

# Safer City Partnership Strategy 2017-2020





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# FOREWORD

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**Councillor Randolph Conteh**

Cabinet Member for housing, communities and safer city



**Councillor Ann James**

Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

## **We all benefit from a very strong commitment to working in partnership within Stoke-on-Trent for which we are extremely grateful.**

The hard work of our council, partner agencies and key stakeholders has resulted in some real successes over the past three years within the city.

Stoke-on-Trent remains a safe place to live, work and visit and the chance of becoming a victim of crime remains low; however, there are still improvements to be made. This Strategy sets out our intentions to reduce the fear of, and harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse, building upon previous good work and providing new opportunities to support people most vulnerable to its impact.

There is partnership appetite to tackle root causes of crime, disorder and substance misuse so that we can continue to build a safer and healthier city.

Crime, disorder and substance misuse can have a significant impact on our health and wellbeing. We have seen some real progress, since the last strategy, including the introduction of a new service for people in recovery from substance misuse.

Strong and connected communities are key to a safe and healthy city. Over the next three years, we intend to ensure that we create additional opportunities to access information, advice and support at the earliest point for those affected by crime, disorder and substance misuse. The partnership is committed to breaking the cycle of related problems, intervening early and providing better opportunities for future generations.

We celebrate the richness and diversity within our city and through working together, we look forward to putting our residents at the heart of the everything we do to create stronger communities.

# STRONGER TOGETHER PRIORITIES



## STRONGER TOGETHER

*Working together to create a stronger city we can all be proud of*



- Protect and improve mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Increase the number of people moving into work

- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- Involve communities in making each town and neighbourhood a great, vibrant and healthy place to live and work

- Reduce the risk of harm and neglect to vulnerable adults and children
- Improve health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups

The Stronger Together Strategic Plan 2016-20 sets out the vision and overarching priorities and objectives for the council. The diagram above shows how creating a healthier and safer city by reducing the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse for people in Stoke-on-Trent will contribute to the achievement of that vision.

This Strategy is rooted in the values that underpin the Stronger Together vision, working as One Team, with One Vision to deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents and the city. Extending and cementing partnerships with organisations and groups across the city is at the heart of this approach and holds the key to ensuring the people of Stoke-on-Trent are able to fulfil their potential.

# INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the 2017-20 Safer City Partnership Strategy which reflects on the successes of our previous business plans, identifies current and future challenges, and outlines our approach over the next three years.

Our vision continues to be “to create a safer, stronger and healthier city” by reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and associated problems.

Stoke-on-Trent’s Responsible Authorities Group is the statutory body responsible for implementing the national crime, disorder and substance misuse strategies at a local level. Its aim is to work in active partnership to reduce levels of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, thereby increasing public confidence and improving community safety.

In 1998 the Crime and Disorder Act placed a statutory duty on every Local Authority in England and Wales to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area. The Act introduced a further duty for Local Authorities to work with the Police Authorities, Fire Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and Police Services. The Act defined these organisations as “Responsible Authorities” but stipulated that the Local Authority was the accountable body for the partnership and its activities.

To this end the Responsible Authorities Group, with senior representation from each statutory partner organisation, has a responsibility to identify crime, disorder and substance misuse policy issues within Stoke-on-Trent and develop and publish a three year strategy setting out how it intends these to be addressed.

The successful implementation of this strategy very much depends on robust and effective partnership working. As such, membership of the Partnership comprises representation from a wide range of stakeholders and organisations.

The statutory partnership is responsible for collectively identifying crime, disorder and substance misuse issues within Stoke-on-Trent and developing and publishing a three year plan setting how it intends these to be addressed. This partnership comprises Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group, West Midlands National Probation Service and Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company. Adding value are community members, elected members, service users, Stoke-on-Trent Youth Offending Service, voluntary sector organisations and strengthening relationships with neighbouring colleagues including Staffordshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

# Safer City Partnership Strategy 2017-20



**Stoke-on-Trent Safer City Partnership is committed to its ambition of “creating a safer, stronger and healthier city.”**

## Priorities

- 1. Tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse through prevention and early intervention** – people will be offered the advice, information and support needed to prevent the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse, creating safer and healthier communities.
- 2. Supporting those most vulnerable to the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse** – providing targeted support to communities who are most vulnerable to the impact of crime, disorder and substance misuse and breaking the cycle of offending and substance misuse.
- 3. Enabling more people to become and remain abstinent from substance misuse** – providing recovery-focussed treatment and support for dependent drug and alcohol users and increasing the visibility of recovery communities.

