

Safer Hartlepool Partnership



Community Safety Plan

2024 - 2027

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1. FOREWORD

As Chair, I am pleased to present the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan for 2024 – 2027 on behalf of The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP).

The Partnership Plan brings together our aims, ambitions and priorities for the next three years. We will work in Partnership to tackle the issues which impact on, and matter to local people.

The Community Safety Plan retains the strategic objective and priorities of the 2021/24 plan, with an additional priority of serious violence, reflecting the outcomes of the 2022 - 2023 SHP Strategic Assessment and ongoing analysis of emerging issues across the Town. Utilising this data and information enables the SHP to deliver a holistic approach to address the priorities, with a greater emphasis on prevention and reducing harm.

In recent years, there has been a significant change in issues that are presented to partners to address, whilst also tackling substantial resource pressures. Important matters such as anti-social behaviour, serious violence, substance misuse, domestic violence and responding to those members of our communities with specific vulnerabilities understandably take priority.

The SHP will continue to look at new and innovative ways of working collaboratively to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending, and most importantly, improving the quality of life for the people who live and work in and visit Hartlepool.

Chair, Safer Hartlepool Partnership

2. INTRODUCTION

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) brings together a number of agencies and organisations concerned with tackling crime and disorder in Hartlepool. As defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Partnership comprises members from each of the “responsible authorities”; Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service, The Probation Service and Hartlepool and Stockton Clinical Commissioning Group. In addition, a range of other stakeholders from the public and voluntary sectors are also represented and include Thirteen Group, Safe In Tees Valley and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

Our key role is to understand the kind of community safety issues Hartlepool is experiencing; decide which of these are the most important to deal with; and then decide what actions we can take collectively, adding value to the day-to-day work undertaken by our individual agencies and organisations.

We detail these actions in our Community Safety Plan. To help us do that we undertake a Strategic Assessment which analyses a range of detailed information that exists about crime, disorder, substance misuse, re-offending and other community matters that are affecting Hartlepool.

The outcomes of the assessment form recommendations about how to keep the Community Safety Plan priorities relevant.

In producing our plan we are also mindful of the pledges of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the Police and Crime Plan and the requirement to 'have regard' to the priorities established by this plan.

The community safety landscape continues to evolve and partners continue to face challenges in having to adapt the way services and initiatives are delivered. Since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, legislative changes have amended our focus, and also the statutory partners we work with, but the principles of working together remain at the heart of tackling crime and disorder.

The strategic objective of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership remains unchanged and is still as important as it ever has been:

“To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit”

3. LOCAL CONTEXT

Hartlepool is the smallest unitary authority in the North East region with a population of approximately 93,366 people; 51% female and 49% male.

There are approximately 40,434 households with 58% of homes owned outright / owned with a mortgage.

The average age in Hartlepool is 40 with 7% of the population aged 55-59.

The largest ethnic group is White British (98%).

 Population	Hartlepool's population has increased slightly over the past 5 years from 92,401 in 2019 to 95,366 in 2023.	Hartlepool's population is becoming more diverse with increasing numbers of ethnic minority residents.	Twenty percent of the population are aged 65 or over; whilst 21% are age 18 and under.
 Unemployment	Unemployment rates in Hartlepool are above the national and regional averages. Almost 70% of Universal Credit claimants in Hartlepool are not in employment.	The unemployment rate of young people aged 18-24 remains above the national average.	
 Deprivation	Hartlepool has pockets of high deprivation where communities experience multiple issues: higher unemployment, lower incomes, child poverty, ill health, low attainment, poorer housing conditions and higher crime rates.	Hartlepool is the 25th most deprived local authority area out of 317 local authority areas.	Inequality within Hartlepool is getting worse, with the gap between the most deprived and the least deprived parts of the town widening.
 Health & Wellbeing	Hartlepool residents spend a higher proportion of their lives in poor health than in other local authority areas.	Hartlepool has the highest rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions in the northeast region at 3,629 per 100,000 population. This is significantly higher than the national rate.	At 14.8 per 100,000, the rate of drug-related deaths in Hartlepool is significantly higher than the regional rate and almost three times the national rate.
 Housing	Over half of the properties in Hartlepool are within the lowest "Band A" Council Tax bracket. 31% of pensioners in Hartlepool live alone, which is associated with multiple adverse outcomes.	Geography	Community safety problems are not evenly spread and tend to be concentrated in geographic hotspots, particularly in the most deprived wards in Hartlepool.

