



**Safer Somerset
Partnership**

Feel Safe, Be Safe

Safer Somerset Partnership Annual Report 2017/18

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Foreword

I have recently taken on the Chair of the Somerset Safer Partnership and this is my first foreword. I would like to pay tribute to the previous Chair, Liz Spencer and her three years in that role. During her tenure the momentum and status of the Partnership greatly developed and I look to continue in the same manner.

We continue to work on our three operational priorities, supported by our fourth priority "Meeting our Statutory Duties." The fourth priority is not as easy as it seems as we rely on all partners to be operating at the same pace and style. Across the area of Somerset this can be tricky especially with the operational demands we all face but also the on-going requirements to re-cut our budgets to meet tight financial situations. This is when the strength of the partnership comes into play to support each other and to understand each other's operational contexts.

In terms of the operational priorities the new interim MARAC arrangements are being rolled out this November and this will protect people from the harm of domestic and sexual abuse (priority 1). We continue to develop Hate Crime, Modern Slavery, Prevent (anti radicalisation) and have introduced multi agency disruption panels to assist with identifying and preventing exploitation of vulnerable people (priority 2). Priority 3 seeks to identify inequalities and vulnerabilities and offer support to improve health outcome and reduce home, this has been tested in relation to rough sleeping in Taunton, where sadly we have seen the deaths of a number of people. This is a complex societal issue, with many causes and requires a response from all local agencies as well as our communities. We also continue to develop how we can improve data sharing in an attempt to get help to vulnerable people quicker.

I was born in Somerset and have spent 25 years as a police officer. I am very proud to have been elected the Chair of the Safer Somerset Partnership and I am determined to make the partnership as effective as possible to support my fellow citizens of Somerset.



Chair, Safer Somerset Partnership

1. Introduction to the Partnership

The Safer Somerset Partnership was developed in 2011/12 as a single county wide partnership for delivering duties under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). This report summarises key activities and achievements in the past 12 months (September 2017 to August 2018).

The purpose of the Partnership is to

- provide strategic direction, leadership and improve the effectiveness of the delivery of Community Safety in Somerset
- Make effective links to other strategic Partnerships, ensuring there is a strong voice for Somerset's priorities and interests on other relevant partnerships and work streams aligning to the Protocol for Working Together document
- Ensure that the statutory responsibilities of the Partnership are addressed effectively.

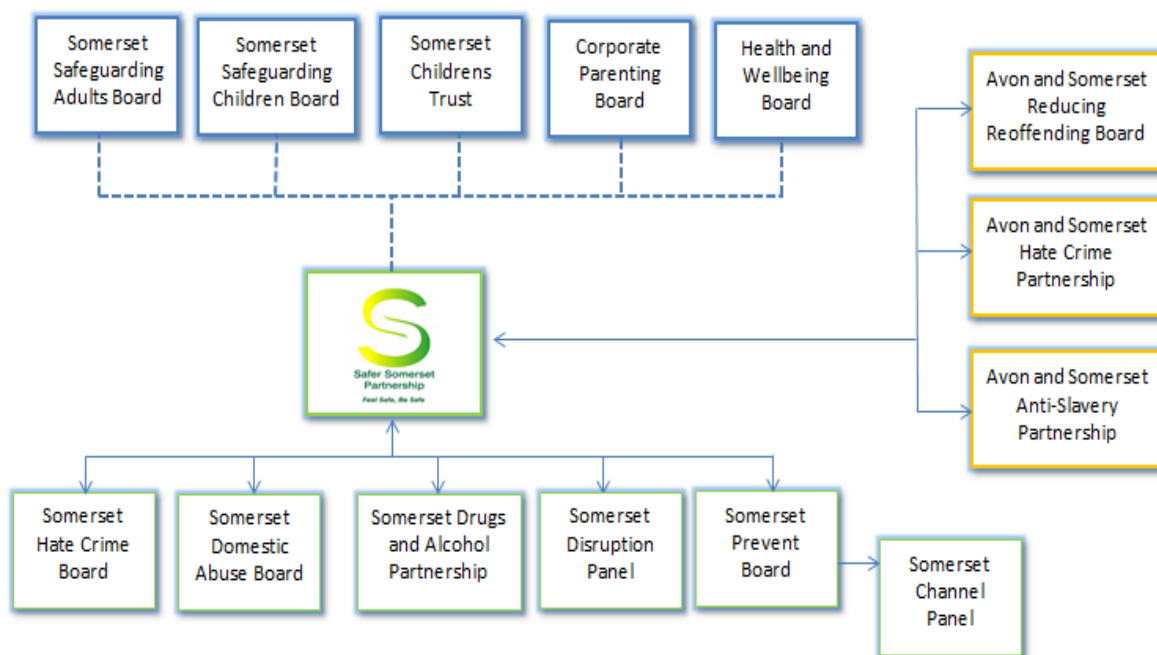
1.1 Membership

The membership of the board currently consists of all statutory partner agencies under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) [later amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) these are

