

SAFER NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Plan
2024|27



Northumberland
County Council

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FOREWORD



As Chairperson of the Safer Northumberland Community Safety Partnership, I am pleased to introduce this strategic plan which will drive delivery of priorities in the coming year.

The partnership is committed that the safety and protection of our communities in Northumberland is ensured. The safety of our residents, children, young people, and the elderly is paramount as well as maintaining our neighbourhoods and the environment. We will continue to build on the existing strength of the partnership and to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and visit Northumberland.

Cllr Gordon Stewart

Chair of the Safer Northumberland Community Safety Partnership



1. INTRODUCTION

With world-class facilities to stunning landscapes, spectacular castles, picturesque coastal and market towns, we believe there's no better place to live and work than Northumberland. We are the largest and least densely populated local authority area in England. That makes for lots of communities with distinctive characteristics, heritage, functions, and needs. We aim to build on all these strengths to ensure the county continues to be a land of great opportunities for current and future generations.

1.1 Northumberland And Inequalities

By recognising and tackling inequalities, we want to reduce the gap in experiences our communities have across health, education, employment, and social outcomes.

The importance and criticality of this is recognised in Northumberland and the inaugural meeting of the Northumberland County Partnership took place in April 2024, having the aim of tackling inequalities. This will sit above and provide overarching governance over several strategic boards in the Northumberland area, including the Safer Northumberland Community Safety Partnership (SNP). Across this range of boards are included public, private and voluntary sectors. Using the Marmot principles¹ as a framework, the County partnership will work with the Institute of Health Equity (IHE) thereby facilitating a collaborative approach to developing short, medium, and long-term recommendations for tackling inequalities in each of the principal areas.

¹[Fair Society, Healthy Lives \(The Marmot Review\)](#)

1.2 Crime And Inequalities

Crime and disorder, substance misuse, re-offending, and serious violence in Northumberland mirror the overall inequality picture. The challenge and responsibility for mitigating, addressing, and seeking to reduce these harms falls within the ambit of the SNP, under statutory duties to do so.



2. SAFER NORTHUMBERLAND PARTNERSHIP

Community Safety Partnerships² (CSP's) were introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998³ and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies within their communities to tackle crime and disorder. The Safer Northumberland Partnership is the CSP for the Northumberland County Council area.

2.1 Responsible Authorities

- CSP's comprise statutory membership of five 'responsible authorities' of Police, Fire and Rescue Authority, Local Authorities, Health Partners⁴ and Probation Services.

2.2 Formulation And Implementation Of Strategies

The SNP is responsible for ensuring strategies are in place to:

- Reduce crime and disorder (including Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and linked causes of harm adversely affecting the local environment).
- Combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances.
- Reduce re-offending.
- Prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence.

2.3 Planning Against Needs And Demand

The SNP will:

- Produce an annual Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). This will consider and incorporate analysis of a wide range of data, including recorded crime levels and patterns, identifying issues, concerns and harms which should be a priority for the SNP.
- Produce and implement a partnership plan. This will set out the priorities identified from the SNA and how meeting those priorities will be met to achieve a reduction in crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse. It will also consider what success looks like and how the responsible authorities should measure this having made best use of their resources to do so.

2.4 Engagement And Wider Partnership

The SNP will:

- Engage and consult with local communities and have in place appropriate governance arrangements.

² Home Office Guidance Community Safety Partnerships

³ Crime and Disorder Act 1998

⁴ NHS North-East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

- The partnership will also engage and work collaboratively with the Northumbria Office of Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

2.5 SNP specific responsibilities

As a CSP the SNP also has specific responsibilities for:

- Crime and Disorder SNA and Partnership Plan.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Case Reviews.
- Serious Violence Duty SNA and Partnership Plan.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's).
- Delivery of CONTEST, the UK's Strategy for Counter Terrorism.

