

Safer Somerset Partnership Annual Report

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<p>Summary:</p>	<p>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 since the last report to the Health and Wellbeing Board; November 2018.</p> <p>The Partnership's priorities stated in Our Plan, a joint community safety plan with the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, include tackling domestic and sexual abuse, identifying and disrupting the exploitation of vulnerable people and meeting statutory duties. The Plan can be found on this link: https://www.avonandsomersetplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/avon-and-somerset-police-local-crime-plan-somerset.pdf</p> <p>This report will summarise key achievements, and will focus on a new project, the development of a Somerset wide Violence Reduction Unit.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to acknowledge and endorse the work of the Safer Somerset Partnership over the reporting period; 2. To be effective and make best use of available resource, the Safer Somerset Partnership asks the Board to support and collaborate with opportunities that have arisen with additional short term funding. 3. The Board is requested to help facilitate improved data sharing as described in 6.3
<p>Reasons for recommendations:</p>	<p>The Safer Somerset Partnership has agreed to work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to help delivery the Improving Lives Strategy. It is therefore, important that the Board is familiar with the Partnership's work, and is supportive of the work</p>

	programme.								
Links to The Improving Lives Strategy	Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work								
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services		Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment	X	Fairer life chances and opportunity for all		Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer	
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	Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment	X							
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Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer									
<p>The Safer Somerset Partnership is pivotal in delivering the Improving Lives strategy and is working with the Board to ensure that the planned outcomes are correct.</p> <p>Research suggests that a main factor in preventing crime, is to strengthen community resilience and create increased awareness in communities about their safety. A key activity in the planned Violence Reduction unit will be to find innovative ways to increase resilience in communities.</p> <p>The resource forthcoming with the Violence Reduction Unit offers a unique opportunity to make a real difference in Somerset.</p>									
Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:	There are no direct financial implications for Somerset County Council arising from this report. Community Safety projects are funded by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and the Home Office.								
Equalities Implications:	Equalities implications are considered as part of the activities undertaken by the Partnership, however, there were no equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report.								
Risk Assessment:	There are no direct risks related to this report, but individual risks have been identified within the various work streams undertaken as part of the Partnerships activities.								

1. Background

- 1.1 Developed in 2011/12, The Safer Somerset Partnership is a key Strategic board, aiming to ensure Somerset residents are safe, and feel safe both when at home and out and about in their local community.
- 1.2 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
 - Ensure that the statutory responsibilities of the Partnership are addressed effectively, including the duty to undertake and publish Domestic Homicide Reviews.
 - Help Deliver the Improving Lives Strategy for Somerset
- 1.3 Terms of Reference and an illustration of the Structure of the Partnership, including its constituting sub groups can be found in Background Paper A and B.

2. **Strategy and Priorities**

- 2.1 In 2017, the Partnership launched 'Our Plan: 2017-21', the first community safety plan that is jointly produced with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset. A copy of the Plan can be accessed on the link below:

<https://www.avonandsomersetplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/avon-and-somerset-police-local-crime-plan-somerset.pdf>

- 2.2 Table 0.1 below is an illustration of the Safer Somerset Partnership scorecard used to monitor the Partnership's performance against each priority area and project to which the Partnership has allocated grant funding made available from the Police and Crime Commissioner. It should be noted that a range of measures and data sits behind this scorecard and is available on request. Table 0.1 presents a very stable picture for the Safer Somerset Partnership with all priorities and project on track. These measures are revised each year.


 Community Safety Scorecard		2018/19	Quarter 4
Priorities		Positive lives	
1: Protect people from the Harm of Domestic and Sexual Abuse	G	Community bed capacity	G
2: Identify and Prevent the Exploitation of Vulnerable People	G	Community bed move-on	G
3: Identify and Support those with Inequalities and vulnerabilities, which can lead to poorer health outcomes and increased risk taking behaviours	G	Specialist interventions	G
4: Meet our Statutory Duties [Reducing Reoffending and Domestic Homicide Reviews]	G	Wrap around support and skill development	G
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Prevention		Permanent accommodation - achieved	
Screening	G	One Team Coordinator project	
Tier 2 Resources Review	G	Evaluation framework	G
At risk' vulnerable young people	G	Data and Performance	G
Healthy relationship interventions	G	Governance	G
One-to-One work with medium risk young people	G	Early Help	G
Intensive interventions	G	Links with other multi-agency teams	G
Shape Mendip		Project SHE	
Formal One Team development	G	Improve safety	G
One Team Co-ordinator	G	Improve access and engagement	G
		Reduce arrests/re-arrests	G
		Reduce remands/short custodial sentences	G
		Reduce re offending	G
		Children and Family Outcomes	G

Table 0.1

3. Key Achievements and projects

3.1 Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

3.1.1 In March 2019, the Chancellor announced a £100m Serious Violence Fund for use during the 19/20 financial year to tackle serious violence. £35m from the Fund has been assigned to establish, or build on existing, Violence Reduction Units ('VRUs'). After a successful bidding process, £362,225 has been allocated to Somerset.

3.1.2 VRU activity enabled by the funding must support a multi-agency, 'public health' approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. VRU activity should focus on early intervention, whether that is with respect to its core function in leading and coordinating the local response to serious violence or with regard to the funding of specific interventions.

