has no budget allocation from SCC, nor any other partners. Work is underway to itemise SCC staff time in supporting the SSCP, as the burden for the organisational and support sits disproportionality with SCC. Many of the operational activities of partners are 'business as usual' and not exclusively funded to support SSCP objectives.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
39.	None.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
40.	The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership, at least once a year.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
41.	Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory requirement under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
42.	The Safe City Strategy, Strategic Assessments and the work of the Safe City Partnership are all designed to reduce and mitigate risk related to crime and anti-social behaviour in Southampton.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
43.	The actions identified in the report contribute to meeting the priorities identified in the Safe City Strategy (2022-2027).
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	None



<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b> <b>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	<a href="https://www.southampton.gov.uk/documents/2022/04/2022-23-strategic-assessment">Safe City Strategic Assessment 2022-23 (southampton.gov.uk)</a>
2.	<a href="https://www.southampton.gov.uk/documents/2022/04/safe-city-strategy">Safe City Strategy (southampton.gov.uk)</a>