2.6 Review of the Safer Northumberland Community Safety Partnership

During the latter half of 2023 into 2024, the Safer Northumberland Community Safety Partnership underwent a period of review, assessment of capabilities and ultimately a resetting of focus and approach.

This was achieved by:

- Review and refreshing the SNP Board membership ensuring senior strategic representation of the five statutory partners.
- Held a series of development workshops to consider the future state of the partnership focussing upon

structure, process, and deliverable outcomes for communities.

- Conducted environmental scanning to ensure comprehensive understanding of the statutory demands and wider strategic community safety landscape that the partnership holds and is responsible for.
- Conducted the assessment of needs for the SNA to allow design and draft of the annual Response Strategy and Partnership Plan.
- Planned for an elected members policy conference for mid-June 2024.

2.7 The Partnership Plan

This partnership plan will be the basis for the work conducted in the name of the SNP. It is recognised the maturity of the CSP in this current revised form is not yet established, however, significant advancement has been made from the onset of the review in 2023.

This document sets out:

- Local context.
- An analysis of the SNA, looking back at data collected from 2023.
- The vision, strategic aims, and delivery priorities for 2024-27.
- Governance and accountability.
- Conducted environmental scanning to ensure comprehensive understanding of the statutory demands and wider strategic community safety landscape that the partnership holds and is responsible for.
- Conducted the assessment of needs for the SNA to allow design and draft of the annual Response Strategy and Partnership Plan.
- Planned for an elected members policy conference for mid-June 2024.

3. LOCAL CONTEXT

The Safer Northumberland Community Safety Partnership was first established in 2009.

3.1 Responsible authorities

The responsible authorities that comprise the SNP are:

- Northumberland County Council.
- Northumbria Police.
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.
- NHS North-East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
- HM Prison & Probation Service.

3.2 The Strategic Board

The Northumberland County Council Cabinet Member responsible for 'Looking after our Communities' is the Chair of the partnership and strategic leaders from each of the responsible authorities make up the board membership.

3.3 SNP coordination and partnership business management

Northumberland County Council coordinates and business manages the SNP and in doing so has a duty to have regard to crime and disorder implications when delivering the partnership functions and activities.

3.4 Local drivers and key stakeholders

The SNP recognises that there are several local drivers and key stakeholders in delivering its role of reducing crime and disorder, combatting substance misuse, reducing re-offending, and preventing serious violence. Additionally, there are separate strategies and plans developed by each of the responsible authorities forming the SNP a synopsis of which is included as follows.

- The Northumberland County Council (NCC) Corporate Plan outlines the vision of Northumberland: Land of Great Opportunities. With world-class facilities to stunning landscapes, spectacular castles, picturesque coastal and market towns, we believe there's no better place to live and work. The corporate aim is to build on all these strengths to ensure the county continues to be a land of great opportunities for current and future generations. Northumberland County Council provides the management function and business support of the CSP, also undertaking several statutory duties on behalf of the partnership in pursuance of both the SNP objectives as a responsible authority and also reflective of the NCC Corporate Plan.

