

Community Safety in Bath and North East Somerset 2016 – 2019

**Draft for Responsible Authorities
Group, October 2015**

DRAFT

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the key issues we will focus on for the next three years as we tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in Bath and North East Somerset. This will guide the work of the Responsible Authorities Group. This document replaces the Community Safety Plan agreed in 2009 and reflects changes in accountability and legislation including the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and the introduction of new tools and powers for dealing with anti-social behaviour. It is designed also to meet the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 and also – in terms of more immediate plans for action- to work with and take into account the Police and Crime Commissioner’s current priority themes.

1.2 In this document, we set out:

- Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) accountability and activity
- The B&NES local context including a summary of crime, disorder and community safety in B&NES
- Breakdown of recent spend on community safety commissioning in our area
- Emerging themes and projects
- A draft plan for emerging community safety “areas of focus” for our work of the over the next three years and a description of the ways in which these priorities will be delivered.

2 Responsible Authorities Group

2.1 The Bath and North East Somerset Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) is accountable for preparing this document and for working closely with the key partners involved. This acts as the Community Safety Partnership for our area. Membership of RAG includes Bath and North East Somerset Council; Clinical Commissioning Group; B&NES Public Health; Avon & Somerset Police; the Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd; Avon Fire and Rescue Service and Curo

2.2 RAG meets regularly with additional meetings arranged if necessary as agreed by members. RAG exerts influence rather than making executive decisions or exercising executive authority over constituent partner organisations. RAG and its sub -groups do not have the power to make decisions that bind member organisations. Conclusions and decisions are therefore reached by consensus. Conclusions reached are referred to the relevant partner organisations for consideration and decision with outcomes will be reported back to RAG.

2.3 RAG works at a strategic level but also focuses on effective operational delivery, including through operational sub-groups such as the Night Time Economy Group and the Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Strategic Partnership. The proposed areas of focus for these sub-groups is set out in section below.

3 Bath and North East Somerset Area Profile summary

3.1 Bath & North East Somerset is a diverse area which includes the World Heritage Site of Bath as well as vibrant towns, villages and rural communities. Bath and North East Somerset generally has healthy, safe communities with levels of deprivation that are significantly below the national average. It has some pockets of persistent relative deprivation, particularly in south-west Bath, Radstock, and Keynsham. There are also areas of rural isolation. Our Connecting Communities programme has seen the creation of Area Profiles for the 5 “Forum areas” in Bath & North East Somerset, and these can be viewed here:

[Bath Area Profile](#)

[Somer Valley Area Profile](#)

[Chew Valley Area Profile](#)

[Keynsham Area Profile](#)

[Bathavon Area Profile](#)

- 3.2 Local health & social care policy highlights domestic violence, dementia, young people and alcohol harm as key issues with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy focusing particularly on domestic abuse.

4 Crime, disorder and community safety in Bath and North East Somerset

- 4.1 Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment holds a wide range of data about community safety and specific Problem Profiles have been produced where necessary, for example relating to domestic abuse. The Avon and Somerset [Police and Crime Needs Assessment](#) contains a wide range of data, broken down by local authority area.
- 4.2 Overall crime rates are low, but the reality and perception of crime and anti-social behaviour can be seen across a range of themes and areas, including:
- “Hotspot” issues in Bath City Centre, particularly relating to retail crime, public concerns over street drinking and begging and alcohol-related violent crime and disorder concentrated in the Night Time Economy
 - Issues of concern raised in local communities, particularly anti-social behaviour and speeding traffic
 - Domestic abuse, particularly under-reporting and support for victims
- 4.3. The Partnership has put in place a wide range of initiatives to address these concerns. Appendix One contains a presentation summarising progress against the previous Plan priorities and highlights progress, continuing concerns, and emerging issues.

