

Somerset Council
Scrutiny Committee
– 7th December 2023



Safer Somerset Partnership Crime and Disorder Overview Report

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Executive Lead Member: Cllr Adam Dance

Division / Local Member: Cllr Heather Shearer (Chair of Safer Somerset Partnership)

1. Summary

- 1.1.** Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act (2006) requires all local authorities to have a Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee each year, to scrutinise the work of the Council and its partners in discharging its community safety functions. The Committee operates under the [The Crime and Disorder \(Overview and Scrutiny\) Regulations 2009 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#). As the first Scrutiny meeting of its kind in the new Somerset Council, it was decided that the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee will act as this Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and key stakeholders and Members from relevant fellow committees have been invited to attend.
- 1.2.** The Council and its statutory partners discharge the majority of their statutory obligations through the Council's community safety team, while receiving strategic direction and oversight from the Safer Somerset Partnership. Due to the depth and breadth of this agenda, the main activities and functions will be presented through the Safer Somerset Partnership's 2022-2023 Annual Report and accompanying slide deck.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** Members are asked to consider the various activities and functions undertaken.
- 2.2.** Members asked to acknowledge the current challenges on the resources.
- 2.3.** Members are asked to consider the format of this segment of the Committee meeting and recommend how they would like to see this run, in future years.

3. Background

- 3.1.** All community safety functions undertaken within the Council and across partner agencies is underpinned by a range of statutory duties stemming back to the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk), which established that the responsibility of reducing crime does not fall solely to the police. Section 17 of the CDA requires local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of all their activities and functions and do all that they reasonably can to reduce these problems.
- 3.2.** Since that time, a host of subsequent statutory duties have been published, some fall on the Council, and other fall on Somerset's Community Safety Partnership (the Safer Somerset Partnership).
- 3.3.** The Council leads, manages and coordinates community safety activity internally, ensuring the Council meets its statutory obligations but also externally, across the system.
- 3.4.** The Slide deck attached to the report offers an overview of activity, achievements, and challenges from the past year as well as current priority projects and workstreams.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** The Safer Somerset Partnership has been consulted on the content of the Annual Report.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** There are no direct implications on the Council arising from this report.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** Safer Somerset Partnership Annual Report 2022-2023.
- 6.2.** Somerset Council & Safer Somerset Partnership: Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny 2023 slide deck.

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.