- The Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner has published the Northumbria Police & Crime Plan: Fighting Poverty, Fighting Crime⁵. This includes several priority themes relevant to the SNP activities, including tackling ASB, reducing crime, preventing violent crime, supporting victims, tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence. The SNP has had due regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan and will support the delivery of the objectives set out therein. Northumbria Police as a responsible authority are a key stakeholder in the partnership.
- The Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) aims to fight crime, prevent crime, and improve lives, aligning to the overall priorities of the Northumbria Police & Crime Plan. The VRU has published a Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy⁶ which describes how it will achieve that. The SNP and VRU worked collaboratively upon this specifically for Northumberland and fulfilment of the SNP responsibilities regards the Serious Violence Legal Duty.
- The NHS North-East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), from their Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), a committee of the ICB and the fourteen local authorities from across the North East and North Cumbria, have developed an Integrated Care Strategy⁷, 'Better health and wellbeing for all', which sets out how the ICP will reduce these inequalities, improve experiences of our health and care services and improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in our region by 2030 and beyond. This strategy and objectives will be brought to the SNP through their membership and active involvement as a responsible authority.
- Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) Community Risk Management Plan⁸ identifies analysis of current and future risks within the county, emerging risks, and trends, and outlines the delivery of prevention, protection, and response activities to reduce the impact of risk on communities by making the best use of both people and resources. Integral to the plan is the commitment to work with partners, building more resilient, inclusive, and effective relationships to mature the ability to better identify, understand and analyse all the risks Northumberland faces. The NFRS commitment to the SNP as a responsible authority is part of that plan delivery.
- HM Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) North East Reducing Reoffending Plan⁹ sets out aspirations for reducing reoffending across the region, recognising reoffending rates, that some areas may be economically deprived, and the detrimental societal factors associated with poverty and deprivation being reflected in the number and offence mix of the people on probation and in prisons. Partnership working upon activities toward objectives will be complimented by collaboration as one of the SNP responsible authorities.
- The newly formed Northumberland County Partnership will clearly be a key stakeholder and provide overarching governance and strategic direction to the SNP.

⁵ Northumbria Police & Crime Plan: Fighting Poverty, Fighting Crime

⁶ Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy

⁷ NHS North-East and North Cumbria ICP Integrated Care Strategy, 'Better health and wellbeing for all'

⁸ Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) Community Risk Management Plan

⁹ HM Prison & Probation Service North East Reducing Reoffending Plan

4. STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) was conducted incorporating multiple data sets and information sources to year ending December 2023. In addition to recorded crime, domestic abuse, exploitation and ASB data, additional areas of focus are incorporated including public confidence, satisfaction and perception, inequalities and drug and alcohol harm. [The interactive SNA can be viewed online here.](#)

4.1 Crime and disorder summary

In the twelve months to end of December 2023, Northumberland had recorded 76.48 crimes per 1000 people. This had increased from 75.06 crimes per 1000 people in the last equivalent period and the number of recorded offences (excluding fraud) in Northumberland for that 12 month was 24,806 crimes.

Northumberland in comparison of CIPFA¹⁰ nearest neighbours, measuring similarities between local authorities, is in the mid lower quartile for overall crime data comparison, with some reduction and increase for specific crime reporting types, but with no significant variation from the overall mid quartile position¹¹

Northumberland is ranked 1 out of 12 and in the lower quartile when compared against all local authorities in the North East region¹²

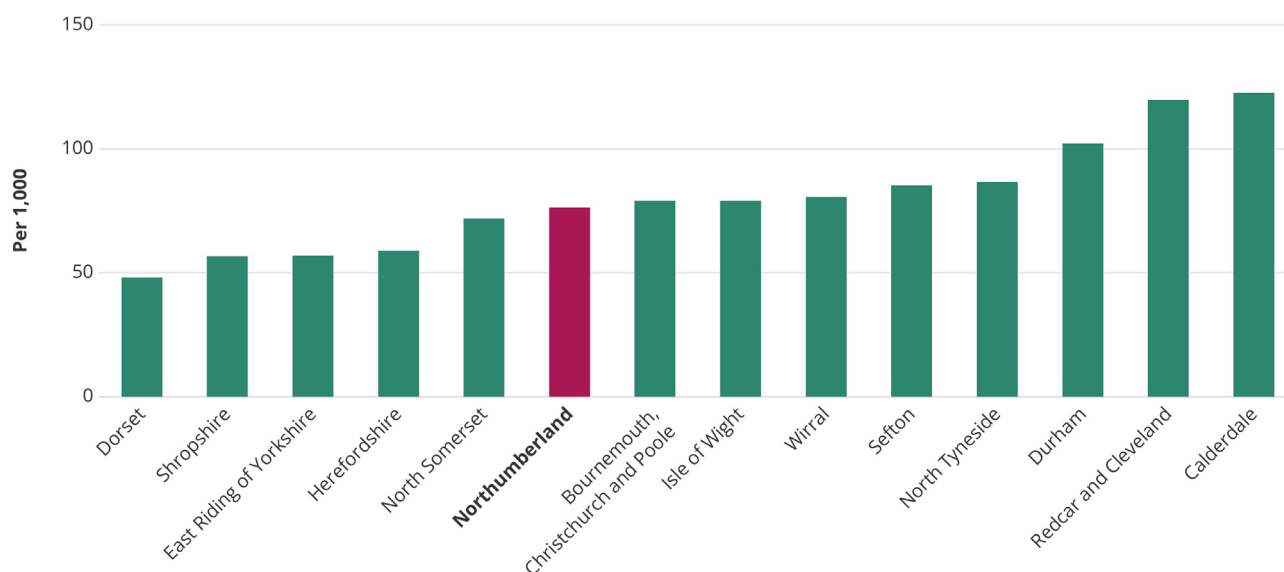
This clearly demonstrates that Northumberland is and continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.