5 Bath & North East Somerset’s local context and challenges

- 5.1 The financial challenges faced by partner organisations, along with the removal of national funding directly for Community Safety Partnerships, has put increasing pressure on agencies. Increasingly, our programmes are focusing on new ways of working which focus on a particular cohort of need rather than remaining within service “silos”. Examples of this include:

- Our Connecting Families initiative which employs a “key worker” approach to the multiple needs faced by families; Bath & North East Somerset was an “early adopter” of Round 2 of this national programme
- The Lighthouse victim and witness care programme, which has replaced victim support by “victim type” with one tailored to the specific needs of victims supporting them along the “victim journey”. We are now able to co-locate our IDVA, Police and Curo resources as part of the Lighthouse integrated victim care hub in Keynsham.
- Partnership with the Business Improvement District to extend city centre marshalling, and integrate our CCTV service under the “Nightwatch” banner, leading to Purple Flag status and a 25% reduction in night-time economy crimes in the last 5 years. The current BID document includes a proposal to consolidate all city centre marshalling funding within the BID itself.
- Working with the Public Service Transformation Network to redesign domestic abuse services to ensure more focused services for victims. This has led to the introduction of the IRIS programme which creates a clear referral pathway for domestic violence for GP surgeries. Initially IRIS has been jointly funded by the PCC and CCG for a period of 3 years. The IRIS approach is endorsed by the Royal College of Practitioners and by the NICE Guidelines on domestic abuse 2014.

5.2 We are also increasingly leveraging in the work of parish and town councils, businesses and other voluntary and community groups to make best use of resources. For example:

- Our ground-breaking Community Alcohol Partnership in Midsomer Norton has included the use of Street Marshalls and designated public place orders which allow for the seizure of alcohol being consumed on the streets. The area has seen a 21% reduction in reported violence and 81% reduction in criminal damage since 2012.
- 35 “Safe Zones” have been introduced across Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Bath City to provide support for vulnerable people
- The Bath and District Business Crime Reduction Partnership to reduce fear and the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on businesses

- Most recently, we have now streamlined local community input as part of the “Have Your Say” process into the Connecting Communities programme which allows for community safety/policing issues to be raised at a single forum meeting. The Police keep local priorities up-to-date and their local work is publicised through the www.police.uk/ . This site also provides regular updates on local crime statistics.

5.3 The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners has of course also had a significant influence on the local context. The Responsible Authorities Group regularly welcomes the PCC and representatives to attend and be involved in discussions and joint working has led to innovative use of Community Safety funding on projects ranging from Play Rangers in Foxhill to tackling drug abuse amongst young people in towns and villages across the area.

6 Resources

6.1 Individual partner organisations determine the level of resources they commit to the work of the Responsible Authorities Group. In some cases, the level of support can be quantified - for example, investment by the Council in CCTV control room operations and tin taxi marshalling. In many cases, however, partners provide significant “in kind” support and partner resources, for example in sharing data. This has recently been seen through the pooling of RUH Accident and Emergency data to assist in developing our approach to tackling violence in the night time economy.

6.2 External funding for community safety projects has declined significantly in recent years. In 2015/16, the RAG received £54,000 through the Home Office Community Safety Fund from the PCC to support activities to address local priorities. The indication from the Office of the PCC is that the 2016/17 allocation will be of a similar amount.

6.3 In December 2014, the Responsible Authorities Group considered in detail how best to invest this funding, given gaps in provision. This included the assessments developed through work with the Public Service Transformation

Network relating to domestic abuse. Recommendations were made to RAG on work to be commissioned in response to these identified needs. Following this, the Community Safety Fund was allocated in the following way.

Project	Amount 2015 - 16
Independent Domestic Violence Advisor – high risk	£30,000
Independent Domestic Violence Advisor – low medium risk	£18,000
Tackling Hate Crime Support	£ 3,783
Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Assault Service(SARSAS)	£3,144
TOTAL	

6. 4 A notable aspect of the funding made available to SARSAS was the external funding levered in through effective joint working with local charitable trusts.

7 Community safety areas of focus 2016 - 17

7.1 The PCC has put forward the following priorities for the area

- Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities
- Prevent and reduce domestic and sexual violence, particularly violence towards women and children
- Prevent and reduce burglary and fear of burglary in your area
- Improving road safety for all road users
- Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system

7.2 Given the scope of the partnership (which has not hitherto focused on road safety issues), and our specific needs (which has not specifically identified burglary as an issue for our area), It is considered appropriate for the RAG to focus on the “areas of focus” below where partners can add the most value in our area.

