

Annual Partnership Review Form

Year ended 31 March 2023

Partnership name:

Darlington Community Safety Partnership.

Partnership function:

To make Darlington Safer

Objectives for the year

- Protecting and supporting people.
- Promoting safer places.
- Tackling violent crime, including domestic abuse.
- Building strong and cohesive communities.

Performance against objectives

Darlington Community Safety Partnership (CSP) continues to meet both virtually via Teams and in person quarterly and delivers a range of services, projects and initiatives in support of its vision, objectives and associated plans during 2022/23.

In terms of performance, there has been an increase of 7% in the number of reported crimes (697 crimes), an increase of 1% in the number of reported crime and disorder incidents (369 incidents) and a reduction of 20% in the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents (583 incidents) in Darlington when compared with a similar reporting period 2021/22 (1st April 2021 – 28th February 2022 compared with 1st April 2022 - 28th February 2023).

Categories of crimes showing an increase of over 10% during 2022/23 include harassment (99 offences - improved and increased recording), burglary (118 offences - significant activity and arrest/charge), theft of pedal cycle (16 offences - low level increase), shoplifting (77 offences), possession of weapons (20 offences - increased activity around stop & search and improved recording), public order (259 offences - increased and improved recording) and metal theft (9 offences - low level increase).

The town centre has recorded similar levels of crime during the same period (increase of 2 crimes), a reduction of 4% in the number of reported crime and disorder incidents (101 incidents) and a reduction of 20% in the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents (52 incidents) when compared with a similar reporting period during 2021/22.

Categories of crimes showing an increase of over 10% during 2022/23 include sexual offences (7 offences - mainly historic), rape (1 offence), theft of pedal cycle (6 offences - low level increase) and public order (increase of 27 offences - increased and improved recording).

Performance against objectives remains a standing item on the agenda of each partnership meeting including the Darlington Community Safety Partnership, the Darlington (CSP) Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group and individual organisation "daily" tasking and coordination. Darlington CSP activity has remained focused throughout the period of reporting and supported the delivery of key achievements around the business priorities, all of which are well-evidenced in the Darlington Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-2026 and linked documents.

The Partnership is well attended, remains focused on the threats and risk around community safety and recently reviewed membership, ownership of themes, action plans and deliverables.

To support this process, a Partnership Planning Event was held on Tuesday 14th March 2023, which provided an excellent foundation for moving-forward during 2023/24.

Amongst those matters discussed at the event were priorities, deliverables, environmental scanning, future plans and initiatives, governance, finance and risk. Governance arrangements and the CSP Risk Register have been reviewed and approved by partners. This process involved consultation with specialist advisors in DBC Legal and Procurement.

Budget administered

No funding has been received by Darlington Community Safety Partnership throughout the reporting period.

DBC resources contributed

e.g. finance, employees, accommodation, other assets staffing:

1. Dedicated Community Safety Staff -.Staff from Community Safety facilitate and support the CSP and contribute to projects and programmes
2. Contribution to Community Safety Partnership provided by a range of staff across Council Directorates e.g., Community Services, Housing, Environmental Health, Public Health, Young Peoples' Engagement and Justice Service, Building Stronger Families and Early Help Services.
3. Accommodation is provided to Darlington Neighbourhood Policing Teams who are co- located with DBC Community Safety and Young Peoples' Engagement and Justice and Building Stronger Families Services in Central House Annexe, Gladstone Street, Darlington.

Governance arrangements outstanding actions, if any, from partnership toolkit questionnaire

See "Supporting Evidence."

Issues of concern, if any e.g. Finance, staffing etc

Funding across the public sector remains a challenge and can impact on the capacity and capability of the Council and Partner Agencies to develop programmes of work to deliver CSP objectives.

Other concerns include:

- a. Financial challenges.
- b. Demand management
- c. Conflicting priorities.
- d. Sophistication of organised crime.
- e. Industrial action.
- f. Finite resources.
- g. Staff recruitment and retention.
- h. Public expectations and confidence in partners.
- i. Cost of living crisis.

j. Local elections.

k. Ageing workforce.

Action plan to address issues of concern (including responsible officer and timescales)
Threat and risk (which includes areas of concern) is monitored on a continual basis with any areas of concern being escalated to Darlington CSP. During the period of review all areas of potential concern have been managed effectively / mitigated and the partnership has continued to deliver in a most difficult operating environment.

Is the partnership to continue?

Yes

Objectives for next year

1. Protecting and supporting people.
2. Promoting safer places.
3. Tackling violent crime, including domestic abuse.
4. Building strong and cohesive communities.

Completed By Lead Officer:

Name

Graham Hall

Post

Head of Community Safety

Date

21st March 2023

Reviewed By Assistant Director:

Name

Dave Winstanley

Post

Group Director of Services

Date

27th March 2023