¹⁰ CIPFA Nearest Neighbours Model (England)

¹¹ Crime and disorder in Northumberland, 2023 - CIPFA Nearest Neighbours comparison

¹² Crime and disorder in Northumberland, 2023 - North East Region comparison

Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (offences per 1,000 population) (2023 Q4 (12 months ending) for Northumberland CIPFA nearest neighbours

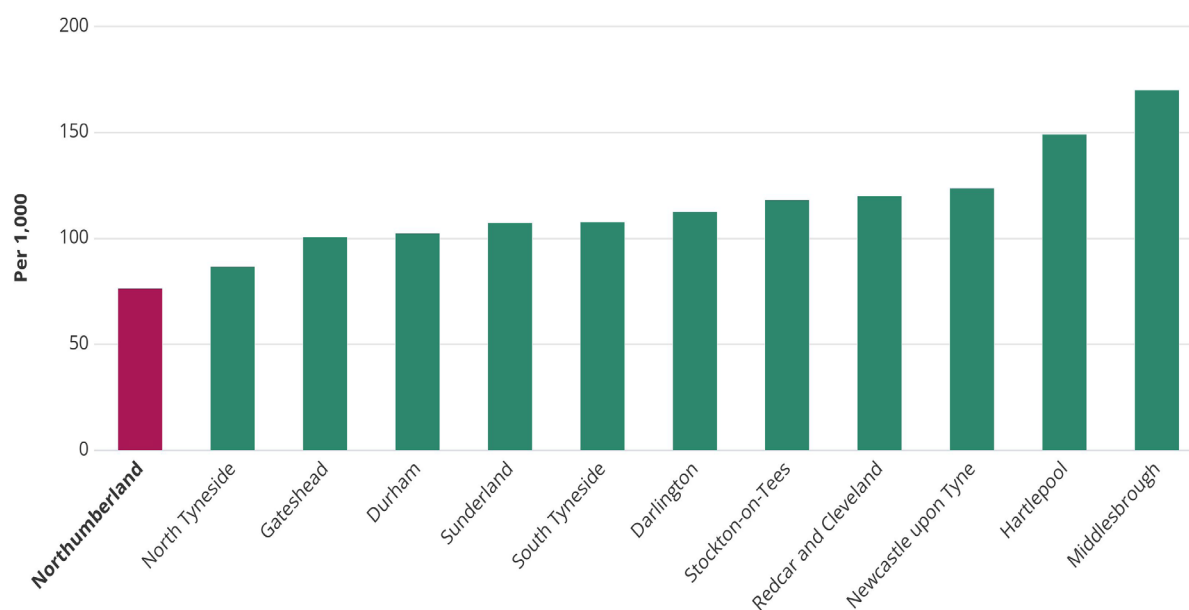


■ Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (per 1,000 population) 2023 Q4 (12 months ending)