## Outcomes:

The partners of the Responsible Authorities Group remain committed to reducing the negative impact of all crime, disorder and substance misuse via existing business plans and strategies. However, through this Strategy, the Responsible Authorities Group will combine efforts to have achieved the following specific outcomes, before the end of March 2020:

- Increased the percentage of people feeling safe in our most vulnerable communities
- Reduced the incidences of antisocial behaviour committed across the city
- Reduced the incidences of antisocial behaviour, public order offences and public space violence in our hotspot locations
- Reduced the percentage of people drinking at levels harming their health
- Increased the number of dependent drug users successfully exiting drug treatment
- Reduced the number of children and young people being taken in to care as a result of parental substance misuse.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

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## Local progress during 2014-17 Safer City Partnership Strategy

### Community safety:

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council is working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner to jointly commission services for domestic abuse
- Following increases in reports in domestic abuse in previous years, in 2016/17 there was a 36% increase (n.61 people) in the first six months in the number of adult and child victims of domestic abuse, supported by specialist services, to live safely and independently in the community
- Six Domestic Homicide Reviews have been carried out by the Responsible Authorities Group, resulting in 64 recommendations to improve the whole system response for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and their children
- The commissioned Independent Sexual Violence Advisors have supported over 200 victims of sexual violence through the criminal justice system
- The commissioned Sex Workers Project has increased the number of female sex workers supported to remain safe, engage with substance misuse treatment and exit sex work by 30% (n.24)
- There has been a steady downward trend in domestic burglary over the past nine years (from 90 crimes per month in 2009, to less than 75 crimes per month), and the Target Hardening service has contributed to making victims of domestic burglary feel safer in their homes
- The new antisocial behaviour powers introduced under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 have been successfully implemented, providing a range of processes and tools
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council, in collaboration with the Office and Police and Crime Commissioner, has coordinated two very successful summer Space programmes; in 2016, this resulted in a reduction in antisocial behaviour over the summer holidays.

### Drugs and alcohol:

- The Stoke-on-Trent Young People's Lifestyle Survey indicates that the number of pupils drinking alcohol in the last week/month fell from 48% in 2009 to 15% in 2015; during the same period the number of pupils to have ever used cannabis fell from 10% to 5%
- 37% of people (n.113) released from prison successfully engaged in community based drug/alcohol treatment, compared to 23% in West Midlands and 30% nationally
- A dedicated recovery service, aimed solely at supporting people to maintain abstinence, has been launched in 2015; such services are rare in the UK and provide invaluable support
- A Novel Psychoactive Substances newsletter has been launched highlighting new laws and dangers of use
- The Stoke-on-Trent Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2016-20 has been ratified by Cabinet introducing new commitment to recovery and reducing the impact of alcohol on communities
- Stoke-on-Trent engages a larger proportion of drug users in treatment; 60% of opiate and crack users in Stoke-on-Trent are in treatment, compared to 51% nationally
- The "Light House" project has been launched, providing short term secure accommodation for people in recovery from drug and/or alcohol misuse
- Public Health England has described Stoke-on-Trent Blood Borne Virus provision as one of the best in the country
- HIV testing has been introduced in to drug and alcohol services, demonstrating innovation in multi-agency working.