- All Local Authorities
- Avon and Somerset Constabulary
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Also, with a Duty to Cooperate, the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioners office

For further information on the Partnership, please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/ssp

1.2 The Structure



The Partnership is positioned amongst the strategic partnerships across Somerset, including the safeguarding children and adults Boards, and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Across the police force area, there are a small number of Avon and Somerset wide groups which are based upon shared priority areas of work.

To deliver our local priorities, sub groups are set up within Somerset. For ad hoc problem solving, task and finish groups can also be commissioned by the Partnership.

1.3 Statutory duties

The partnership and its constituting partners have a wide range of statutory duties. The sections summarises the activity undertaken this against the key duties for which the Partnership, is responsible;

Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Data about crime in Somerset, as well as information against each of our priority areas of work can be found on the Somerset Intelligence Website www.somersetintelligence.org.uk

The Partnership has been participating in a process to devise an Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Needs Assessment which will be published soon.

Community Safety Plan

In the past 12 months, the Partnership jointly published a Police and Crime Plan for Somerset which covers the period 2017 to 2021.

Community Safety Scrutiny committee

Local authorities have a duty to scrutinise community safety work. In July 2018, a joint Adults and Children's Scrutiny Committee met at Somerset County Council to address a range of topics including One Teams and County Lines.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011.

The act states:

Domestic homicide review means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by—

(a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or

(b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.

In summary, the Partnership's duties are:

1. Chair of Partnership holds responsibility for establishing whether a DHR should be take place.
2. The Partnership should appoint an independent chair of panel.
3. On receiving the Overview Report, the Partnership will agree the content of the overview report, executive summary and action plan and make arrangements to provide feedback and debriefing to staff, family members and the media as appropriate
4. On receiving clearance from the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel, the Partnership should publish the report
5. monitor the implementation of the actions set out in the action plan;

CSP has a leading role to identify and disseminate common themes and trends across review reports, and act on any lessons identified to improve practice and safeguard victims (s.109/110).

Between September 2017 and September 2018, a total of 6 Domestic Homicide Reviews were commissioned. These related to 4 deaths in that period (2 were in the preceding 6

months). These comprised 4 suicides and 1 murder and 1 death by dangerous driving and involved 3 males and 3 females.

1 overview report is pending Home Office Quality Assurance Panel approval and the remaining 5 reviews are in progress. Initial lessons learnt from the reviews include the necessity for all agencies:

- 1) To complete a DASH risk assessment whenever they spot the signs of domestic abuse – irrespective of whether they think another agency may have done so.
- 2) Recognise that men can be victims of domestic abuse and a risk assessment and referrals should be made in each case.

Reducing Reoffending

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 required community safety partnerships to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending and for statutory partners to consider reducing reoffending in all their duties.

The Safer Somerset Partnership meets these duties through the Avon and Somerset wide Reducing Reoffending Board. This Board is currently chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and meets quarterly.

Priority work from the strategy includes:

- Out of Court Disposal / Diversion Project
- Development of a 'trauma-informed' approach to supporting people with complex needs following adverse experiences
- Offender Accommodation

2. Partnership Priorities

'Our Plan: 2017-21'

The Table below presents measures set against each priority shared between the Safer Somerset Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the period that covers September 2017 to August 2018 with progress against each. Measures are currently being refreshed ready for the next financial year.

