

Committee(s): Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee – For Information	Dated: 13/06/2023
Subject: Refocussing priorities for the Safer City Partnership	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	#1 – People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	
Report of: Richard Riley, Director of Police Authority	For Information
Report author: Charles Smart, Police Authority	

Summary

At its quarterly meeting on 5th June the SCP Board considered the attached paper about refocussing its priorities from the seven set out in its strategy last year down to three, as below.

It was proposed, and agreed, that the SCP should in the forthcoming year focus on a) tackling serious violence, incorporating VAWG, by implementing the Serious Violence duty, b) reducing ASB, by establishing an effective ‘task and finish’ group and c) reoffending, by implementing the new out-of-court disposals framework and refreshing the Integrated Offender Management framework.

The Board agreed to pause its own proactive work on substance misuse, safeguarding, and hate crime, as there are already other established multi-agency groups addressing these. The Board agreed it could still receive and consider updates on these areas by exception, where important. The board noted that, within the agreed priorities, it would need to be clear on the definition of VAWG as the national definition includes a broad range of offences.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the SCP Board’s decision, and the attached report. .

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SCP Board paper – *Refocussing priorities for the Safer City Partnership*

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Refocusing priorities for the Safer City Partnership

Summary

The Safer City Partnership (SCP), following publication of its 2022-25 strategy last year, currently has seven 'key areas of focus'. We suggest this is too broad - some of these areas have little incidence in the City and/or are already covered by other groupings, and this breadth of focus risks detracting from progress on our higher-priority areas.

Recommendation

We recommend the SCP board agrees to refocus on three key areas:

- Reducing violence, including violence against women and girls (VAWG), with a focus on the Night-time economy and on producing our legally-required Serious Violence Duty
- Tackling and prevention anti-social behaviour (ASB), with a focus on establishing an effective multi-organisational 'task and finish' group to progress new initiatives
- Reducing reoffending, with a focus on improving Integrated Offender Management and implementing the new 'two tier' community disposals framework

The rationale for this refocusing is set out below.

Summary of changes

Current key areas	Proposed change
Serious violence	Retained and merged , focussing on night-time economy
Violence against women and girls	
Anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime	Retained , focussing on ASB
Reducing reoffending	Retained , focussing on IOM
Tackling substance misuse	Paused (updates by exception)
Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults	
Hate crime	

Rationale for changes

- **Serious violence and VAWG – Retained and merged** - We have a legislative requirement to produce a strategy to reduce serious violence by January 2024, with input legally required from many SCP member organisations. Strategically, we need to address the risk of increased violence including VAWG that may accompany the City's growing night-time economy. VAWG has also been designated a national threat in the latest Strategic Policing Requirement, and given its public and political prominence a robust response is more widely vital to trust and confidence in policing. The SCP provides a ready-made forum for developing our SV strategy and, through this, agreeing a Corporation-wide crime and disorder response to the expanding NTE. While there is an existing City VAWG Delivery Group, this focusses largely on operational issues and exchanging information, so the SCP's sub-group would not be duplicative.
- **Anti-social behaviour – Retained** – ASB ranks highly as a local concern for residents and members, and its national priority has increased following publication of the government's ASB Action Plan. Reducing ASB is important to ensuring a City that is both safe and feels safe, and is strongly associated with wider trust and confidence in policing. The SCP provides an opportunity to rebalance our local response to ASB, with greater action from the Corporation reducing the burden on police.

- **Reoffending – Retained -** While the City has no resident ‘prolific or priority’ offenders, there is an identified need to refresh our Integrated Offender Management framework to improve effectiveness in handling non-resident offenders apprehended in the City. The City Police are also implementing the new ‘two tier’ framework for community resolutions. Both of these entail improvements to referral pathways to support services and so are a logical fit for the SCP.
- **Tackling substance misuse – Paused –** At present, there is little evidence to show that the City has a problem with resident substance misuse offenders (the SCP 2022-25 strategy does not provide hard data on this). Action on non-resident problem users is largely already undertaken by local homelessness and rough sleeping services, the City-specific group of the Community Drugs Partnership led by the City’s Director of Public Health, and City’s Health and Wellbeing Board, which provides collective leadership on the public health aspects. In this context, there is not a clear justification that the SCP can provide added strategic value, or that there is a significant crime and disorder rationale for it to do so. To the extent to which substance misuse is associated with ASB, violence, or reoffending in the City, it can be addressed under the above areas.
- **Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults – Paused –** At present, there is little evidence that the City faces a significant crime and disorder risk relating to safeguarding, and the SCP 2022-25 strategy does not provide any data on local incidence or level of harm. As for substance misuse, there are existing groupings in the police-led Vulnerability Board and the multi-agency safeguarding partnerships for children and adults. So, again, the SCP’s scope to add value, or need to given level of severity, are low.
- **Hate crime – Paused –** At present, there is little evidence that the City faces a significant risk from hate crime, and the SCP 2022-25 strategy does not set out data on its incidence or level of severity. The actions proposed in the SCP strategy mainly relate to policing response and victim support, and so require limited multi-agency working through SCP partners. While SCP can continue to be a forum for raising relevant cross-organisational issues on hate crime, this seems more appropriate on an issue-by-issue basis rather than as a key area of focus.

Where we suggest discontinuing areas, this should not suggest these are not priorities for the City Corporation – rather, we suggest they should not be priorities specifically for the Safer City Partnership. However, this can be kept under review and the existing multi-agency groups listed above can escalate cross-cutting operational or strategic issues on substance misuse, safeguarding, or hate crime as necessary.