# WHY INVEST?

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The financial burden of crime, disorder and substance misuse is significant and investment in the agenda is paramount to make a difference to those most affected:

Nationally, the costs of crime are estimated to be

**£59.9billion  
per year**

not including other important costs such as fear of crime or quality of life impacts; £16.96bn of which relates to violence

Specialist alcohol treatment can deliver savings of nearly

**£1,138  
per dependent drinker**

treated and reduce hospital admissions

For each heroin or crack user not in treatment, the average cost of crime committed per person is

**£26,074  
per year**

Nationally, the annual cost of looking after children who have been taken in to care from substance misusing parents is

**£42.5m**

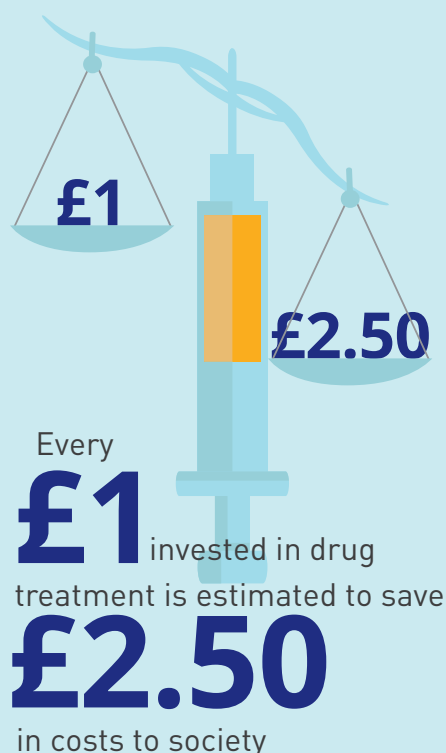
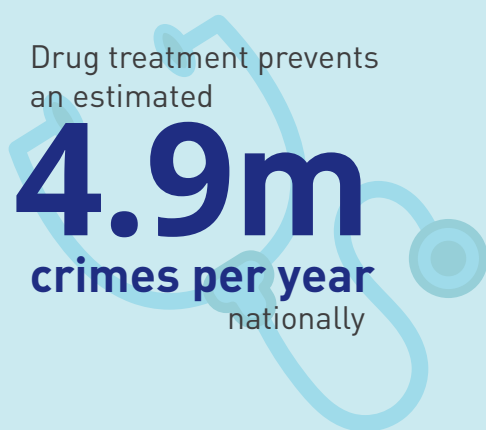
The estimated cost of domestic abuse nationally is

**£15.7billion  
per year**

which includes £1.9bn for the NHS and £1.2bn on the criminal justice system



Savings which can be made by effectively reducing the impact of crimes, disorder and substance misuse, for example:



# THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

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- 74% of residents felt safe after dark in 2015/16, which is higher than they did in 2011/12 (Feeling The Difference survey), however this is still lower than the Staffordshire average.
- There is a huge overlap between the offender, substance misusing and homeless populations, for example, two thirds of people using homeless services are also either in the criminal justice system or in drug treatment in the same year
- The Feeling the Difference Survey 2015 revealed that 21% of the city's respondents felt that people misusing alcohol was a fairly/very big problem.

This, alongside antisocial behaviour, were the two biggest problems impacting negatively on feelings of safety

- There are higher levels of harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse in certain areas of the city. These include Hanley, Sandford Hill, Fenton East, Dresden and Florence, Meir North, Bentilee, Abbey Hulton and Tunstall
- There are repeat hotspot locations for violence and disorder within Etruria and Hanley, Moorcroft, Burslem Central, Tunstall and areas of Stoke, Longton and Fenton.

- There were 25,406 crimes reported, and 4,815 incidences of antisocial behaviour between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016; these each equate to a 12% increase from the previous 12 months
- Violence against the person, and theft, account for 35% of offences
- The rate of adult reoffending is 5% higher in Stoke-on-Trent, compared to England (30% vs 25%)
- The rate of juvenile reoffending in Stoke-on-Trent is 36%, which is statistically similar to the England rate (38%)
- Males account for 79% of all offenders with those aged between 10- 49 years being disproportionately represented in the offender population, accounting for 72% of all known offenders but just 26% of the population
- People between the ages of 15-49 years are disproportionately at-risk of becoming a victim of crime
- In Stoke-on-Trent, people over the age of 65 account for a lower proportion of the victim of crime population (17%) and consequently a smaller proportion of reported crime (5%), compared with Staffordshire