Priority	Action	Lead
1: Protect people from the Harm of Domestic and Sexual Abuse	Implement improvements to current MARAC process	Domestic Abuse Board
	Through project SHE, establish baseline figure for rates of female offenders who also experience or offend in relation to domestic abuse	The Nelson Trust
2: Identify and Prevent the Exploitation of Vulnerable People	Explore links between Hate Crime Offenders and radicalisation by collaboration between hate crime services and the Prevent Team by formalizing a process for sharing suspect information when appropriate	Police Prevent Team
	Explore Interventions when supporting vulnerable people in the Channel programme with learning disabilities	Prevent leads
	Modern slavery training for other Partnership agencies to be considered	Chair of Anti-Slavery Partnership
3: Identify and Support those with Inequalities and vulnerabilities, which can lead to poorer health outcomes and increased risk taking behaviors	Scoping exercise for a) minority communities and b) community based organizations	Equalities team
	Agree mechanism to enable One Teams to receive support for dealing with vulnerable people	One Team coordinator
	Safer Somerset Partnership to have regular updates on progress made within Hinkley C development – particularly with regards to demand and exceptions.	Hinkley Community Safety group
	Explore methods for improvement community engagement in local communities	Hate Crime Chair
	Preventative work with communities in deprived areas regarding road safety.	Somerset One Team Coordinator
4: Meet our Statutory Duties [Reducing Reoffending and Domestic Homicide Reviews]	Have assurance that each partner agency has a process for implementing DHR recommendations	Domestic Abuse Board
	Influence the Avon and Somerset Reducing reoffending Board agenda to account for Prevention of offending	SSP Chair/SCC

3. The Partnership's activities and Achievements 2017/18

3.1 One Teams

One Teams cover 12 of the most deprived community areas in Somerset with the same shared vision:

To work in Somerset's most vulnerable communities and provide co-ordinated front-line multi-agency working to efficiently provide sustainable solutions for families and individuals that prevent problems escalating and costs increasing to the public sector.

In early 2017, the Safer Somerset Partnership agreed to provide County wide strategic leadership and oversight of the One Teams in Somerset which enabled funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Grant to be allocated for a One Team Coordinator for Somerset. Since coming to post in September 2017, the following has been achieved:

- Scoping of all One Teams to assess practices, attendance and functionality
- Providing the toolkit for all One Team to help them achieve good practice
- Providing teams with a new GDPR compliant One Team Information Sharing Agreement
- Utilisation of professional choices to assist with administration
- Achieved clarity of Clarifying governance arrangements
- 'Performance Scorecard' has been developed and being trialled in Sedgemoor.
- Improved understanding and working with existing safeguarding processes, such as utilising the Consultation Line
- Operation Topaz has become linked into One Teams and they form part of the wider network for information sharing and disruption.
- Better links with health services including GP links and utilisation of the CAMHS Single Point of Access line.

Case Study

In September 2017 at a West Somerset One Team the police raised a concern regarding possible sexual activity between named young people and their concern about the reaction of the father of one of the young people.

The secondary school reported that the same young female was part of a small group whose behaviour had changed and who appeared more sexualised – but not to the extent that warranted referral and with nothing disclosed by the young people at school. The middle school reported a change in behaviour from a younger sibling. None of those present thought their sole concerns warranted escalation with regards to safeguarding.

Collectively the team felt that this was something worth investigating further and the coordinator set actions including completion of the CSE Screening Tool and an EHA. Within a very short timeframe a multi-agency meeting was convened, safeguarding issues identified and formal activity commenced. Having examined the Childrens Social Care records with senior management, the timeline from One Team Meeting to formal activity commencing clearly demonstrates the conversation about shared concerns at the One Team meeting and subsequent actions was the catalyst for this.

Three young females have/are now being supported and safeguarded and form part of the current Operation Topaz victim cohort. Two males are now actively being investigated as Op Topaz perpetrators.

3.2 Serious and Organised Crime

In the past year, the Partnership has improved its response to serious and organised crime, with the Somerset Disruption panel now in place and functioning well. The panel members receive detailed profiles on priority groups, or lines who they believe to be the highest risk or threat and come together to consider ways to prevent and disrupt criminal activity. To achieve this a series of networks for communication have been set up both within and across agencies, to ensure that all relevant front-line services are able to feed in intelligence where appropriate. The Partnership is also establishing improved ways of addressing modern slavery in this process.

3.3 Somerset Drug and Alcohol Partnership (SDAP) Board Update

It has been a busy year for the SDAP Board as alongside maintaining the performance of the drug and alcohol treatment system, we have been through a competitive tender for the provider of the all age drug and alcohol treatment system.

Somerset is a consistently high performing area in relation to drug and alcohol treatment – in the top quartile compared to our national comparators. This is a huge achievement from the workforce of the commissioned service – Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS).

