

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	SOUTHAMPTON SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REVIEW		
DATE OF DECISION:	23 JANUARY 2025		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF THE SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
SSCP Chair	Title	Executive Director – Children and Learning	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
N/A			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with an update for 2023/24 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 2023 to end March 2024 - this is the latest full year data available for analysis.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee considers and notes the report.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
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.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	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>In 2024 a mid-term review of the strategy was conducted to ensure that priorities and partnership responses were still relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>Safe City Strategy (southampton.gov.uk)</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"> • Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. • Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. • Hampshire, Southampton, and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board • National Probation Service (Southampton).
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>Rob Henderson, Executive Director for Community Wellbeing, Children and Learning at Southampton City Council was appointed as Chair of SSCP 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"> - Priority 1: Keeping people safe from harm - Priority 2: Preventing and reducing offending - Priority 3: Creating safe and stronger communities
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"> • An analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and alcohol and drug misuse in the area, • Identification of changes in those levels and why these have occurred, • Views of people living and working in the area, • Recommendations for matters which should be prioritised.
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 (2023/24) 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>Safe City Strategic Assessment 2023-24</p>
	<p><u>Strategic Assessment</u></p>
10.	<p>Priority areas highlighted as part of the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft offences • Sexual offences • Violent crime • Domestic crimes
11.	<p>Theft offences emerged as a top priority for the first time in 2022/23 and continue in this review period, 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>
	<p>Community Safety Survey</p>
13.	<p>Analysis of the 2024 Community Safety Survey identified the following key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence in the Partnership remains low, but has improved to 18% of respondents compared to 14% in the 2023 survey agreeing that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area. • 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. • 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, with the highest reason given being 'reporting would make no difference'.
	<p>Crime statistics</p>
14.	<p>In 2023/24, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 124 crimes per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average and remains the highest amongst comparator CSPs, but down from last years 144 crime per 1k population.</p>
15.	<p>Southampton accounted for 20% of total recorded crime across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary in 2023/24 and has the fourteenth highest total recorded crime rate among English and Welsh CSPs with a valid crime rate (296 total), an improvement from ninth highest in 2022/23.</p>

16.	There were 32,555 police recorded crimes in Southampton during 2023/24, which is a decrease of 8.2% (-2,900 crimes) compared to the previous year (2022/23). This decrease is in line with local and national trends, with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary also experiencing a -8.2% decrease and England a -3.6% decrease over the same period
17.	<p>There have been notable declines in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall violent crime (-10.6%) • most serious violence (-17.6%) • rape (-6.1%) • violence against women and girls (-11.7%) • stalking (-16%) • malicious Communications (-49.1%) • domestic violence (-14%) • residential burglary (- 27.8%) • hate crime (-15%) • vehicle offence (-18.5%) • criminal damage and arson (-15.5%) • anti-social behaviour offences (-15.7%)
18.	<p>From 2022/23 to 2023/24, there were notable increases in the volume of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • firearms offences (+27.7%, 60 offences) • drug offences (+17.5%)
19.	<p>Notably, all bar two wards saw declines in total crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24, with significant decreases in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harefield (-22.2%) • Bassett (-17.7%) • Swaythling (-16.4%) • Bitterne Park (-16%) • Bevois (-13.7%)
20.	<p>The ward increases in total crime were in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millbrook (+0.3%) • Sholing (+12.5%)
	<u>Examples of Partnership Responses</u>
	Safer Streets 4 and 5
21.	SSCP has previously successfully bid for multiple funding opportunities from the Home Office Safer Streets programme, and was successful in leading a collaborative bid with New Forest District Council, Winchester City Council and Test Valley Brough Council to tackle neighbourhood crime, ASB and VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls).

22.	<p>The Southampton part of the Safer Streets 5 project is delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New CCTV cameras for Shirley and Portswood District Centres • Property marking packs for residents in areas with high levels of residential burglary, including use of street signs • VAWG educational work in secondary schools with Yellow Door ('Peer Heroes') and in primary schools with Saints Foundation ('Team Mates')
23.	<p>Safer Streets 4 funding of £645K for 22-23 was able to be utilised through Operation Defender to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra security patrols • Training Police as Behavioural Detection Officers • Bystander training for bar staff • Extra CCTV staff for key weekends • Purchase of five redeployable CCTV cameras • Student safety work with both Universities • Supporting the Safe Places Network (130 premises in Southampton) • 'pop-up' treatment centres with St John <p>This section of the promotional video covers the NTE: Safer Streets 4 - VAWG and night-time economy - YouTube</p>
	<p>Strategy Refresh</p>
24.	<p>The SSCP strategic board met on 29th January 2024 in a workshop format to discuss and agree the key tactical areas ('Obsessions') for action in the remaining years of the Strategy.</p> <p>The result is a refocused tactical plan, achieving the SSCP priorities by focussing on the key crime issues identified by data analysis and public survey - Refreshed Southampton Safe City Partnership Plan.</p> <p>The SSCP work to prevent and reduce crime fits with the Corporate Priority for 'A Proud and Resilient City' and is specifically mentioned as part of 'Help communities feel safer within their neighbourhoods with a sense of belonging'.</p>
25.	<p>The strategy refresh, considered at the 12 September 2024 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, builds on the existing partnership working and now includes for each tactical 'obsession':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of data • What need to be done • How we will do it • Measures of success
26.	<p>The revised strategy was reviewed and agreed at the SSCP strategic board on 1st July 2024. The progress and review of key performance indicators will</p>

	then be managed by the Strategic Board. Preparation for a full review of the strategy will commence in 2026/27.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
27.	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).
28.	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.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
29.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
30.	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.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
31.	Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory requirement under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
32.	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.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
33.	The actions identified in the report contribute to meeting the priorities identified in the Safe City Strategy (2022-2027).
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None

Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
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.	Safe City Strategic Assessment 2023-24
2.	Safe City Strategy (southampton.gov.uk)
3.	Refreshed Southampton Safe City Partnership Plan