- Of the young people who reported drinking alcohol in the Young People's Lifestyle Survey, 2015, 60% reported parents giving it to them
- Almost half of the adults who drink alcohol in the city are drinking at levels harming their health (44%)
- Alcohol can also fuel harmful behaviour; the rates for alcohol related crime, including violence and sexual offences, ranks the city within the worst 24 authorities (of 326); with violent crime placing the city the 7th worst in England
- Alcohol specific and alcohol related mortality are amongst the worst in England. For male alcohol related mortality, and for mortality related to chronic liver disease (all persons), the rate is over a third higher than the England average. Stoke-on-Trent continues to have some of the highest rates of alcohol related hospital admissions in the country. In 2012/13 there were an estimated almost 23,000 attendances at A&E in Stoke-on-Trent, almost 6,000 inpatient admissions and almost 12,000 outpatient attendances associated with alcohol misuse
- There were 2,344 opiate and crack users in 2011/12 and 750 injecting drug users. These are all above the England average
- There has been an increase in the number of people using drugs who were in contact with the criminal justice system
- 58 people (all ages) died from drug misuse in 2013-15; a higher rate than England (8 per 100,000 population vs 4 per 100,000 in England)





## Priorities

### **Tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse through prevention and early intervention**

People will be offered the advice, information and support needed to prevent the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse, creating safer and healthier communities.

### **Supporting those most vulnerable to the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse**

Providing targeted support to communities who are most vulnerable to the impact of crime, disorder and substance misuse and breaking the cycle of offending and substance misuse.

### **Enabling more people to become and remain abstinent from substance misuse**

Providing recovery-focussed treatment and support for dependent drug and alcohol users and increasing the visibility of recovery communities.



# ACTIONS

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Moving forward, the Safer City Partnership is committed to providing targeted support in areas most vulnerable to the impact of crime, disorder and substance misuse. The intention is to build upon assets in communities and develop resilience in the next generation so they are able to live their lives safely and healthily. As a result, whilst activity will continue on a citywide basis, there will be focused activity in key geographic areas of greatest need and partner organisations will flex their resources across the city to deal with those priority issues in a more concerted way.

Integral to our plans, over the next three years is a commitment to ensure that Hanley, as the commercial heart of the city, is a peaceful and enjoyable place for people to visit for leisure and work, and an attractive place in which businesses want to invest.

A full action plan will be developed, in partnership, to set out how the Strategy will be delivered.



## **1. Tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse through prevention and early intervention**

people will be offered the advice, information and support needed to prevent the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse, creating safer and healthier communities. This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that people are supported to feel safer living, visiting and working in the city
- Rolling out a campaign to raise awareness of the new alcohol unit guidelines to support healthier drinking behaviours
- Increasing education to build resilience to harm and increase awareness of support services available, including the development of a co-ordinated approach to delivering universal and targeted vulnerability education
- Ensuring a robust, targeted and well-publicised programme of diversionary activities is in place in hotspot areas for antisocial behaviour
- Applying “secure by design” principles to planning within our city
- Using partnership data effectively to coordinate services to be in the right place at the right time
- Increasing the number of children and young people, affected by substance misuse and domestic abuse, accessing support
- Equipping front line staff with the knowledge and skills to talk to people about drug and alcohol misuse and so they can help them to access support
- Equipping front line staff with the knowledge to identify victims of domestic abuse and direct them to the appropriate support
- Prevention and enforcement activity operating across existing geographical boundaries and resources tasked into emerging issues across the city in any particular location proportionate to need
- Establishing new support opportunities for low level offenders
- Advocating for national policy and legislation and making best use of existing opportunities, including licensing.



