



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER
Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME LOCAL POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2024 - 2027

INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Partnership formed as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory duty on the statutory partners; Police, Borough Council, County Council, Health, Probation Trust and Fire Authority, to work together in order to develop and implement a community safety strategy designed to reduce crime and disorder within their area. The Partnership actively engages with a variety of other partners from the private, voluntary and community sectors in order to achieve a truly collaborative, community-based multi-agency approach.

The Partnership will work collaboratively in order to address the following community safety priorities as per the Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2025. These are:

- Serious Violence
- Theft/ Business Crime and Shoplifting
- Stalking and Harassment
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Drugs and County Lines

As a Partnership we are working to encourage and empower more resilient, supported and confident communities; contribute to a safer, healthier and more sustainable Borough and in turn create increased opportunities for our residents, visitors and businesses. We also work collaboratively in order to deliver the Serious Violence Duty.

The Partnership is required to have three-year Community Safety Plan, which is refreshed annually. This Plan sets out the priorities for the period 2024 – 2027, based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues. Each year, the Partnership prepares a Strategic Assessment to assist in revising the plan and the community safety priorities for the Borough. The assessment includes; an analysis of the types and levels of crime, including identifying communities at greatest risk; changes in crime since the last assessment and additional challenges; views from partners and the community on matters that need to be prioritised and recommendations.

What we know?

Newcastle has a population of around 123,000 people. Levels of overall deprivation here are broadly in line with the rest of Staffordshire but there are pockets of considerable deprivation – with some areas ranking in the top 10% nationally. Average earnings are lower than national average and there is a higher younger population than elsewhere in the County. The Borough has a mix of rural fringe communities and urban and suburban areas. Partnership working in Newcastle-under-Lyme is effective and we are proud of it. It is essential in improving outcomes and opportunities for our communities and ensuring that our collective resources are used efficiently and effectively. We continue to challenge the way in which the public sector has operated previously to initiate change. We recognise that in many cases we can deliver solutions by bringing together the skills and experience from existing partner organisations without always needing additional money or resources. We are aware of the challenges we face – not least financially – but we aim to remain focused on the work we want to do and will continue to seek to deliver, but also be mindful of how our work is impacting on the Borough as a whole linked to the delivery of complimentary strategies.

Against a backdrop of significant welfare reform and the challenges of financial exclusion, it is inevitable that some of our more vulnerable residents, particularly those in our more deprived communities, may be at an increased risk of experiencing socio-economic hardship and unhealthy lifestyles.

Our Priorities

While Newcastle has seen some improvements in key quality of life indicators in recent years, there are still a number of areas where families and communities face multiple issues such as unemployment, low income, low qualifications, poor housing, social isolation and ill-health. With this in mind, the Strategic Assessment has identified the following priorities;

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

We are committed as a Partnership, to reducing ASB and it continues to be a priority to improve the quality of life for local people and reduce fear of crime within our communities. We are also keen to promote understanding, tolerance and respect and to encourage residents to resolve issues themselves wherever possible.

We will continue to utilise the tools and powers we have available as part of joint response to tackling ASB. We will look to develop with partners a better understanding where Hate is a factor in ASB and look to see where Hate-related ASB is a particular concern linking this in with Prevent strategy.

We will continue to share information and work collaboratively to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate in order to reduce re-offending.

Serious Violence

We are working in partnership to deal with matters of serious violence. We understand the impact that this has on communities. We will continue to work together to focus on early intervention and prevention, including commissioning diversionary activity but where problems escalate into more serious and wide spread issues, the Partnership will provide a timely and proactive response using the most appropriate enforcement powers.

We will remain engaged with the development and delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Serious Violence Reduction Strategy. We will continue to look at enforcement and preventative measures for the night time economy and work with licensing authorities to identify and tackle heavy drinking in areas with high levels of alcohol- related disorder and public place violence.

Drugs and County Lines

We understand that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in regards to physical health, mental health and well-being, employment and education – in addition to the current Cost of Living Crisis and recession will mean that we are likely to see a sharp increase in numbers and people and families considered to be vulnerable. This will also impact on the number of individuals who are likely to be at an increased risk of criminal exploitation. We are aware of trends and ‘hotspot’ locations which require partnership attention in order to tackle and disrupt this activity.

