

**REPORT TO:** Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** Safer Halton Partnership Governance & Strategy

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an update on the development work on the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), Safer Halton governance and strategy.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

**1) Members comment on the priorities and draft strategy for Safer Halton.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Safer Halton has had a focus in recent months on re-visiting governance arrangements, priorities, and strategy to ensure they are fit for purpose.

3.2 Safer Halton Partnership received reports in June, September and December 2023 with Members of the multi-agency partnership actively engaging in a review process which culminated in a workshop in November 2023.

3.3 This work has been supported by an additional resource, funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner. The approach agreed was to focus on: -

- **Safer Halton governance structure** including how the partnership interacts with other partnerships including reviews of terms of reference and membership and information sharing agreement.
- **Strategic needs assessment** – working with the Constabulary Analyst to ensure the partnership is considering Halton data and intelligence that informs and sets out Halton priorities contributing to strategy / partnership plan

development.

- **Community Safety Partnership Strategy/Partnership Plan** - review and set out a forward strategy for community safety and crime prevention for Halton. Consulting with partners and community to understand priorities and the lived experience to articulate key objectives that best impact for Halton residents.
- Articulate a **Safer Halton Partnership delivery plan** – building on the strategy / partnership plan develop an action / delivery plan to set out key objectives and a work programme that responds to Halton’s priorities through key deliverables and building resilience for Halton. The delivery plan established would then be reviewed annually.

3.4 Develop a **Communication and Engagement** framework that sets out partnership approaches and campaigns including the development of web-based information and social media.

3.5 **Safer Halton Governance Structure**

This has been revisited and a mapping exercise to understand the partnerships links and representation in local partnerships and Cheshire level partnerships. The diagram in **appendix one** provides the strategic governance landscape for Safer Halton Partnership.

3.6 Moving forward, the agenda planning, and business setting of Safer Halton will be reviewed. Considering the governance landscape of the Partnership set out in the diagram, it is imperative the connections to the wider partnerships are strengthened and there is a robust approach to understanding responsibilities, linkages, shared delivery and emerging areas of policy development, statute, and future work. The agenda planning will be reviewed to look at standing agenda items and annual updates.

3.7 **Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Constabulary Analyst has supported the process providing and presenting data to inform the development of the priorities with an evidence led approach.

3.8 There will be an annual Strategic Needs Analysis provided moving forward, which will be considered annually in Q4 to ensure Safer Halton Partnership annual delivery plans post April are in keeping with Halton’s needs.

3.9 **Community Safety Partnership Strategy/Partnership Plan**

A draft strategy has been developed and shared with Safer Halton, appended to the report, **appendix two**.

3.10 The document is in a draft form, following agreement of the priorities and content, the Council’s design team will present a revised

corporate document.

- 3.11 The Safer Halton Partnership have been continuously consulted with the development of the document. A workshop held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 focussed on the priorities and in some cases themed i.e. serious organised crime covering exploitation, county lines etc with some additional items flagged i.e. serious violence duty, road safety, cybercrime. The priorities agreed to date are: -
1. Anti-Social Behaviour
  2. Domestic Abuse (to potentially include violence against women and girls and sexual violence)
  3. Serious and Organised Crime (including county lines, modern day slavery/exploitation and financial crime/scams)
  4. Integrated Offender Management
  5. Counter Terrorism
  6. Hate Crime
  7. Substance Misuse
  8. Serious Violence (to focus on statutory duty as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024)
  9. Road Safety
- 3.12 Further contributions were invited and some of the priority areas are still developing.
- 3.13 There was an emphasis on ensuring alignment with Police & Crime Commissioner priorities and the opportunity to benefit from consultation findings on the future role of CSP's. These are:-
- Prevent and tackle crime.
  - Make Cheshire's Road safer.
  - Deliver justice for victims of crime.
  - Protect vulnerable and at-risk people.
  - Improve public confidence in policing.
  - Modernise the police service.
- 3.14 The timescale for implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, to be a three-year strategy.
- 3.15 **Safer Halton Partnership Delivery Plan**  
A draft was shared at the workshop and agreed a format that follows the 4 p's, pursue, prevent, protect, prepare. This is being populated for Q4 of the current year to assist with drawing down of PCC funds for the current year and will be the template moving forward. The format is anticipated to provide information on delivery and outcomes thus necessitating the need for an outcome's framework.
- 3.16 **Communication and Engagement Framework**  
This is identified as a separate piece of work, getting the strategy and delivery plan progressed has been the key tasks however, the works on this has commenced and a draft will be shared in due course with the partnership

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Key pieces of legislation that govern the work of Safer Halton are:-  
Crime & Disorder Act 1988  
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014  
Counter Terrorism & Securities Act 2015

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Articulating and formalising the CSP role and priorities is essential to fulfilling statutory obligations and strategic relationships with the PCC and other strategic bodies. This will also enable the CSP to pursue funding opportunities with other agencies and funding bodies

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Safer Halton Partnerships strategy and delivery plan impacts directly on this priority through its preventative work for children and young people along with the work on Domestic Abuse, multi-agency approaches with Integrated Offender Management and Youth Justice Service and wider Community Safety approaches to deliver diversionary activities and work towards making neighbourhoods safer.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Safer Halton Partnership work includes workforce development on raising awareness and skills to tackle priorities such as domestic abuse. External funding secure through the partnership will also support employment opportunities.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The partnerships activities contribute to generating a safer environment in Halton. A safer environment positively impacts on residents' health and wellbeing.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Partnerships work contributes directly to this priority. Programmes of work vary from reactive to pro-active, providing support to victims where needed, working to shift outcomes build resilient communities in Halton.

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Community safety measures and licensing responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The partnership strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents, and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and

vibrant communities.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 To operate robustly in addition to the community safety partnership meeting its obligations there needs to be rigour in the governance and structure arrangements. A failure to have this in place will result in loss of resources and reputational harm to Halton.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Safer Halton Partnerships work includes a priority around Hate Crime which supports marginalised cohorts of Halton's community.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

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