4. SUMMARY OF THE 2021/24 PLAN

Over the last 3 years we have focused on ensuring Hartlepool is a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit by undertaking activity to address the issues that are likely to have most effect on people during their day to day lives.

Community Safety Priority: Anti-social Behaviour

- **Operation Endurance** is an ongoing campaign which tackles anti-social behaviour caused by off-road bikes in local communities. Responding to community intelligence, numerous targeted operations have resulted in offenders being identified and off-road bikes subsequently seized and destroyed
- **Effective use of Anti-Social Behaviour Tools and Powers** including obtaining premise closure orders, issuing of Community Protection Warnings, engaging young people in Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and undertaking reviews of ASB cases through the Community Trigger process
- **Publicity campaigns** to increase awareness of environmental crime, such as fly-tipping and deliberate fires, and encourage the reporting of these issues.
- **Robust enforcement** in relation to individuals illegally dumping waste in the Town

Community Safety Priority: Drugs and Alcohol

- **Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment** undertaken to identify any gaps in treatment and support services.
- **Development of a Drug and Alcohol Strategy** which focuses on prevention and early intervention, reducing drug and alcohol related harms, supporting wider health needs and reducing drug and alcohol related crime
- **Execution of warrants** under the Misuse of Drugs Act resulting in the recovery of controlled drugs amounting to millions of pounds in street value
- **Presentations and targeted interventions** delivered in schools and colleges across Hartlepool on key themes including County Lines and anti-social behaviour and drink spiking

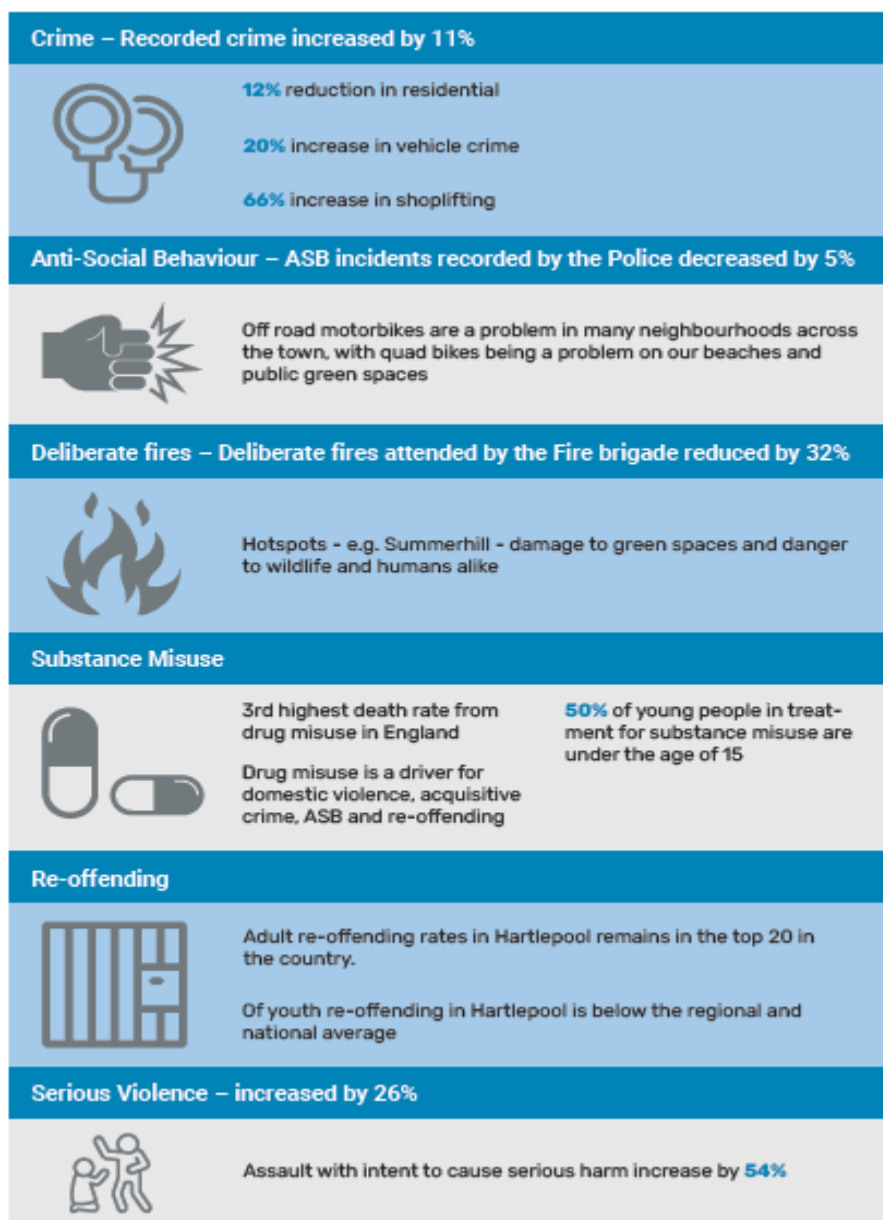
Community Safety Priority: Domestic Violence and Abuse