We will continue to develop and enhance our part and community awareness and sharing of concerns linked to County lines, looking to tackle signs of exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults through cuckooing.

We will also continue to work in partnership to focus on education in secondary schools and methods of reporting in regards to criminal exploitation.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse affects all communities and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. Domestic Abuse presents a significant risk to victims, but also has a wider impact where children are present – with many children

who experience DA coming into contact with Social Care services. Within the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) there is a clear legal definition of DA and the recognition of children who witness or experience such abuse as victims of DA in their own right.

The Act further adds statutory duties around the provision of support within DA-related Safe Accommodation and a requirement for responsible authorities to form DA Local Partnership Boards, which include oversight over support delivered within Safe Accommodation: CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

We will engage with partners to develop and improve understanding of Stalking and Harassment offences, and continue to improve awareness and understanding of the Stalking Protection Act (2019) and how the Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to address offending and protect victims.

Stalking and Harassment

Stalking and harassment is when someone repeatedly behaves in a way that makes you feel scared, distressed or threatened. Repeated anti social behaviour can also be classified as harassment. Both stalking and harassment are offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

We will continue to work with partners on raising awareness on both domestic abuse and stalking and harassment. We will continue to try and identify both as early as possible to get the support in place and reducing risk in cases such as utilising forums such as MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Business Crime and Theft

We will work in partnership to reduce business crime in and around Newcastle Borough. We understand the impact that this has on businesses and the perception on the Borough. We will work closely with Newcastle BID to build relationships with the business community and will continue to work with Partnerships Against Business Crime to tackle and drive down theft offences. We will utilise powers within the ASB, Crime and Policing Act to ensure that repeat offenders are issued Criminal Behaviour Order's as a means to address their behaviour. We will also look to engage with businesses to increase the reporting of offences so that these can be investigated accordingly.

Delivering our vision and achieving our outcomes.

When we come together as partners to support people experiencing problems in the places where they live, work, shop and socialise, that's when real partnership work happens. As a Partnership we are working to encourage and empower more resilient, supported and confident communities.

Using our shared vision and strategic framework we will work with partners and our community to challenge ourselves and transform the way that we commission in

order to deliver efficient, effective and quality services whilst reducing duplication and adding value.

Whilst the priorities we have identified in this plan are predominantly crime and disorder related, the Partnership is focused on achieving its overarching outcomes by working together on more holistic priorities, which encompass themes such as health and wellbeing and economic growth. We believe this interactive approach will increase opportunities for those experiencing the most entrenched vulnerabilities and those most at risk of becoming perpetrators, or indeed victims of crime.

The 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' provides more detail about the tasks and projects that the Partnership will deliver during 2025 -2026.

We are committed and will contribute to the challenges above, through active involvement and participation in the appropriate County wide forums. We will continue to effectively engage and cascade key information back to our local partners for interpretation and delivery in our communities.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS

We will monitor the delivery of the 'Newcastle Partnership workplan' through regular reporting to our Partnership Board and Operational Groups. We will continue to actively monitor performance through qualitative and quantitative information obtained from our partners and commissioned service providers to ensure that we are making a contribution to a reduction in crime and disorder.

We will monitor customer satisfaction and fear of crime by the use of service user questionnaires and the 'Feeling the Difference' surveys.

Local Councillors

Local Councillors are elected by the community to decide how the Council and partners should carry out various activities. They represent the public interest as well as individuals living within the ward in which they have been elected to serve a term of office. Local Councillors are keen to establish the views of residents, address issues of concern and to assist in developing ideas for improvements. They have regular contact with the general public through council meetings, telephone calls or surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to go and talk their Councillor face to face and these take place on a regular basis. To get in touch with your Local Councillor please visit the Council's website www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or contact the Council on 01782 717717.

Voluntary and Community Support

If you are a voluntary organisation, charity or social enterprise based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, advice and support is available from Support Staffordshire, who offer assistance in starting up a new community group, grant funding, organisational development and can also assist with project management and volunteering opportunities. To get in touch contact;

Support Staffordshire - 0300 777 1207 - info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk - www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk

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For further information about the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2027 or any of the information in this document please contact michelle.hopper@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or visit our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

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