



Report of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 April 2024

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny – Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership

Purpose	To update the Scrutiny Programme Committee on Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership objectives and priorities, and significant Partnership activities and achievements during 2023.
Content	The report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Safer Swansea Partnership with more detailed information attached as Appendices.
Councillors are being asked to	Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Alyson Anthony, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative Cllr Hayley Gwilliam, Cabinet Member for Community Support – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative
Lead Officer(s)	Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioning & Resources, Swansea Council Superintendent Mark Kavanagh, Head of Community Safety and Partnerships, South Wales Police
Report Authors	Paul Thomas, Community Integration Partnership Manager, Swansea Council Jessica Williams, Community Safety Manager, South Wales Police
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Chris Davies

1. Context

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership was established in 1998 as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In Swansea this is known as the Safer Swansea Partnership.
- 1.2 The Partnership consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues.
- 1.3 The Safer Swansea Steering Group is the management and leadership group for the Safer Swansea Partnership where all key decisions are made on behalf of the Partnership.

2. Overview

- 2.1 Working across the partnership the **Safer Swansea Annual Partnership Review 2023 Report (Appendix 1)** provides an overview of Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership objectives and priorities, and significant Partnership activities and achievements during the year.
- 2.2 The report also addresses the Scrutiny Programme Committee request for further details as identified in the previous session held in April 2023 as outlined below;
 - **Community Cohesion** – detailed information on this area of work is included under Priority 2 of the Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review. **(Appendix 1)**
 - Progress on tackling **Anti-Social Behaviour** – detailed information on this area of work under Priority 1 of the Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review **(Appendix 1)** and under 3.4 and 3.5 below.
 - Learning from the **Mayhill Disturbance** - a report in response to the Independent Learning Review recommendations and the findings of the internal Police Review and actions to address the issues raised are detailed in Mayhill Progress Report **(Appendix 2)**
 - Progress on the new **Safer Swansea Strategic Priorities** – detailed information on all priorities is contained in the Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review **(Appendix 1)**
 - **Hate Crime** figures and trends – detailed information on this area of work under Priority 2 of the Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review
 - **Co-production** – Examples of how the partnership approach to co-production has helped to problem solve anti-social behaviour issues and VAWDASV is attached as **(Appendix 3)**

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Community Safety Priorities - The Safer Swansea Partnership is focussed on working together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and to visit and deliver on the Safer Swansea Community Safety Priorities 2023-26.

3.2 The current priorities for the Safer Swansea Partnership are:

- Reducing Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Tackling Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism
- Challenging Substance Use
- Reducing reoffending and tackling the drivers of crime
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Safeguarding those at risk of violence and exploitation

These priorities are complemented by two over-arching themes:

- Reassurance Communication - effective reassurance provided at every available opportunity to help change perceptions of crime, reduce fear of crime, and promote positive outcomes of Safer Swansea.
- Community Engagement - improving the way partners engage with members of the public to build relationships based on trust and respect.

3.3 The Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review outlines how local agencies and partners have worked together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and visit and reduce the fear of crime during 2023. The full report highlighting performance and achievements is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.4 The Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Inquiry report was submitted to Cabinet on the 21 December 2023 after the Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Inquiry Panel completed a detailed inquiry.

3.5 Having considered the contents of the Scrutiny report, and specific recommendations made, advice to Cabinet on whether it should agree, or not agree, with each recommendation is detailed in the Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Inquiry Cabinet Member Report and Action Plan. This on the agenda for the next Cabinet on 18th April 2024. There are 24 recommendations and an action plan for consideration and agreement.

4. Key Points for Discussion

4.1 The Safer Swansea Partnership six key priorities provide the focus of its work for 2023 - 2026. The Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review is attached as **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Serious Violence Duty: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

The outcome of a 2019-20 consultation was to bring forward legislation to create a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence. There is an intention to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for community safety partnerships. This has been included in Priority 6 of the new Safer Swansea Partnership priorities.

A strategic needs assessment was completed in 2023. The plan now is for a local problem profile for Swansea to be undertaken and once finished, an action plan will be completed by the Autumn of 2024.

A local partnership group has been established for both Swansea and Neath Port Talbot to deliver on the local profile and respective action plans. Progress will be monitored by the respective community safety partnerships.

5. Operation Viscaria – City Centre Anti-Social Behaviour

5.1 On 20th November 2023, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot BCU launched a proactive policing response, Operation Viscaria, to deliver an effective and proportionate policing response to incidents of antisocial behaviour and crime within the Town Centre. The Operation Viscaria team consisted of 2 Sergeants and 10 Police Constables that were split into two distinct shifts, working opposite days to deliver on the following aims:

- To provide a consistent and visible policing presence that provides reassurance to the public, business sector and wider community.
- To dynamically attend and investigate occurrences of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To utilise a broad range of sophisticated policing tactics, resources and approaches that are justified and proportionate to achieve the overall aim.
- Gather information and intelligence from police and partnership data to support and develop the policing and partnership response.
- To minimise the effects of ASB on persons who live, visit and work within the City Centre, specifically focusing on the hot spot locations and high footfall areas.

5.2 An Operation Viscaria evaluation, highlighting performance and achievements and next steps is attached as **Appendix 4**.

6. Forward Look 2024

6.1 One of the key areas for the Partnership will be the City Centre and to review the current arrangements around problem solving. Op Viscaria has been successful and now the Partnership need to consider how we can build on that to make our work in dealing with ASB and crime more sustainable.

6.2 The Safer Swansea Partnership will also take forward partnership actions identified in the ASB Scrutiny enquiry, two key areas to take forward at pace in 2024 will be:

- undertake a feasibility study to identify a space and explore the benefits to co-location of statutory partners (Council Community Safety and South Wales Police in the first instance)

- Review of the current membership and purpose of the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership to ensure we are all clear on the function, the right people are around the table and that the governance arrangements of all the groups that feed into the Community Safety Partnership are fit for purpose, current and relevant.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

8. Finance Implications

- 8.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

9. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 9.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 9.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 9.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- 9.2 This is an information report, an IIA screening will be completed before taking forward new actions during 2024.

Background papers:

The Committee is required to hold a session, at a minimum, annually, and follows the last meeting on 18 April 2023. Link to meeting agenda / minutes:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=188&MId=10872&Ver=4&LLL=0>

Appendices:

Appendix 1	Safer Swansea Partnership Annual Review 2023
Appendix 2	Mayhill Progress Report
Appendix 3	Co- Production Examples
Appendix 4	Operation Viscaria Evaluation