3.1.3 There are 2 products the VRU must produce

- A problem profile, identifying the drivers of serious violence acting in the local area and taking steps to identify the cohorts of people most affected; and;
- A response strategy, describing the multi-agency response being delivered by the VRU, its members and other partners that will tackle the drivers identified in the problem profile and work to reduce serious violence in the specified local area. The response strategy should set out how the action being taken by the VRU will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence.

3.1.4 In addition, local police colleagues have secured other funds to compliment this work, which will enable to recruitment of 4 Police Community Support Officers who

will be attached to Pupil Referral Units, working to divert some of our most vulnerable young people from violence and other harms.

3.1.5 On writing this report, the VRU's activities are in the planning, both in terms of the Unit's composition and activity. However, the model drawn up in the bid process gives an indication of how the VRU will operate and its deliverables. This can be found in background paper C. This bid was produced in collaboration between Somerset County Council Public Health, Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group, the three key partners as stipulated by the Home Office.

3.2 Missing and Vulnerable to Exploitation (MAVE)

3.2.1 After scoping existing pathways for children and adults who are at risk of exploitation, the Partnership agreed to oversee the implementation of Missing and Vulnerable to Exploitation (MAVE) meetings across the County. This will be strengthened in aligning this work with the Violence Reduction Unit. The aim of a MAVE is:

- To provide tactical and operational management oversight and support across the county partnership to children, young people and vulnerable adults identified as being actively exploited or at high risk of exploitation.
- To ensure a multi-agency approach, including through missing episodes and complex situations where previous partnership activity has not been successful.
- To ensure appropriate information sharing to support future activities aimed at reduction of harm and disruption of perpetrators with prosecutions pursued where possible.
- To ensure effective information flow with existing specialist provision, i.e. TOPAZ [multi agency team that work to investigate cases of Child Sexual Exploitation and support victims] and PREVENT [strand of the national Counter Terrorism Strategy designed to stop vulnerable people being radicalised]
- To ensure a join-up of all age services to reduce the potential for vulnerable children and adults 'falling through the gap' in existing provision.

3.2.2 MAVE meetings are currently being rolled out, following a successful pilot meeting in Mendip. The Safer Somerset Partnership will be considering progress at its next meeting in October 2019, but early indications look positive.

3.3 Shine a Light Week (Taunton Rough Sleepers)

3.3.1 With the leadership of the One Team Coordinator, funded by the Safer Somerset Partnership, between the 3th and 8th December 2018 a multi-agency approach was taken to provide an overnight facility for the rough-sleeper cohort within Taunton to enhance existing provision, gain better understanding the health and social needs of the cohort and developing effective working relationships between operational partners. Highlights from the week include:

- Attendance ranged each night between 7 and 19
- 10 health checks were conducted
- 4 direct referrals were made to the Adult Social Care representative working in partnership with the Dual Diagnosis worker linked to the team.

- 3.3.2 The project was the first of its kind and an excellent example of partnership working, resulting in sustained improvement including:
- Work began to offer some provision for the cohort on a sustained basis including a night time café.
 - Canon Street Church will open overnight Monday to Thursday.
 - Creation of a much wider network across the workforce locally which has resulted in improved communication and collaboration.

4. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes

- 4.1 The Safer Somerset Partnership is pivotal in delivering the Improving Lives strategy and is working with the Board to ensure that the planned outcomes are correct. Currently the measures the Partnership have out forward are:
- Increase the proportion of people who state they feel safe (day and night) in their community
 - Decrease in violent crime with and without injury
 - Total crimes reported per 1,000 population
- 4.2 Research suggests that a main factor in preventing crime, is to strengthen community resilience and create increased awareness in communities about their safety. Somerset is a safe place to live, this is evidenced in our total crime figures. but in some communities, the perception of risk and feeling of being unsafe outweighs this fact. A key activity in the planned Violence Reduction unit will be to find innovative ways to increase resilience in communities. This initiative created opportunities help deliver on this measure.
- 4.3 Work to tackle violence, is a priority nationally and locally. The resource forthcoming with the Violence Reduction Unit offers a unique opportunity to make a real difference in Somerset whilst finding ways to find sustained positive change beyond the life of the project.

5. Consultations undertaken

- 5.1 In the last year there have been no specific consultation undertaken by the Partnership except for stakeholder engagement regarding the Violence Reduction Unit in August 2019.

6. Request of the Board and Board members

- 6.1 The Board is asked to acknowledge and endorse the work of the Safer Somerset Partnership over the reporting period.
- 6.2 After several years of limited or reduced dedicated resource for community safety, the Safer Somerset Partnership is subject to a number of opportunities to build capacity to act on priority areas of work, and take action, particularly with regards to early intervention and prevention of crime and disorder in Somerset. To be effective and make best use of available resource, the Partnership needs support and collaboration with the Health and Wellbeing Board which in turn will serve to help us in the endeavour to improve lives.

- 6.3 Part of the Violence Reduction Unit activity will be to improve the way that data is shared, including the way hospital share data about violent crime. This forms part of a larger piece of work to improve how data is shared across agencies locally and the Partnership would like assurance from the Health and Wellbeing Board that it is fully committed to unblocking this ongoing challenge.

7. Background papers

- A – Safer Somerset Partnership Terms of Reference
- B- Safer Somerset Partnership Structure
- C – Violence Reduction Unit Model

8. Report Sign-Off

- 8.1 Report authors responsible for ensuring they have email confirmation
- 8.2 In complete reports will not be accepted

	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	09/09/19
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Christine Lawrence	09/09/19
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	09/09/19