■ Northumberland (lead area)

Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (offences per 1,000 population), Data updated: 08 May 2024

Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (offences per 1,000 population) (2023 Q4 (12 months ending) for All local authorities in Northeast



■ Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (per 1,000 population) 2023 Q4 (12 months ending)

■ Northumberland (lead area)

Total recorded offences (excluding fraud) (offences per 1,000 population), Data updated: 08 May 2024

5. A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

The Safer Northumberland Partnership will take, develop, and strive to embed a public health approach to all activities in pursuance of the partnerships aims and objectives.

5.1 Taking a public health approach.

The public health approach focuses on proactive, preventative activity to address the causes of the causes, as opposed to solely reacting to what has occurred. The approach recognises links between crime and disorder and health problems, social exclusion, and inequality. Developing a detailed understanding of the nature, extent, and impact of issues and harm caused, using shared data and intelligence, is a key enabler for the public health approach and will be at the forefront of the SNP approach and activities.

The SNP will coordinate tailored and targeted preventative action. This addresses the causes and impact of issues by taking a multi-agency, whole system approach. Intervening early with at-risk groups reduces harm caused, by promoting recovery and increasing resilience.

The public health approach can be demonstrated in the World Health Organisation (WHO): Four step diagram for public health approach to violence¹³. Using this framework the SNP will take the approach of:

- Surveillance. What is the problem? Define the problem through systematic data collection.
- Identify risk and protective factors. What are the causes of the causes? Using research to determine the causes, the factors that increase or decrease the risk, and the factors that could be modified through interventions.
- Develop and evaluate interventions. To find out what works by designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions.
- Implementing interventions at scale and monitoring effectiveness. Once interventions have been proven effective, they should be implemented, adopted at scale, and evaluated to determine how well they work and their cost-effectiveness.

¹³ World Health Organisation (WHO): Four step diagram for public health approach to violence

6. VISION, AIM AND PRIORITIES

The SNP has developed a strategic vision, strategic aim and agreed priorities for 2024-27.

6.1 Vision

THE SNP VISION IS:

"To make Northumberland an even safer place to live, work and visit."

6.2 Aim

THE AIM OF THE SNP IS:

"To provide strategic leadership, coordination and activities focussed on reducing crime and disorder, reducing substance misuse, reducing re-offending, and reducing serious violence. The partnership is committed to multi-agency working with shared objectives and accountability, using a public health approach, and tackling inequalities."



6.3 Priorities

The SNP priorities for 2024-27 are:

PRIORITY 1 Violence, Exploitation And Abuse

FOCUS AREA Serious Violence and Knife Crime

What we will do:

- Ensuring fulfilment of the SNP statutory responsibilities to the Serious Violence Legal Duty in completion of an SNA and Response Strategy to tackling the causes and impacts of serious violence. A local action plan will also be constructed and enacted.

FOCUS AREA Prevent Exploitation of the Vulnerable and Modern-Day Slavery in Northumberland

What we will do:

- The SNP and Northumberland Childrens and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) Joint Strategic Exploitation Group (SEG), through which, working across partnerships with stakeholders, we will seek to identify and safeguard both victims and those vulnerable to exploitation and its associated impact, thereby supporting safer communities by the provision of positive multi-agency intervention, proactive disruption, and promotion of community vigilance.

FOCUS AREA Domestic Abuse (including Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Homicide Reviews)

What we will do:

- The SNP will work closely with and in support of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) which has responsibility to develop and implement the Northumberland Domestic Abuse strategy in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This builds upon the significant work already taking place to respond effectively to domestic abuse. Additionally, the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) places responsibility upon the SNP to undertake and deliver upon Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's). The reports and recommendations of DHR's seek to identify lessons learned and good practice, prevent domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses by developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach.