- **Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment** undertaken and Domestic Abuse Strategy developed.
- **Improved provision** of safe accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse
- **Re-commissioned** specialist domestic abuse services based on lived experiences

- **Publicity campaigns to raise awareness** of domestic abuse and promote initiatives including “ask for ANI”, a code word scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for immediate help in participating pharmacies, and “ask for Angela”, a code word scheme for women to seek help from staff in pubs and bars if they are feeling unsafe on a night out.

5. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Partnership conducts an annual assessment of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool to identify and address the community safety issues that impact upon and really matter to the local community. The following provides an overview of the key findings from the assessment which covers the period from October 2022 to September 2023.



Community Safety Partnerships are arranged in “Most Similar Groups¹” with 14 other CSPs, determined by various measures including population figures and

¹ Most Similar Group (MSG) Community Safety Partnerships – I-Quanta: Walsall, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Halton, Barrow-in-Furness, Rochdale, St Helens, Newport, Knowlesley, Stoke-on-Trent, Middlesbrough, North East Lincolnshire, Bradford, Thanet, Hartlepool.

deprivation levels. Positions in these groups are ranked with 1 being the lowest (fewest offences) and 15 the highest (most offences).

The crime rate in Hartlepool is above the Most Similar Group (MSG) average of 118 per 1,000 population, standing at 154. (July 2023). (Table 1)

Crime Type	Hartlepool	MSG Average	Hartlepool Position	MSG Comparison
All Crime	154.006	117.497	15	Above
Violence against the Person				
Homicide	0.054	0.013	15	Above
Violence with Injury	13.492	12.661	11	Above
Violence without Injury	21.130	17.855	13	Above
Sexual Offences				
Rape	1.577	1.286	12	Above
Other Sexual Offences	3.025	2.461	15	Above
Acquisitive Crime				
Burglary Residential*	10.404	6.418	15	Above
Burglary Bus & Com	1.707	1.513	9	Above
Bicycle Theft	1.113	0.967	11	Above
Theft from the Person	0.0605	0.574	9	Above
Robbery - Personal	1.145	0.858	12	Above
Robbery - Business	0.162	.0125	13	Above
Vehicle Crime	6.449	6.040	11	Above
Shoplifting	17.576	8.159	15	Above
Other Acquisitive	10.208	8.290	13	Above
Criminal Damage				
All Criminal Damage	16.938	12.309	15	Above
Arson	1.015	0.804	13	Above

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has a statutory obligation to engage and consult with the communities of Hartlepool about community safety priorities.

