



Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
STAFFORDSHIRE



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME LOCAL POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017 - 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Partnership is the strategic partnership for the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in North Staffordshire.

The shared vision for the Newcastle Partnership is:

“Newcastle communities together, securing a prosperous future”

The vision for the partnership will be delivered by two overarching priorities:

- Tackling vulnerability and
- Enhancing economic growth

Partners are working towards achieving the key objectives of improving **People's lives**; improving the **Places** in which we live, work and visit and enhancing the opportunities for creating **Prosperity** in the borough.

This Local Police and Crime Plan – developed in partnership between Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner and the Newcastle Partnership – seeks to deliver the shared strategic objectives outlined above and as set out in other key partnership-based strategies. These include the Newcastle-under-Lyme Stronger and Safer Communities Strategy 2017-2020, the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy 2016-2020 and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Economic Development Strategy 2017-2020.

Partnership working in Newcastle-under-Lyme is effective and we are proud of it. It is essential in improving outcomes and opportunities for our communities and ensuring that our collective resources are used efficiently and effectively.

We recognise that in many cases we can deliver solutions by bringing together the skills and experience from existing partner organisations without always needing additional money or resources. We intend to achieve delivery of our priorities based on co-operative working practices - working together with residents, partners and local organisations to collectively construct high quality services – and challenging the way in which the public sector has previously operated to initiate change.

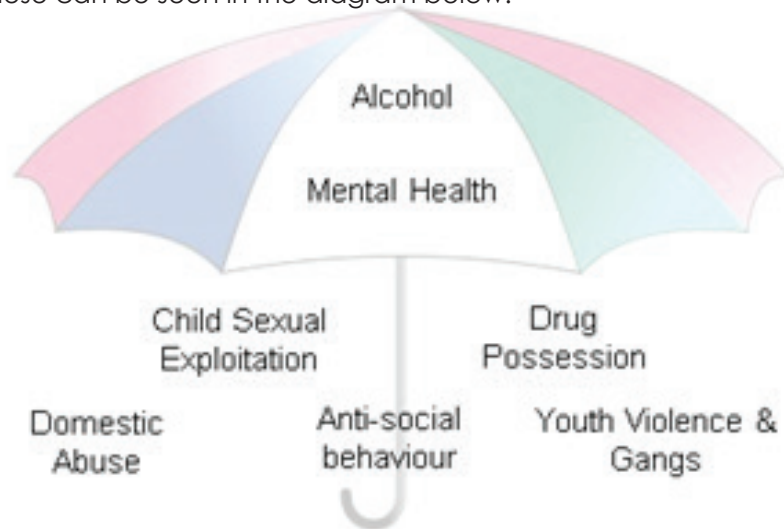
We are aware of the challenges we face – not least financially – but we aim to remain focused on the work we want to do and will continue to seek to deliver, but also be mindful of how our work is impacting on the borough as a whole, linked to the delivery of complementary strategies.

WHAT WE KNOW

Newcastle has seen improvements in key quality of life indicators in recent years. However there are still a number of areas in Newcastle where families and communities face multiple issues such as unemployment, low income, low qualifications, poor housing, social isolation and ill-health.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire has set out priorities for its second term of office. Early intervention and prevention; supporting victims and witnesses; reducing offending and re-offending; increasing public confidence and modern and transforming policing are the key areas of focus in order to tackle the issues that matter most to communities and businesses.

In order to focus on these priorities at a local level, and on the issues that are important in the borough, a Community Safety Strategic Assessment has identified a number of strategic priorities based on the threats posing greatest risks in the area. These can be seen in the diagram below:



Against a backdrop of significant welfare reform and the challenges of financial exclusion, it is inevitable that some of our more vulnerable residents, particularly those in our more deprived areas, may be at an increased risk of experiencing socio-economic hardship and unhealthy lifestyles.

The relationship between mental health and substance misuse

We recognise that mental ill-health and the misuse of drugs and alcohol are key risk factors for offending behaviour. We know that the effects of drugs and alcohol misuse have a detrimental effect on mental health. Hospital admissions in the borough relating to both mental health conditions and alcohol-related harm are significantly higher than the county averages.

