

# Communities Scrutiny Commission

24<sup>th</sup> July 2019



**Report of: Director of Public Health**

**Title: Safer Bristol Partnership Report 2018/19**

**Ward: All**

**Officer Presenting Report: Thara Raj**

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## **Recommendation:**

Communities Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the Safer Bristol Partnership report.

## 1. Summary

The Safer Bristol Partnership was formed in 2002 to tackle community safety in Bristol. This report presents work from the key strands of the Safer Bristol Partnership. In an effort to keep the report short we have presented an executive summary of the work of the partnership with more depth in the appendix for those who want to delve into the detail.

The Chair of the Safer Bristol Partnership for the first six months of 2018/19 was Alison Comley from Bristol City Council (BCC) and then it transferred to Superintendent Andy Bennett from Avon & Somerset Police when Alison Comely left Bristol City Council.

The Safer Bristol Partnership is Bristol's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. It is made up of Bristol City Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bristol Gloucestershire Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company and the Council of local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations.

The Safer Bristol Partnership has a range of core functions and is responsible for the governance of the locally commissioned services to prevent crime, support victims and provide treatment services. Amongst its key functions the Partnership is also responsible for the effective delivery of and applying learning from antisocial behaviour reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews in Bristol.

This report includes appendices on the work of the Safer Bristol Partnership including the following sections:

- Crime reduction
- Hate crime
- Preventing extremism
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Preventing violence
- Domestic and sexual violence.

Bristol is a vibrant and culturally diverse city and it is of concern that hate crime in Bristol is following the national upward trend. Having said that, Bristol is seen as being at the forefront of hate crime best practice which enables it to help fight discrimination and inequality. The uncertainties around when the UK exits from the European Union are thought to be fueling rather than ameliorating hate crime.

During 2018/19 the Government published its CONTEST strategy (The UK Strategy for Countering Terrorism, June 2018) which placed a statutory duty on local authorities and partner agencies to prevent people being drawn into violent extremism. The number of referrals into the Prevent police team has reduced from last year. This is partly due to increased awareness training which has meant individuals within different sectors are more confident in the subject matter and know how to use the referral pathways that are in place.

There has been a new approach to tackling antisocial behaviour through the introduction of a Street Intervention Service. This is a multiagency preventative approach that signposts and supports vulnerable individuals into appropriate services to address needs including housing, legal,

drug and alcohol treatment. This has been particularly successful with those who are caught in the rough sleepers trap.

Measures have been taken to address the increased fly tipping and street littering which has increased over the last year and the BCC Neighbourhood Enforcement Team have utilised legal powers such as fixed penalty-notices, legal notices and prosecutions to address these issues.

Bristol City Council has a dedicated Antisocial Behaviour Team that work with multiagency partners to tackle antisocial behaviour. As part of their caseload they work with council tenants to tackle neighbourhood antisocial behaviour (ASB). Due to the legal complexities of these cases the workload can be both time consuming and expensive. Despite this, last year the ASB team successfully gained 39 Injunctions and 8 Evictions improving the quality of life for other residents. The Serious Violence Strategy (April 2018) is a Government response to the increasing levels of serious violence which involve young people. Reducing serious Youth Violence and Criminal Child Exploitation is a top priority for Bristol. The city is seeing an increase in youth violence and emerging issues of county lines, drug dealing and children and young people exploited for criminal activities. The Safer Options multi agency team has been developed in line with the Government strategic recommendations to decrease the risk to the young people of Bristol, and address some of the underlying issues which cause them to become vulnerable.

Despite a reduction in capacity and funding, the Youth Offending Team continues to offer support to those young people who have entered the criminal justice system. For 2018, there were 403 first time entrants, these numbers have only slightly increased from the previous year and the reoffending rates for Bristol remain below the national average.

Efforts to tackle domestic and sexual violence have increased, possibly due to the effects of the 'Me Too' campaign. Bristol still offers a service to both female and male survivors of sexual and domestic abuse, which is something not all cities offer. There are currently 10 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in progress, with the learning from each case being integrated into processes and services.

This will be the final report of the Safer Bristol Partnership. A newly formed Keeping Bristol Safe Board will hold the responsibility for the partnership arrangements of a crime and disorder reduction partnership from September 2019. The new board is an amalgamation of the Children's and Adult local safeguarding boards and Safer Bristol Partnership. This provides an opportunity to reduce silo working and ensuring a life-course approach to safeguarding of children, adults and communities.

## **2. Context**

As above.

## **3. Policy**

The report includes how Bristol City Council is complying with its duties on Community Safety in line with council policy and national legislation.

## **4. Consultation**

### **a) Internal**

*n/a*

**b)External***n/a***5. Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) This report has been prepared so it complies with our Public Sector Equalities Duties.

**Appendices:**

Safer Bristol Report 2018-19 with appendices

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985****Background Papers:**

None

