

# **North Somerset Council**

## **Report to the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting: 21 July 2022**

**Subject of Report: 2022 North Somerset Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment and Safer Communities Plan and Priorities**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Howard Pothecary and Nicola O'Driscoll**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason:**

### **Recommendations**

That Members note the information presented.

#### **1. Summary of Report**

- 1.1 A strategic assessment of Crime and Disorder 2022/23 has been produced by the Council's Safer Communities Team in partnership with the Business Intelligence Service (see appendix 1) the key findings of which will be presented at the meeting of the Panel on 21 July.
- 1.2 It is a statutory requirement to carry out an annual assessment of crime and disorder in the local area and it has been prepared for the North Somerset Community Safety Partnership board.
- 1.3 The strategic assessment has been produced in collaboration with Avon and Somerset Constabulary and other relevant stakeholders. It is informed by a range of local and national information sources and highlights the main issues, risks and threats that are likely to impact upon crime and community safety services between 2022 and 2024.
- 1.4 The assessment is used to generate a new Safer Communities plan to prioritise work and set out how we plan to work collaboratively across all partner agencies to ensure that North Somerset is a safer place to live and visit.

## **2. Policy**

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (subsequently amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on a number of organisations (the Local Authority, Police Force, Probation Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group and Fire Service) to work together in a Community Safety Partnership to prevent and tackle crime and disorder. This includes specific requirements to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2 There is also a requirement for the Community Safety Partnership and Police and Crime Commissioner to have regard for each other's priorities. There has been joint work in developing both the North Somerset Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment and the North Somerset Safer Communities Plan that it informed.
- 2.3 The North Somerset Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024 identifies the following three priorities:
  - o A thriving sustainable place
  - o A council which empowers and cares about people
  - o An open and enabling organisation

Crime and Disorder impacts on each one of these. Effective partnership working to tackle crime and disorder is crucial in creating vibrant, accessible, and safe places to live and visit. Community safety work programmes contribute to a range of public health outcomes including in relation to substance misuse, domestic abuse, violent crime, and re-offending.

## **3. Details**

### **Methodology**

- 3.1 The North Somerset Community Safety Partnership determined it would "Introduce Risk Management processes to more objectively direct prioritisation and the allocation of resources and effort". The MORILE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) risk management process was used to generate the strategic assessment presented with this report (see appendix 1).
- 3.2 MoRILE is a model used across the country, largely for operational or tactical decision making.
- 3.3 MoRILE involves allocating a numerical score, using nationally agreed definitions and rules, to various facets of each crime type. These are added to develop a Harm Score and a Likelihood. In turn these are multiplied together to produce the Total Risk Score.
- 3.4 The Total Risk Score is then moderated by an Organisational Position score which takes account of existing pressures, capacity and capability. This calculation produces a Final Score which prioritises crime types to be addressed.

*Figure A: Summary of MoRILE risk calculations*



- 3.5 The scores given in each area are based on a rigid set of definitions in order to ensure consistency.
- 3.6 Although this risk matrix is essentially a comparison of numeric scores, in order to properly understand and use it, it is essential to also have a narrative explaining why scores have been given: for example, why modern slavery may have a rating of 'severe' in the Individual and Financial Impact columns, and why there may be ratings indicating serious Capacity and Capability problems under the Organisational Position section.
- 3.7 The North Somerset Community Safety Partnership agreed a set of 20 themes (crime types) to be included in the Strategic Assessment this year (these will be reviewed ahead of each assessment).
- 3.8 A lead partnership officer was identified to complete a MoRILE matrix (assessment of impact or harm and likelihood in North Somerset) for each theme or crime type. Meetings took place with leads and information provided to enable them to complete the matrix
- 3.9 Alongside matrices specific profiles/needs assessments and performance data was collated for consideration as part of the overall strategic assessment process.
- 3.10 A moderation meeting was arranged for February 15<sup>th</sup> for us to bring together theme lead officers from across the Community Safety Partnership to analyse matrices and performance data and agree final scoring.