Domestic Abuse

All of the evidence demonstrates that over half of domestic abuse is unreported, meaning that many victims suffer in silence. Newcastle has seen a significant upward trend in reports of domestic abuse over the past few years. While an increase in reported incidents can be considered positive, because more victims feel confident in coming forward, there is a significant impact on public services and their capacity to manage the issue. The Newcastle Partnership will therefore continue to develop its practices to effectively deal with additional demand and to provide the necessary support for vulnerable victims and their families.

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB continues to be a priority for the Newcastle Partnership. Over the past 12 months the rate of ASB incidents has increased significantly when compared to the rest of the county. ASB poses severe harm to communities and repeat victims and we know that around 10% of residents consider it to be a problem in their area.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is often hidden but we know that it exists in Newcastle. CSE has a devastating impact on its victims, their families and the wider community, so it will always be a high priority for us. We are working hard to gather intelligence in order to be sure that we are aware of the prime risk locations, victims and offenders in the borough.

Drugs

We know that drugs make their way into Newcastle from major cities. There are number of 'hotspot' areas across the borough where drug possession and misuse are a major concern. It is recognised that drug use can be a factor in the commission of other crimes such as acquisitive crime and violence.

Youth Violence

The issue of youth violence in Newcastle is an increasing concern which has been exacerbated by the emergence of a small number of new Urban Street Gangs (USGs) in and around Newcastle and Stoke on Trent. The presence of USGs in Newcastle has a detrimental effect on the social and psychological wellbeing of the community with the associated violence and drug issues, causing fear amongst residents.