PRIORITY 2 Thriving Neighborhoods and Communities

FOCUS AREA Anti-Social Behavior (ASB)

What we will do:

- Working through the Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities Coordination Group there will be a cohesive and coordinated approach between key partners and stakeholders to identify, assess and seek to remedy issues relating to ASB causing harm to communities. This will include effective scrutiny, management and support to the multi-agency Victim, Offender, Location (VOL) operational delivery meetings that have oversight of geographic areas of responsibility to ensure an effective multi-agency response to ASB. Delivery of statutory ASB Case Reviews in accordance with Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, to provide the best possible service to people who are experiencing ASB and to reduce and, where possible, prevent the recurrence of ASB.

FOCUS AREA Prevention Focused Approach to allow neighborhoods to thrive and ASB Hotspot/Transport initiatives

What we will do:

- Listening to communities and using a prevention focussed multi agency approach with effective tasking and coordination, we will target the causes of harm and allow neighbourhoods to thrive. This will include utilising 'hotspot' orientated place-based initiatives and placing focus upon the public transport network throughout Northumberland that may be experiencing challenge from ASB and links to violence, serious violence, and other crime types.

FOCUS AREA Promotion of a positive Northumberland through effective community engagement activities

What we will do:

- Resources deployed toward initiatives, activities and events will have a focus upon community engagement, participation, and the promotion of communities through effective messaging that will involve promotional materials, key media messaging and effective use of social media.

PRIORITY 3 Community Cohesion and Resilience

FOCUS AREA Preventing Violence Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism

What we will do:

- The Governments counter terrorism strategy ¹⁴CONTEST was introduced in 2003 and has four key objectives Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue. The SNP has responsibilities particularly in relation to Prevent, Protect and Prepare. This includes Channel a key element of Prevent and focuses on safeguarding providing support at an early stage to people who are at risk of radicalisation, supporting terrorism or committing terrorist acts.

FOCUS AREA Tension Monitoring building more cohesive communities

What we will do:

- Ensure effective management, local co-ordination, and delivery of the Prevent objective, which in 2015 was placed on a statutory basis. The Prevent duty is contained within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and detailed within the Prevent duty guidance¹⁶. This includes ¹⁵Channel a key element of Prevent and focuses on safeguarding providing support at an early stage to people who are at risk of radicalisation, supporting terrorism or committing terrorist acts.

FOCUS AREA Protecting Northumberland and making it even safer

What we will do:

- In the context of the wider Contest Protect responsibilities and the 'Local Approach' the SNP will initiate and manage partnership action considering protective security planning considerations that should be undertaken, for such areas that may not be geographically defined or controlled, to mitigate the terrorist risks to commonly open public spaces across the authority area, such as town centres, parks, and other locations. This will also look at the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process and ensuring safer events across Northumberland. Additionally, the partnership looking forward will also consider the implications and prepare for the expected introduction of 'Martyn's Law'¹⁷ that will place a duty on certain venues and organisations, operating within Northumberland, to fulfil necessary but proportionate steps according to their capacity to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm, ensuring a coherent and proportionate approach is taken to protective security.

¹⁴ CONTEST - The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism 2023

¹⁵ Channel duty guidance: Protecting people susceptible to radicalisation

¹⁶ Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales

¹⁷ Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft bill

¹⁸ HM Government No Place to Hide: Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2023-2028

PRIORITY 4 Tackle Crime and Serious and Organised Crime

FOCUS AREA Work to suppress and tackle Crime and Serious Organised Crime (SOC)

What we will do:

- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires the SNP to work collectively to make communities a better place to live, work and visit and the partnership works to that objective in Northumberland. Local initiatives are undertaken and targeted to address the harm crime can cause and we will continue to do so. The partnership approach is critical to this and delivered through local arrangements such as Operation Sentinel, the focus of which is targeting those that would cause harm to communities through organised criminal activities. These activities will also be cognisant of the HM Government No Place to Hide: Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2023-2028¹⁸.