## **2. Supporting those most vulnerable to the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse**

providing targeted support to communities who are most vulnerable to the impact of crime, disorder and substance misuse and breaking the cycle of offending and substance misuse. This will be achieved by:

- Using partnership data and local insight effectively to identify our most vulnerable communities
- Strengthening communities by building upon existing assets and empowering residents to drive improvement and identifying local ambassadors to build resilience to crime, disorder and substance misuse
- Coordinate partnership resource to ensure it is targeted at key times, days and locations to prevent and reduce harm
- Improving accessibility and increasing the numbers of people accessing support services in our most vulnerable communities
- Improving the health and wellbeing of people affected by crime, disorder and substance misuse
- Ensuring victims have a voice, feel confident to report problems and receive quality support
- Providing those who offend opportunities to break away from a cycle of re-offending.



## **3. Enabling more people to become and remain abstinent from substance misuse**

providing recovery-focussed treatment and support for dependent drug and alcohol users and increasing the visibility of recovery communities. This will be achieved by:

- Creating environments that encourage recreational activity without the use of drugs and alcohol
- Ensuring good quality, accessible and recovery-focussed services are in place
- Providing effective treatment for a minimum of 15% of dependent drinkers
- Increasing the number of people successfully exiting drug treatment
- Enhancing community support available for people in recovery from drug and alcohol misuse, enabling meaningful use of time, increasing volunteer opportunities and employability
- Developing visible social networks that support people beyond abstinence and celebrate recovery
- Increasing the number of accommodation opportunities for people entering recovery
- Ensuring support is coordinated for people who have multiple complex needs, including mental ill health and those facing homelessness.

# LINKS WITH OTHER STRATEGIES

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- Stoke-on-Trent Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2016-20
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20: Breaking the Cycle
- Ending Gang and Youth Violence 2015 – 2018
- Stoke-on-Trent Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017-18
- Stoke-on-Trent Homelessness Strategy 2016-20
- Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority Corporate Safety Plan 2017-20
- Policing Plan, 2013-18, Staffordshire Police
- Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company Business Plan 2017-18
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups' Five Year Strategic Plan 2014 -19
- Safer, Fairer, United Communities in Staffordshire 2016-20, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

The Safer City Partnership Strategy also commits its support to the Prevent agenda, the city's Community Cohesion Strategy and the Counter Extremism Strategy, by supporting:

- the Prevent Board to address Prevent risks
- the Counter Extremism Strategy
- the city council's corporate approach to the delivery of the Community Cohesion Strategy





# PLAN ON A PAGE

The following provides an oversight of how the Safer City Partnership Strategy links with the Stoke-on-Trent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20, the Strong Together Plan and Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's, "Safer, Fairer, United Communities in Staffordshire."

Stoke-on-Trent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making Stoke-on-Trent a vibrant, healthy and caring city</li><li>• Reduce alcohol related health harm</li><li>• Improving emotional wellbeing and mental health</li><li>• Keep older people safe and well</li></ul>				
Safer City Partnership <i>Creating a safer, stronger and healthier Stoke-on-Trent</i>	1. Tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse through prevention and early intervention	2. Supporting those most vulnerable to the harm from crime, disorder and substance misuse	3. Enabling more people to become and remain abstinence from substance misuse	Stronger Together <i>Working together to build stronger communities in Stoke-on-Trent</i>
Police and Crime Commissioner: Safer, Fairer, United Communities in Staffordshire 2016 -2020				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern and Transformed Policing – a police force that is fit for a changing future</li><li>• Managing offenders – preventing offending in the first place and reducing reoffending</li><li>• Public confidence – creating opportunities for communities to shape policing, with greater transparency and openness to increase confidence in policing</li><li>• Early intervention – identifying and tackling root causes at the earliest opportunity</li><li>• Supporting victims and witnesses – making it easier for victims and witnesses to get the support they need, when they need it</li></ul>				

Crimestoppers is an independent charity, not the police. Their service is unique and designed to protect your identity, whether you call us them on 0800 555 111 or submit their Anonymous Online Form.



**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**

If you would like to talk to someone about your drug or alcohol use, you can contact your local community drug and alcohol service, on **01782 283113**.

To help understand the new alcohol unit guideline and look for support to cut down, visit [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk).



City of  
**Stoke-on-Trent**

[stoke.gov.uk](http://stoke.gov.uk)