

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 15 May 2024

Subject **Safer Newport – Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment and Plan 2024 - 2029**

Purpose To consider the draft Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Safety Plan and recommend progression to Full Council for adoption.

Author Policy and Partnership Manager

Ward All

Summary Under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) each local authority in England and Wales were given the responsibility to formulate and implement a plan/strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area through the local Community Safety Partnership.

This responsibility includes undertaking a Strategic Needs Assessment for Community Safety. The primary goal of this assessment is to pinpoint the underlying causes, patterns, and significant community safety issues, such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence.

Proposal **To recommend to Full Council that the attached Safer Newport Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment and Plan be adopted by the Council.**

Action by Strategic Director Corporate and Transformation and Head of People, Policy and Transformation

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation
- Strategic Director
- Safer Newport – Community Safety Partnership

Signed

Background

Legal Context

Under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) each local authority in England and Wales were given the responsibility to formulate and implement a plan/strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area through the local Community Safety Partnership.

This responsibility includes undertaking a Strategic Needs Assessment for Community Safety. The primary goal of this assessment is to pinpoint the underlying causes, patterns, and significant community safety issues, such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence.

Safer Newport aims to ensure a partnership approach to preventing and tackling aspects of community safety across all areas of Newport and works closely with related boards and forums including the Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board, the Area Planning Board and Counter Terrorism processes.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Membership of Safer Newport includes Gwent Police, Newport City Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and the National Probation Service. The Partnership is jointly chaired by Gwent Police and Newport City Council

Development of the Plan

A Strategic Needs Assessment for Community Safety involves a comprehensive examination of various elements impacting community safety within a specific geographic area overseen by the local authority. The primary goal of this assessment is to pinpoint the underlying causes, patterns, and significant community safety issues, including but not limited to Anti-Social Behaviour, Serious Violence, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence. Through the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, it equips Safer Newport with a profound understanding of the problem at hand.

The Strategic Needs Assessment plays a pivotal role in determining the necessary resources, policies, and strategies required to effectively prevent and address community safety concerns. It is recognised that collaborative efforts between Safer Newport, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Youth Justice Service (YJS), South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFR), and other stakeholders are indispensable for devising a targeted and evidence-based approach to addressing recurrent community safety issues.

The Strategic Needs Assessment provides an evaluation of the current picture of community safety in Newport, based on quantitative data from various agencies and qualitative insights from citizens and partners.

Analysis of the assessment has identified three priority areas for the Safer Newport Partnership:

- Serious violence and organised crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Vulnerable groups

It also highlights some emerging themes that need further monitoring and analysis, such as e-bikes and scooters, cannabis grows, and illegal vaping.

It is important to note that while Safer Newport takes direct action in response to this Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), various supporting Boards and Strategic Groups also share responsibility for implementing measures to enhance community safety.

Governance

The delivery of the plan will be underpinned by operational delivery plans developed by each of the priority subgroup with quarterly reports provided to Safer Newport, which will monitor and support progress against the objectives throughout the year.

In addition, annual reports summarising the progress will be compiled at the end of every financial year for Scrutiny Committee and Council.

Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

The cost of implementing the Safer Newport Plan is met out of existing budgets by each relevant service area.

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
Safer Newport Plan 2024-2029 is not formally adopted or published	H	L	A draft Safer Newport Plan has been developed and taken through relevant governance processes for approval	Executive Board, Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Safer Newport Plan is not implemented or reviewed	H	L	Delivery of the plan is the responsibility of Safer Newport – the Community Safety Partnership. And will be supported by associated multi agency groups.	Safer Newport CSP Policy and Partnership Manager, Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
Developed Objectives and Actions are not completed within the 2024-2029 period	M	L	This is a low risk as Safer Newport CSP are responsible for setting associated Objectives and Actions from the Plan. This will be undertaken based on achievable outcomes.	Head of People, Policy and Partnership, Head of Law and Standards, Policy and Partnership Manager, Senior Policy and Partnership Officer

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

[Corporate Plan 2022 - 27](#)

[People Plan 2023 - 28](#)

The Safer Newport Community Safety Plan also takes in to account other contributing legislation and statutory requirements. This includes the Serious Violence duty and the associated strategy for Gwent.