FOCUS AREA Take a partnership approach to reduce the harm of illicit drug misuse

What we will do:

- Working with partners and stakeholders, with a focus on addressing inequalities, we will seek to be innovative and look to improve lives of our residents by reducing the harms of illicit drug use. This will encompass supporting enforcement activities and developing preventative measures and working with the Northumberland Drug and Alcohol Network to support a system wide approach.

FOCUS AREA Information and Intelligence development and dissemination in pursuance of the prevention and detection of Crime and Serious Organised Crime

What we will do:

- The SNP will endeavour to promote and champion across the partnership and wider networks the value and worth of information and intelligence development that can be utilised to prevent and detect crime and serious organised crime.

PRIORITY 5 Rural Crime

FOCUS AREA Work in partnership to reduce the impact and harm of rural crime upon communities

What we will do:

- The SNP has now formally aligned with the Northumberland Partnership Against Rural Crime (NPARC), which first came into being in 2022, and which has a wide range of key stakeholders, and networks that reach across the Northumberland geographic and rural communities. The SNP will develop the relationship in the coming year to support NPARC to support those communities and the impact and harm of rural crime. These activities will also be cognisant of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Wildlife Rural Crime Strategy¹⁹.

FOCUS AREA Develop intelligence and investigative capabilities to tackle rural crime

What we will do:

- The SNP will take a data led approach in supporting the fight against rural crime and this includes the development of bespoke resources that will give insight to the issues and harms caused which will then drive initiatives and activities. This will include the development of a rural crime dashboard for NPARC.

FOCUS AREA Work with rural communities to promote confidence and reduce the fear of crime

What we will do.

- The engagement by and promotion of NPARC prior to becoming aligned with the SNP was extremely positive and the need to continue, develop and grow this is recognised and will feature as a theme throughout activities and initiatives. This will be across partners and encompass several delivery methods but all with the aim of engagement to promote confidence and reduce the fear of crime for rural communities.

6.4 Delivery

The SNP will ensure accountability and delivery of the vision, aim and priorities through robust governance and accountability arrangements. It is accepted that some priority areas may be delivered more effectively through work across and in partnership with other strategic boards such as Northumberland Childrens and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP), Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) and other collaborative approaches with key stakeholders such as the Northumbria VRU. In such instances the partnership will seek assurance from those boards and stakeholders by way of annual updates to the SNP board upon delivery of respective priorities.

¹⁹ NPCC Wildlife Rural Crime Strategy 2022-2025

7. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

These elements are critical to an active and critically effective partnership and will be continually monitored and formally reviewed annually as part of the SNP business management.

7.1 Statutory responsibilities

The SNP will ensure that all statutory responsibilities are discharged by:

- Annually holding four strategic board meetings, with the ability to bring the membership together at pace for emerging risk issues and essential updates on a case-by-case basis.

7.2 Business planning

Business planning is underpinned by a forward plan that will:

- Identify key dates across the year for preparation and production of statutory products, such as the SNA and strategic plans.
- Ensure community consultation and engagement.
- Schedule annual assurance reporting and updates across all priorities.
- Annual review of governance arrangements.

7.3 Community Engagement

Is an essential element for a successful multi agency partnership and will incorporate:

- At least one of the annual quarterly strategic board meetings to be held as an open meeting accessible to the public.
- Public consultation exercises to be conducted and data sought annually.
- An SNP web presence detailing priority areas and publication of statutory products.
- Development of a partnership communications strategy and use of proactive messaging and media campaigns across priority areas.

7.4 Performance Management

Will be monitored through identifying activities against SNP priorities and recorded in a delivery plan. This will be reviewed at strategic board meetings throughout the lifetime of the plan and through assurance reporting across all priority areas to the partnership board. Additionally, further scrutiny will be provided from a refreshed SNA and evaluation against the preceding period reported to the partnership in an annual report.



For more information go to:

www.northumberland.gov.uk