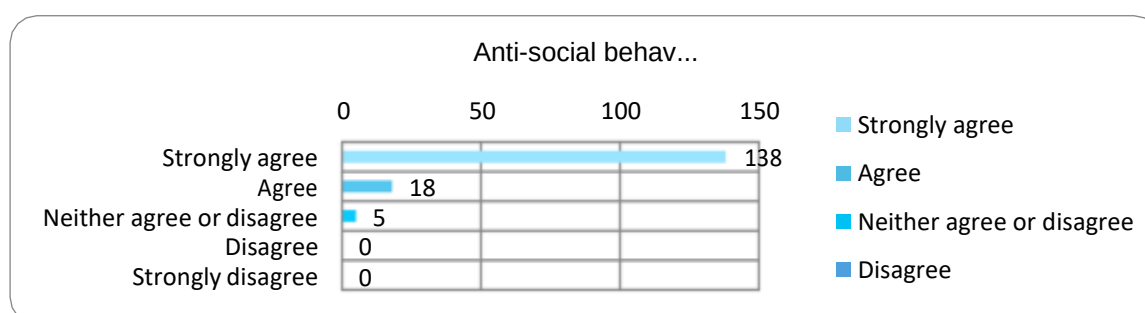
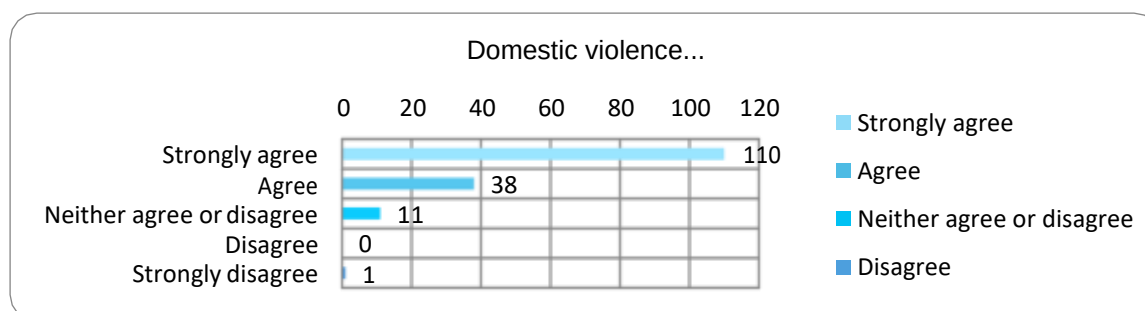
The Community Safety Survey is designed to assist the Partnership to:

- Gain a wider understanding of public perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area;
- Understand what makes people feel safe and unsafe; and
- Understand which issues cause most concern

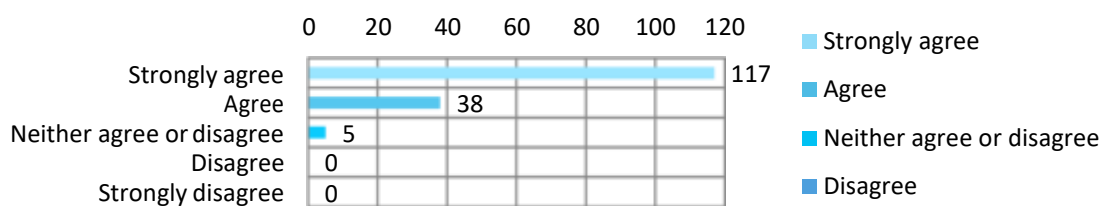
Analysis of the results of the survey conducted in 2024 highlighted that, although many residents perceive crime and anti-social behaviour to be a problem in their area, with off road bikes being highlighted as the biggest concern. More than half of respondents said they had not been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months.

When asked about feelings of safety, whilst most respondents said they feel safe being outside during the day the majority felt unsafe at night. Those who said they felt unsafe stated this was due to poor street lighting, lack of police, suspicious people hanging around and people dealing drugs.

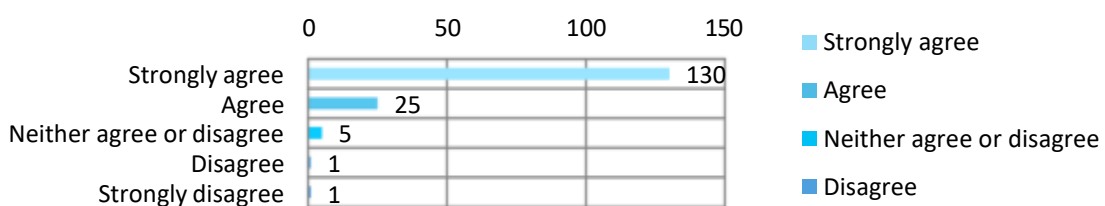
Respondents were asked to what extent they agree with each of the priorities identified in the Community Safety Plan 2024-27 and gave clear support to these priorities.



Drugs and alcohol



Serious violence



7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2021-2024

Based on the findings of the 2022 - 2023 Strategic Assessment and consultation with the local community and other stakeholders, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership's Strategic Objective 2024-2027 is: -

**To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable
place to live, work and visit**

8. PRIORITIES 2024 - 2027

As with any town, Hartlepool faces many challenges and must work within an environment of conflicting demands and limited resources.