The following show the proportion of all in treatment, who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months compared to the top quartile range for comparator local authorities for opiates and national for alcohol.

	Baseline period	Latest period	Top quartile range for comparator
Local opiate clients	10.1%	11.0%	7.26% - 11.48% <i>LAs</i>
National opiate clients	6.8%	6.6%	
Local alcohol clients	47.2%	46.3%	40.85% <i>National</i>
National alcohol clients	38.3%	38.6%	

We are seeking to at least maintain this level of performance (if not improve) going forward with the re-commissioned all age drug and alcohol treatment system. A new specification has been developed through consultation with users, staff and commissioners; this will begin April 2019.

The reshaped service specification:

- has put the needs of children at its heart including provision for children and young people who use substances themselves, are affected by parent's dependent use and/or any parent with dependent use;

- and regardless of the age of the client is driven by a model of “Think Family – Think Community – Think Partnership”.

It also starts with people’s strengths, not problems; and has the client at the centre of its delivery and accepts responsibility as a partner in their own recovery.

The overarching strategic aspirations cover nine areas including: the prevention of problems with alcohol and drugs developing and escalating (which includes the recognition of the impact of adverse childhood experiences) through to promoting the development of independent support networks – which were identified as critical in the consultation with peer mentors to enable recovery to go beyond addressing the substances used.

Specifically, the reshaped service specification strengthens Somerset’s ability to respond to two major issues the County faces:

- the needs of children, young people, and parents who are already a major group receiving support and care from the existing service.
- the estimated number of dependent drinkers not in treatment as a proportion of the total dependent drinking population.

The outcomes for people is visibly seen in the Peer Mentor Programme SDAS has been developing over the last 4 years. Peer Mentors are positive role models who can use their lived experience of treatment and recovery to inspire, motivate and support individuals to become substance free.

Peer Mentors work alongside SDAS staff and in our services. They play a vital role in helping service users to change their lives for the better. The SDAS Peer Mentor programme runs four times a year and helps them hone the skills needed to motivate others. Since 2014, nearly 100 people have completed the eight-week, eight-module course, including the 20 who attended the graduation

ceremony in September. There are currently 24 active peer mentors, volunteering within SDAS, and it has been a great step to employment with 22 having gone on to be employed in the service and a further 16 who are now employed in other jobs in Somerset.



The inspirational group are pictured in front of the remarkable Glastonbury Recovery Quilt which was created by service users of SDAS in the Mendip area. Inspired by the AIDS or 'names' quilts which originated in San Francisco.

3.4 Domestic abuse

3.4.1 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) is a partnership approach to share information about high risk domestic abuse victims, perpetrators and families. A continuing priority of the Somerset Domestic Abuse Board in the past 12 months has been to plan and implement a new model for Somerset's MARAC in the knowledge that the current model is not sustainable and the functionality could be improved.

In early 2018, a new model for responding to high risk domestic abuse cases was agreed which involved embedding the MARAC principles in to existing safeguarding processes, but due to capacity and case volume concerns, the implementation of this new approach has been delayed. Nevertheless, the Partnership has agreed an interim model to ensure that a more sustainable solution is embedded in November 2018.

In June 2018, an audit of high risk cases heard at MARAC found that approximately 30% did not require a face to face meeting to progress the safety planning.

Summary of changes:

- Chairs of MARAC meetings are now from partner agencies rather than police as a way of sharing responsibility.
- MARAC administration is no longer in place, the new model will consider how this function is carried out
- All agencies (police and partners) use the same toll for assessing risk

- The Specialist Domestic Abuse service will work with the MARAC coordinator to make decisions jointly, for which cases require a face to face discussion.
- Some high risk cases will be processed without a conference where actions can be taken through other means, meaning that MARAC meeting case volumes will reduce
- Utilise the Avon and Somerset MARAC referral criteria across all agencies achieving standardisation of the application of threshold.
- Number of MARAC meetings will reduce

To keep stakeholders up to date with this transformation project, a dedicated newsletter has been published at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk

3.4.2 *Pathfinder* is a collaboration between NHS Trusts and the Pathfinder Consortium, which has the aim to develop a shared vision to achieve best practice response to domestic abuse in health settings. Somerset has been chosen as one of 5 pilot sites in the second phase of Pathfinder. Final details are to be confirmed, but it's intended to build upon existing solid foundations within each of the local NHS trusts to improve the health response to domestic abuse.