Options Available and considered

1. To approve the attached plan and progress to Full Council for formal adoption.
2. To request further information or not approve the attached plan and redraft.

Preferred Option and Why

1. To approve the attached plan and progress to Full Council for formal adoption to ensure publication on the Council's website.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of implementing the Safer Newport Plan will be met from existing service areas budgets.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The Council's legal obligations with regard to the adoption of a strategic needs assessment and plan are set out in the report.

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is an in-depth evaluation of a variety of factors that contribute to community safety within the local authority area. This assessment aims to identify root causes, trends, and key community safety themes. It is based on an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data with the aim of giving the Safer Newport Community Safety Partnership a better understanding of local issues. The SNA brings together data sets from a range of community safety partners and is also based on major public engagement work to determine concerns, perceptions of crime and lived experience. This has helped identify the three priority areas of serious organised crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerable groups.

The SNA helps Safer Newport determine the resources, policies, and strategies needed to effectively prevent and address community safety issues. The assessment also provides a basis for a strategic approach to take forward the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and the wellbeing goals set out in it.

There are no direct human resources implications within this report.

Scrutiny Committees

The draft Safer Newport Strategic Needs Assessment 2023 and Safer Newport Plan 2024 -2029 was presented to the Council's Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 20 March 2024. The full details will be published in the minutes of the Committee meeting on the Council's democracy pages.

The Committee thanked officers for their work and made the following comments and recommendations:

- The Committee praised the report's presentation and accessibility, noting that it was well-presented and easily understandable. Additionally, they commended the effort to distribute the report in multiple languages, recognising the importance of reaching a diverse audience and ensuring inclusivity in communication.
- The committee emphasised the importance of recognising the safety and security of individuals living in rural areas as being equally significant as in urban areas. It was suggested that safety concerns in rural areas should not be overlooked or forgotten, indicating a need for specific attention and measures to address safety issues in these communities.
- The Committee requested to receive a data pack of the information about areas of residence which was collected during the public engagement but was not contained within the report to

enhance their understanding of the geographical distribution and associated safety concerns within Newport.

- The Committee expressed concern about the low engagement rate from diverse communities. Despite the survey being translated into multiple languages and efforts to reach out to community groups, participation remained low. The Committee recommended exploring ways to improve engagement with these communities to ensure their perspectives and concerns are adequately represented.

In line with Council's Partnerships Scrutiny Committee recommendations, the committee have been sent a full data pack and future iterations of any Community Safety SNA will explore ways to improve engagement with residents from all communities.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

Not applicable.

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

In terms of the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act and consideration of the sustainable development principle, 5 ways of working:

Long Term - The delivery of the Community Safety plan and associated actions aim to influence the way that the Council makes decisions that have a long-term impact on communities.

Preventative – The Community Safety Plan seeks to not only respond the current needs but to also consider wider thematic trends to ensure that preventative measures can be taken and implemented.

Integration – While the Community Safety Plan cuts across all of Wales well-being goals, this plan will particularly support progress to achieve the vision for A Wales of cohesive communities. Similarly, the delivery of this plan and work within this area align with and contribute to achieving the well-being objectives in the Council's new Corporate Plan.

Collaboration - Collaboration is key to delivering against the Community Safety Plan. As a Community Safety Partnership, collaboration is at the heart of all that is done. This is seen in every associated group by working as a multi agency partnership. Safer Newport also ensure that this work is community focused and will continue to seek engagement and participation from the residents of Newport.

Involvement – The Council engaged with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders in the development of this plan. Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including Newport residents, Safer Newport members, all of which will remain vital collaborators throughout the delivery of this plan.

Background Papers

Draft Safer Newport Community Strategic Needs Assessment

Dated: 9 May 2024