The Partnership recognises that there are many issues that impact on the lives of some, or all, of Hartlepool's residents and continued efforts will be made by all Partnership members to address these in a focussed and effective manner.

Issues such as violence (particularly serious violence) and exploitation are significant in both the local and national context and the Partnership recognises the need to work both individually and collectively to address them.

However, the Partnership also recognises the benefits of identifying those issues that have the greatest impact on the town and the need to target resources and efforts to deal with them effectively and efficiently.

To do this, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership will focus activity on four key priority areas:

Anti-Social Behaviour

By adopting an intelligence led problem solving approach, the Partnership will work to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the town by deploying resources and undertaking targeted activity to address the issues that cause concern for our residents and communities and negatively impact on their quality of life.

Drugs and Alcohol

Through targeted partnership working, focussed efforts will be made to reduce both the demand for, and the supply of, illegal drugs in Hartlepool.

The Partnership will also work together to reduce the negative social, personal and health consequences caused by the misuse of alcohol in the town.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

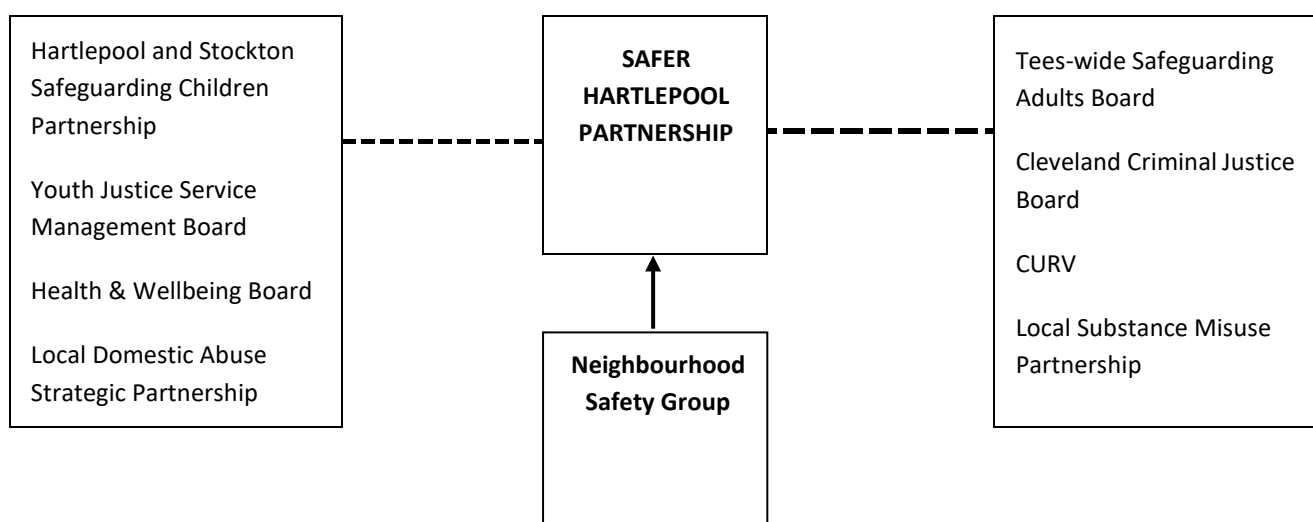
The Partnership will work together to safeguard individuals and their families from domestic violence and abuse. Working with the Office and the Police and Crime Commissioner, the development of a perpetrator strategy is a key priority for 2024/25.

Serious Violence

The Partnership will continue to work with the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) to deliver the objectives contained in its Response Strategy at a local level.

9. DELIVERING THE PLAN

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has the responsibility to deliver the priorities that are set out within this plan. There are governance structure is outlined below. This chart outlines the Partnership delivery and reporting structure. Recognising its responsibility to reduce re-offending, the SHP sub groups will include re-offending as a specific area of focus. Performance monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis to assess progress against key priorities drawn from the strategic assessment and identify any emerging issues.



10. MONITORING PERFORMANCE

Performance reporting will be in the form of an action plan covering each priority with the Community Safety Plan. The action plan will outline the work being carried out by partners and updates will be reported to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership every six months. The action plan is a living document which will allow partners to include new initiatives to fully reflect the work being carried out.

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