

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Refresh of the Southampton Safe City Partnership Strategic Plan
DATE: 12 September 2024
RECIPIENT: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

The local Community Safety Partnership, 'Southampton Safe City Partnership' (SSCP), has a strategy to prevent and reduce crime, as required by Sections 5-7 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for 22-27.

The opportunity to conduct a mid-term strategy review has coincided with the election of Rob Henderson as the new Chair of the SSCP. Over the life cycle of a 5-year strategy, key partner representatives change, as do crime and disorder trends, so, whilst the core priorities of the strategy remain, the focus of tactical and operational activities needs to be reviewed.

The overarching SSCP priorities remain:

1. Keeping People safe from harm
2. Preventing and Reducing Reoffending
3. Creating Safe and Strong Communities

The key crime issues to respond to for 2024-28, identified by the annual SSCP 'Safe City' assessment are:

1. Tackling Violent Crime including serious youth violence, domestic abuse and rape
2. Tackling Theft especially burglary, retail theft and car theft
3. Tackling anti-social behaviour through rapid and effective partnership responses.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The SSCP is managed by the Council's Stronger Communities team on behalf of the following statutory partners:
 - 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).
2. 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:

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- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in the area; and
- (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.
3. A high-quality, annual Safe City Assessment allows a data-led approach to fulfilling both the statutory duties of the CSP (Community Safety Partnership), but also the key crime and disorder issues affecting communities. This assessment is published on the Southampton Data Observatory website:
- data.southampton.gov.uk/media/m20a2aoj/safe-city-strategic-assessment-report-2022-23.pdf
4. After publication of the report in late 2023, the SSCP strategic board met on 29 January 2024 in a workshop format to discuss and agree the key tactical areas ('Obsessions') for action in the remaining years of the Strategy.
5. The result is a refocused tactical plan, achieving the SSCP priorities by focusing on the key crime issues identified by data analysis and the public survey. This is attached as Annex 1.
6. The strategy refresh builds on the existing partnership working and now includes for each tactical 'obsession':
- A summary of data
 - What need to be done
 - How we will do it
 - Measures of success.
7. The board includes non-statutory partners which helps with the development of a shared focus and working on the key issues across the City. Non-statutory partners include:
- No Limits
 - Saints Foundation
 - OPCC (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner) Violence Reduction Unit
 - Southampton Voluntary Services
 - Victim Support.
8. The revised strategy was reviewed and agreed at the SSCP strategic board on 1 July 2024. The progress and review of key performance indicators will then be managed by the Strategic Board. Preparation for a full review of the strategy will commence in 2026/27. The lead Cabinet Member is Cllr Lambert, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer City.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

9. 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'.

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10. Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory requirement under Section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
11. The SSCP has no budget allocation from Southampton City Council, nor any other partners. Various funding bids to the Home Office, OPCC etc, led by the Partnership Manager (The Head of Service - Stronger Communities), have brought the city approximately £1.1m to tackle:
- Violent crime
 - Violence against Women and Girls
 - Anti-social Behaviour
 - Residential burglary

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

12. The attached draft refresh of the strategy is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet at the 29 October meeting. A communications plan is being developed to launch the strategy update following the next meeting of the SSCP. This will be followed by regular updates on tactical activities, namely:
- Safer Streets 5 – VAWG, ASB and Residential Burglary prevention, including extra CCTV
 - UKSPF – safer streets work stream (Youth Diversion from Crime/ASB)
 - Young Peoples Service – ASB youth diversion, Serious Youth Violence

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

13. The key risk for Southampton City Council is, as a statutory partner, non-delivery of the statutory requirement to be part of a Community Safety Partnership. This strategy refresh ensures continued statutory compliance and demonstrates the efficiency and effectiveness of the SSCP.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

1. Annex 1 – Refresh of Southampton Safe City Strategy
2. Annex 2 – Rolling 12 month comparison for key crime types in Southampton

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