

People & Health Overview Committee

23 July 2024

Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh), Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027 and Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s):

All

Executive Director:

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with partners through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to identify and tackle community safety issues.

CSPs are required to produce three-year community safety plans (that are refreshed annually), and strategies to reduce reoffending. These should be formally adopted by the local authority for the area.

Certain partners are also required to produce strategies to tackle Serious Violence. In Dorset, partners have chosen to co-ordinate this work through the Dorset CSP. Serious Violence Strategies should also be formally adopted by the local authority for the area.

This report presents the latest Community Safety Plan, Reducing Reoffending Strategy and Serious Violence Strategy and recommends they are adopted by Dorset Council.

Recommendation:

That the Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh), pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027 and Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25 be recommended to Cabinet and Dorset Council for adoption.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure Dorset Council meets its duties as set out in relevant legislation.

1. Background

1.1 Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with the following partners (responsible authorities) to identify and tackle community safety issues in its area:

- Dorset Police
- NHS Dorset
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Probation Service

1.2 It does this through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) a statutory partnership under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

1.3 CSPs are required to produce three-year community safety plans (that are refreshed annually), and strategies for reducing reoffending.

1.4 These should be formally adopted by the local authority for the area. Adoption must be by Full Council.

1.5 The serious violence duty under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 came into effect for the following partners on 31 January 2023:

- Police
- Probation
- Youth Offending Teams
- Fire & Rescue Authorities
- NHS

- Local Authorities

1.6 The duty requires partners to produce an evidence based analysis of serious violence and develop and implement a strategy in response. In Dorset, partners decided to lead their response to the duty through the CSP.

1.7 Serious Violence Strategies should also be formally adopted by the local authority for the area. Adoption must be by full Council.

2. **Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh)**

2.1 The Community Safety Plan 2023-26 (refreshed for 2024-25) is attached at appendix 1. The Plan was agreed by the CSP on 19th March 2024, subject to any changes from the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process (the EqIA has since been signed off).

2.2 The Plan sets out partners' priorities and how they will be tackled in broad terms based on an assessment of community safety issues in the area. The priorities included in the latest refresh of the plan are:

- Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Sexual Offences
- Serious Violence
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Rural Crime
- Fraud

2.3 They are complemented by the following cross cutting issues:

- Mental health
- Substance misuse
- Complex cases / multiple need
- Violence against women and girls

2.4 The plan includes references to members of the public's views on community safety issues. As with previous plans, it is complemented by more detailed delivery plans.

2.5 The CSP and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) are legally required to have regard to each other's priorities when setting their plans. The

PCC's current Police & Crime Plan has been considered when writing and refreshing the community safety plan.

- 2.6 The Plan is being presented to the Council for adoption in its second year to allow for the incorporation of work relating to partners' duty to tackle serious violence.

3. **Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Policing and Crime Act 2009, CSPs are responsible for developing reducing reoffending strategies.
- 3.2 Locally, partners have traditionally developed pan-Dorset reducing reoffending strategies, given that many organisations and issues are common across the area.
- 3.3 The latest strategy is attached at appendix 2. It has been developed by partners through the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group helping ensure close links to both CSPs (Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) and the pan-Dorset Criminal Justice Board. The Strategy was agreed at the Dorset CSP on 19th March 2024 subject to any changes from the EqIA process (the EqIA has since been signed off).
- 3.4 The strategy sets out partners' vision for reducing reoffending which is:

'To cut crime, reduce harm and protect victims by reducing re-offending through joint working and rehabilitation'.
- 3.5 It contains information on the reasons for reoffending and the services and programmes operating in Dorset to address issues and includes several strategic principles and objectives.

4. **Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25**

- 4.1 The Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25 is attached at appendix 3. It was agreed by the Dorset CSP on 21st December 2023 and published on 30th January 2024, in line with Government expectations.
- 4.2 The Strategy has been informed by an assessment of serious violence issues in Dorset. It sets out partners' priorities and aims which include approaches to tackle high-harm offending, supporting victims, ensuring

children and young people understand the risks and drivers for serious violence, tackling serious violence in the community, tackling organised crime and undertaking work to further develop our local understanding of serious violence issues.

4.3 Legislation and statutory guidance recognise there are parallels between the requirement for partners' to have a Community Safety Plan and Serious Violence Strategy.

4.4 In recognition of that, partners have ensured their response to tackling serious violence, through their Serious Violence Strategy, forms an integral part of their Community Safety Plan.

4.5 Central government funding has been made available to partners to deliver the serious violence duty. This has been used to ensure partners comply with their legal obligations and fund initiatives to tackle issues.

5. **Financial Implications**

5.1 The Dorset CSP does not receive funding directly, however partners' plans and strategies clarify where they will focus their time and effort and their broad activity to meet priorities.

5.2 Central government has made available funding for responsible authorities to deliver the serious violence duty.

5.3 From time to time, central government makes available one off funding opportunities to support community safety work such as tackling domestic abuse. When possible, partners apply for such funds.

6. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

None.

7. **Well-being and Health Implications**

6.1 Tackling crime and the fear of crime has a significant impact on health and wellbeing.

8. **Other Implications**

7.1 Community safety as set out in the report.

9. **Risk Assessment**

9.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

10. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

10.1 EqIAs have been completed and signed off on both the Community Safety Plan and Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

10.2 The EqIA process identified opportunities which will help steer the delivery of the Plan and Strategy.

10.3 The EqIA for the Community Safety Plan aimed to cover serious violence issues drawing on findings from the serious violence needs assessment work. Given that, a separate EqIA has not been completed for the Serious Violence Strategy.

10.4 Opportunities identified through the EqIA process will be used to help steer the delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Dorset Community Safety Plan 2023-2026 (2024-25 refresh)

Appendix 2 – Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2024-2027

Appendix 3 – Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25

12. **Background Papers**

None.

13. **Report Sign Off**

12.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Cabinet Member(s).