A	Work in partnership to tackle local issues of concern including anti-social behaviour
B	Prevent and reduce domestic and sexual violence, particularly violence towards women and children
C	Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system
D	Actively work together on wider national agendas including the Prevent agenda and Anti-Slavery

Area of Focus	Activities 2016-19	Lead
A. Working in partnership to tackle local issues of concern including anti-social behaviour	Provide leadership for a co-ordinated and long-term response to Street Begging in Bath city centre.	Council
	Further develop the Designated Public Place Order in Bath City Centre, including new signs, to enable hotspot locations to be targeted by police Consider the DPPO in relation to use of new tools and powers primarily the CPN/CPO and PSPO	Council
	Work through the Connecting Communities programme to develop partner responses to local priorities	Council/parish and town councils
	Continue to promote the "Got Ya Back" campaign with colleagues and students	Student Community Partnership
	Use local media and communications networks to publicise successes including work with the BID on promoting Nightwatch	Council/BID
	Co-ordinate and administer the Night Time Economy Group and review its work on the alcohol harm reduction strategy	Council
B. Prevent and reduce domestic and sexual violence, particularly violence towards women and children	Support the MARAC Steering Group to maintain and continually improve MARAC risk assessment and case conference arrangements for high risk victims	MARAC SG members
	Monitor the impact of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service commission delivered by Southside Family Project. Actively participate in steering the pilot IDVA service in the RUH (pilot funded by the CCG	Council/PCC
	Support and develop funding bids working with other areas and Avon and Somerset Police which relate to support for medium and lower risk victims of domestic abuse	Council/other authorities/PCC
	Work with partners to complete the implementation of IRIS including training for staff and GP practice. Work to recruit all 27 GP practices in B&NES and finalise monitoring arrangements	IRIS partners

	Develop approach to domestic abuse training, using £10,000 grant from B&NES CCG, including responding to new definition of DVA, coercive control and 16 - 17 year victims and those at risk	IVASP partners
	Support the “Voices” project to maintain the new DVA advice and support provision from within the One Stop Shop in Bath. Voices to assess training needs of staff and work with One Stop Shop management to develop a training programme	Council
	Respond to requests for domestic homicide reviews efficiently and carry them out appropriately and in a timely manner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify and agree local protocols where they differ from national guidance. Delegate responsibility for overseeing the DHR process to IVASP. IVASP to review the B&NES DHR policy and make recommendations to RAG 	IVASP
C. Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system	Further strengthen links with Lighthouse (including the IDVA) providing specialist advice to staff and quicker access to support for victims; strengthen colocated services	Lighthouse
	Strengthen the role and effectiveness of Partnership Against Hate Crime and implement measures to improve its effectiveness	All
	Continue to administer and chair Case Review Panel and ensure partners are advised of recommendation to improve their responses to individual cases	All
	Oversee the B&NES SARI hate crime commission, monitor cases against the proposal within the commission	All
D. Actively work together on wider national agendas including the Prevent agenda and Anti-Slavery	Support and enable the discovery of, and response to incidents of modern slavery and exploitation	
	Actively participate in the Avon and Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership and develop proportionate local initiatives across partner organisations and with services to identify and respond to incidents.	All
	Embed as appropriate Anti-slavery and exploitation protocols into current safeguarding protocols	Council
	B&NES too work with partner local authority (S	Council

	Glos) to appoint a Prevent Officer	
	Police to provide 'train the trainer' for B&NES to create a pool of approved WRAP trainers	Police, Council
	Provide all statutory, proportionate, training for education establishments and for selected staff teams in partner agencies	Council

Appendix 1

Community Safety Plan 2009: Summary and Update on key priorities

Appendix 2: Other Plan, Strategies and Partnerships

Links:

[Youth Justice Plan 2015-16](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-19](#)

[Anti- Slavery Partnership](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy](#)

Connecting Families

Early Help Strategy

Prevent Agenda

Safeguarding Strategies