4. Responses to key events

4.1 Hinkley Point C Project

In 2017, the Hinkley C project commenced after a long period on uncertainty. Preparation work has taken place by all agencies over the years to consider potential impacts of Hinkley on community safety and now, these assumptions are beginning to be realised.

The Community Safety Hinkley Group, facilitated by Sedgemoor District Council now meets each month, with a larger meeting every quarter to consider local impacts on community safety. This group involves EDF, local authorities, South west Ambulance Trust, police and the fire service. The Safer Somerset Partnership has asked for regular reports to keep up to date with progress and impacts.

Over the summer of 2018 the group refreshed its Community Safety Management Plan, with key priorities encompassing:

- Criminal Activity and Anti-Social Behaviour related to the project
- Community Cohesion
- Community Wellbeing
- Road Safety
- Safety of Accommodation
- Night time economy

4.2 Issues associated with Rough Sleepers in Taunton Deane

Following a number of unexpected deaths in Taunton over the last Christmas period, a 'task and finish' group made up of key agencies from Safer Somerset Partnership, as well as homeless charities, came together to establish whether there were any thematic trends that contributed towards the deaths, consider any lessons learned for agencies and to

consider specific actions that could be taken to help prevent further serious incidents. This work identified common themes of alcohol and poly- substance use, a history of violence and or offending, anti-social behaviour and emotional and mental health issues. Multiple contacts with emergency service was a feature in the cohort who died, and also reported as near misses. The work also identified that people are coming to Taunton from a wide area, some with local connections, others seeking services or through peer group networks.

Since this time, a series of actions have been put in place including:

- Taunton Deane Borough Council's development of a dedicated multi-agency town centre team to help identify and support those most vulnerable people in the town
- Improved collaboration between police and the borough Council regarding the enforcement of anti-social behaviour in the town centre
- Direct links made with specialist safeguarding, mental health and substance use services

A further set of actions have been planned which aligns to Taunton Deane's new Homelessness Strategy, including:

- A comprehensive and targeted communications strategy to raise awareness of the consequences of giving to beggars on the street that accounts for the push and pull factors of the county
- Further work to be undertaken via the Somerset Drugs and Alcohol Partnership to look at the challenging issues of polydrug use, including new psychoactive substances.
- A project to assess the current pathways for multi-agency discussion of complex cases – considering current structures and proposing improved arrangements to the Safeguarding Adults Board.
- A 'shine the light' session to bring together agencies to support a shared understanding of the problem and ways to improvement
- Engagement work to better understand who is on the streets and why – in order to better address the root of the issues and to take action to prevent future.

5. Funded projects and services 2017-2020

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner allocates funding to the Safer Somerset Partnership on an annual basis. The table below illustrates how the funds have been allocated which aligned with the Partnership priorities which remain unchanged from the previous year's annual report.

Service/Project	Total project cost over 3 years	Provider
<p>Positive Lives (previously Housing Support for Offenders – Complex Adults Design Group). This is a continuing project essential for supporting high risk of harm and high risk of reoffending offenders.</p>	£220,000.00	Julian House & Mendip Council
<p>One Team Development projects Two-part project to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist the Safer Somerset Partnership in quality assurance of One Teams 2. Embed consistency of standards where required whilst ensuring the continuation of locally led teams 3. Assist the Mendip team transform from a 'virtual' to a face to face meeting structure by adding some coordination resource 	£132,500.00	Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council
<p>Vulnerability Pathways – systems review A one off system review, independently chaired, designed to consider the various vulnerability pathways in Somerset and assess areas for change and improvement. Not starting until year 2/3</p>	£9,753.00	Police and Somerset County Council
<p>Project SHE A SHE diversion worker will work across Somerset (based in Bridgwater). The aims of SHE are to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve safety for those who are themselves victims/vulnerable - Improve access to, and engagement with, support - Reduce number of arrests/ re arrests - Reduce number of remands/ short custodial sentences - Reduce re offending - Improve outcomes for children and families through prevention. 	£101,779.00	The Nelson Trust
<p>CSE Prevention</p>	£195,000.00	Somerset

Support to young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation and/or criminal exploitation. Focus on the 'push' factors such as abuse, bullying or family conflict and the 'pull' factors like grooming in order to quickly and effectively combat the underlying causes of running away and prevent problems escalating.

Youth
Offending
team