### **Key Findings**

- 3.11 The crime and disorder strategic assessment highlights some of the key issues and risks across North Somerset which affect the local communities. They require multi-agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve feelings of safety and improve the well-being of our residents.
- 3.12 Full submissions and details for all crime types considered as part of the Strategic Assessment are included in Appendix 1.
- 3.13 The key risks and threats impacting the district were identified to be the following:
- Child Exploitation
  - Drug Offences
  - County lines
  - Serious violence
  - Domestic abuse
  - Serious sexual offences

- Anti-social behaviour
- Night-time economy
- Hate Crime

- 3.14 Health and well-being issues have become more and more apparent as factors relating to community safety (crime and disorder) – this is supported by wider research, in particular The Public Health Approach to Violence, advocating a whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention<sup>1</sup>, proposes a practical approach that will facilitate partners’ understanding and response to serious violence as it is affecting their local communities. An approach that can be applied across the wider thematic crime areas. Additionally, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2020/21 cannot be underestimated.
- 3.15 The strategic assessment identified and offered clear direction on the key local priorities. The Safer Communities plan will set out how we plan to work collaboratively across all partner agencies to ensure that North Somerset is a safer place to live and visit.

### **New North Somerset Safer Communities Plan**

- 3.16 Please see appendix 2 for the new Safer Communities Plan on a Page. This replaces the previous Safer and Stronger North Somerset Joint Plan with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) which expired in 2021. The plan was created in collaboration with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner and will be owned by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and ensure that our priorities are addressed more effectively and efficiently through working in partnership.
- 3.17 As you will see the new plan groups the key risks/threats which were identified in the strategic assessment into 4 priority work areas for 2022/23:

#### **1. Prevention of individuals becoming involved in Serious Violence**

Our focus will be on:

- Alcohol aggravated violence particularly connected to the Evening & Night-Time Economy
- Possession of weapons
- Violent offences involving young people aged 25 and under

#### **2. Early intervention to Protect Vulnerable People From Harm**

Our focus will be on:

- Domestic Abuse
- Violence Against Women and Girls in Public Spaces
- Sexual Offences inc Sexual Harassment and Stalking offences

#### **3. Strengthen and Improve Local Communities -**

Our focus will be on:

- Anti-Social Behaviour – with focus on hotspot locations
- Environmental Crime e.g., criminal damage, graffiti, and fly-tipping
- Hate Crime

## **4. Tackling Exploitation**

Our focus will be on:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- County Lines/Drug Crime and Exploitation of Vulnerable People
- Risk of Radicalisation

- 3.18 The North Somerset Safer Communities Plan on a Page will have links to the individual delivery plans for each of the priorities hosted on the Safer Communities website see <https://saferstrongerns.co.uk/>
- 3.19 The North Somerset Community Safety Partnership Board now has a responsibility to monitor progress against those partnership priorities which it will do through its meetings during the remainder of 2022/23.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 One of the reasons for adopting the MoRILE methodology used for generating the crime and disorder strategic assessment was to have greater rigour and objectivity in the identification of priorities.
- 4.2 As stated above lead professionals completed risk assessment matrices which enabled them to incorporate community impact/perception within their scoring. Alongside matrices crime needs assessments were collated for consideration as part of the overall strategic assessment process.
- 4.3 The North Somerset Council Safer Communities will now lead on a consultation across North Somerset on the new Safer Communities priorities.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

- 6.1 The Council's duties under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and the Police and Justice Act (2006) are set out in Paragraph 2.1 of this report.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1 There are no implications on climate change or the environment arising directly from this report.

## **8. Risk Management**

- 8.1 The strategic assessment of crime and disorder identifies emerging trends and risks in relation to crime and disorder. This enables the Council and its partners to develop plans and work programmes to mitigate and manage these risks.

## **9. Equality Implications**

- 9.1 Being safe and feeling safe affect some communities disproportionately (including those with protected characteristics). For example, some members of the community are more at risk of being the victim of crime – particularly some types of crime.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

- 10.1 This report sets out key work areas, which contribute to corporate priorities

## **11. Options Considered**

- 11.1 Not applicable

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### **Appendices:**

#### **Appendix 1: North Somerset Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment 2022-23**



North Somerset  
Crime & Disorder...

#### **Appendix 2: North Somerset Safer Communities Plan on a Page 2022-23**



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