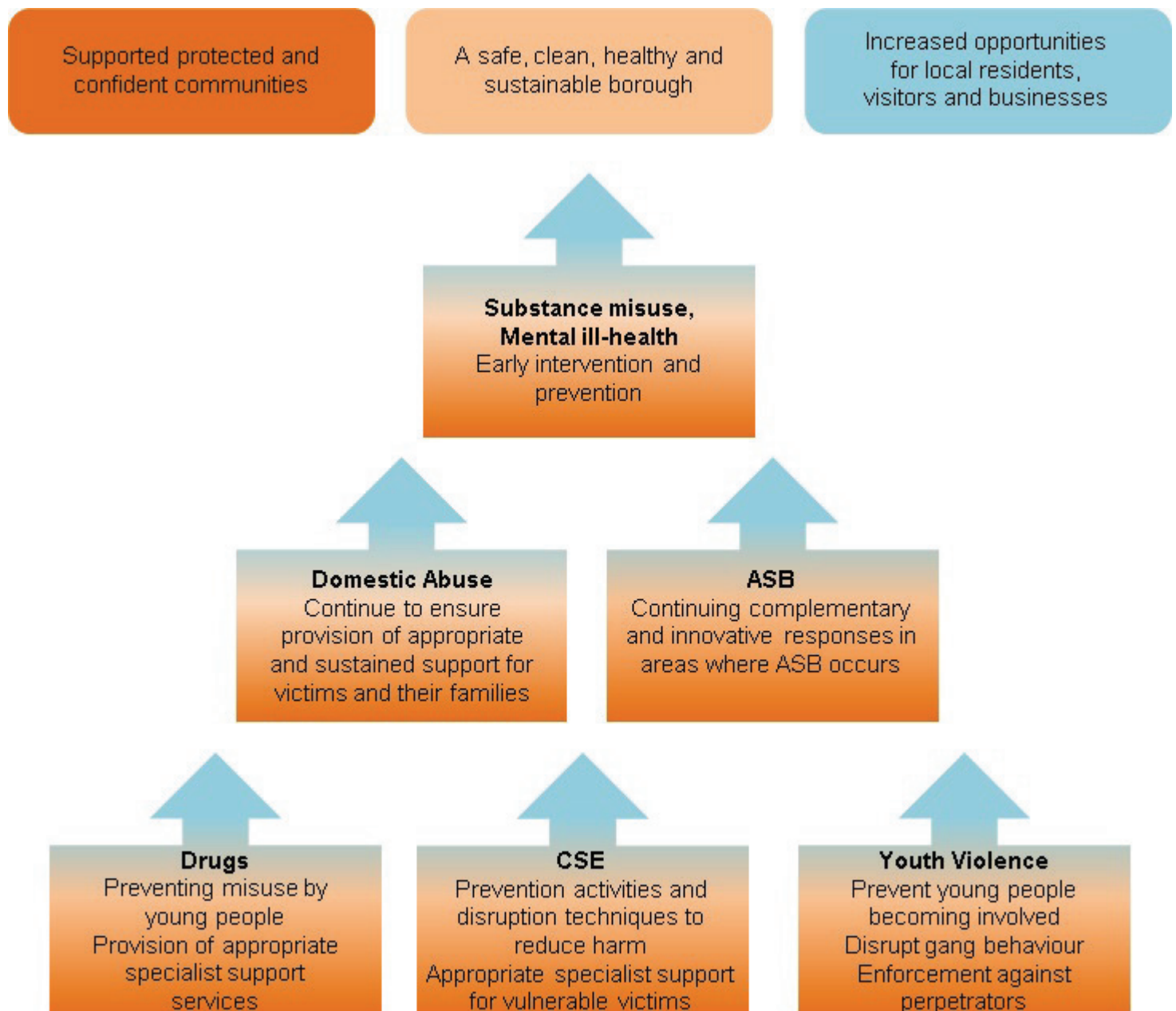
DELIVERING OUR VISION AND ACHIEVING OUR OUTCOMES

When we come together as partners to support people experiencing problems in the places where they live, work, shop and socialise, that's when real partnership work happens.

Using our shared vision and strategic framework we will work co-operatively with partners and the community to transform the way that we commission and deliver efficient, effective and quality services whilst reducing duplication and adding value.

Whilst the priorities we have identified in this plan are predominantly crime and disorder related, the Partnership is focused on achieving its overarching outcomes by working together on more holistic priorities that encompass themes such as health and wellbeing and economic growth. We believe this interactive approach will increase opportunities for those experiencing the most entrenched vulnerabilities and those most at risk of becoming perpetrators or indeed victims of crime.

The Partnership's outcomes are shown below together with the key areas of work we will concentrate on in order to address our priority crime and disorder risks facing the borough:



The 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' provides more detail about the tasks and projects that the Partnership will deliver during 2017-20.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

We will monitor the delivery of the 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' through regular reporting to our Partnership Commissioning and Delivery Group, which meets on a six weekly basis and is accountable in its reporting to our Partnership Board biannually.

We will continue to actively monitor performance through qualitative and quantitative information obtained from our partners and commissioned service providers to ensure a contribution to a reduction in crime and disorder.

We will monitor customer satisfaction and fear of crime by the use of service user questionnaires and the 'Feeling the Difference' surveys.

GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved to help us deliver sustainable outcomes for the benefit of our residents and wider communities as part of the plan for the borough.

Safer Neighbourhood Panel

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has established Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNPs) in each district of Staffordshire. The panels ensure that policing in Staffordshire is open and transparent, giving local people the chance to influence how their area is policed.

The role of the panels is to ensure residents are better informed and involved, to scrutinise all elements of local policing to ensure both the OPCC and police priorities are delivered, to provide regular feedback to local policing teams and other community safety forums, to assist in the building of further community engagement opportunities and to contribute to the wellbeing of the local area.

For further information see www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/partnerships/safer-neighbourhood-panel

Local councillors

Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the Council and partners should carry out various activities. They represent the public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which they have been elected to serve a term of office. Local councillors are keen to establish the views of residents, address issues of concern and to assist in developing ideas for improvements. They have regular contact with the general public through council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk their councillor face to face and these take place on a regular basis. To get in touch with your local councillor please visit the Council's website www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or contact the Council on 01782 717717.

Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs)

There are a number of LAPs in the borough who bring together partners from the community, public, private and voluntary sectors. The LAPs focus on issues that are significant to the communities in which they operate and seek to prioritise, co-ordinate and deliver appropriate responses. Contributions are welcomed from all residents and partner organisations. For further information about getting involved with LAPs please contact the LAP Co-ordinator at the Borough Council on 01782 742569 or irene.lee@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.

Voluntary and community support

If you are a voluntary organisation, charity or social enterprise based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, advice and support is available from the SCVYS Delivery Partnership (sometimes referred to as S3). S3 offer assistance in starting up a new community group, grant funding, organisational development and can also assist with project management and volunteering opportunities. To get in touch contact:

SCVYS (Children, young people and family focused organisations) - 01785 240378 - office@staffscvys.org.uk - www.staffscvys.org.uk

Support Staffordshire - 0300 777 1207 - info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk - www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Police and Crime Plan 2017 - 2020 or any of the information in this document please contact sarah.moore@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or visit our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk