



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# Crime & Disorder Scrutiny – Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership

<b>Purpose</b>	To brief the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee on Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership objectives and priorities, and significant Partnership activities and achievements during 2022.
<b>Content</b>	The report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Safer Swansea Partnership with more detailed information attached as Appendices.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary.
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	CLlr Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative  CLlr Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative  CLlr Hayley Gwilliam, Cabinet Member for Community Support - Swansea Partnership Representative
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Dave Howes, Director of Social Services
<b>Report Authors</b>	Paul Thomas, Community Integration Partnership Manager Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioning
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Caritas Adere
<b>Finance Officer</b>	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 as a partnership we have compiled this report to address the Scrutiny Committee request to know about progress since the last session in February 2022.
- 2.2 The main body of the report covers the following areas which were raised at the previous session:
  - The development of a new Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy, revision to strategic priorities, etc. and the link between the Safer Swansea Partnership and Public Services Board, which they are also responsible for scrutinizing.
  - Progress in developing relationships and communication between the Police and local ward members.
  - Action(s) in response to learning from the Mayhill Disturbance and progress on the recommendations.
  - Progress on dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation – in light of IICSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) report published in 2022 and ongoing work.
  - Progress on addressing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
  - Awareness of Safer Swansea Partnership / community engagement.
- 2.3 As the Committee is aware, there is currently an ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Inquiry, so this will not be covered to avoid duplication.

## **3. Main Report**

- 3.1 Strategic 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 Strategy 2018-2021
- 3.2 The current strategic priorities for the Safer Swansea Partnership are:
  - Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)
  - Substance Misuse

- Stronger Communities
- Evening and Night Time Economy
- Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

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 report 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 2022. The full report highlighting performance and achievements is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 The Mayhill disturbance in 2021 presented a number of challenges, not only on the evening of the incident but during the recovery phase. An independent review was commissioned which highlighted a number of actions which have been completed. Attached as **Appendix 2** is a South Wales Police report highlighting progress made on community engagement, learning opportunities and importantly, the successful prosecutions.
- 3.5 Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is one of the Partnership's priorities and in line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy on VAWDASV a local strategy and action plan are in place. **Appendix 3** is the new draft strategy 2023 – 2026 which is due to go out for consultation.
- 3.6 This strategy is an overarching plan which outlines the priority areas and strategic direction around healthy relationships and the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 within Swansea. We will build on our existing achievements and the progress that we have made, continuing to work across the Western Bay Region in areas of the strategy that will strengthen our approach to tackling VAWDASV.
- 3.7 Swansea, along with the Welsh Government, recognises that Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) is a violation of human rights. It destroys lives and affects the well-being of our whole society. Whilst it is important to acknowledge the disproportionate effect on women and girls, we recognise that abuse can also be directed towards men and boys, so our mission is to deliver a coordinated approach to prevention, protecting and supporting **all** groups and individuals affected by these forms of violence.
- 3.8 Good progress has been made in improving the relationship between South Wales Police and local Ward Members. All Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors hold regularly monthly meetings with Councillors which has been in place for over a year and is working very well. This gives Ward Members the chance to escalate issues with Inspectors directly and provides the opportunity to provide

detailed updates on police sector priorities. There are also in place **joint Councillor and PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) surgeries** with are held monthly in many areas throughout the BCU (Basic Command Unit).

Some examples of local partnership working in this area include the following :-

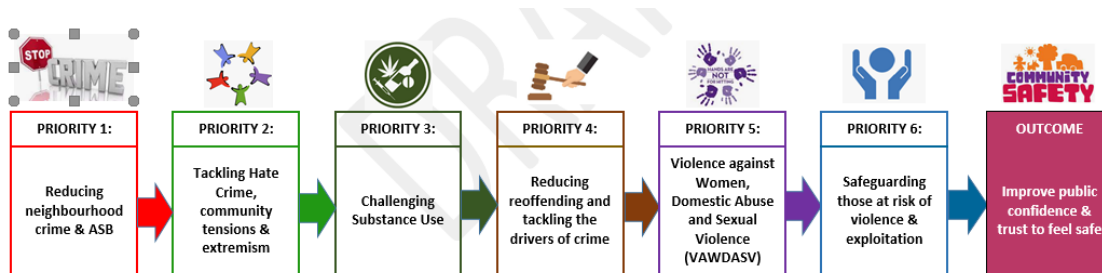
- **Operation Dunlin Broughton Ave.** There is ongoing work with Cllr Erika Kirchner to improve services, environment and reduce ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) in the area. There is an intensive community trust strategy in place and diversion activities such as the Swansea City Football Club SCFC Kicks initiative with funding being secured in partnership with Cllr Kirchner to improve the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) facility.
- **Connecting with Community - Engagement Townhill/Mayhill.** The local police team met with the 3 local councillors and KINS (Key Individual Networks) to establish the best way to engage with the wider community to ensure that we continued to reach as many persons in the community as possible. Councillors Lesley Walton and Cyril Anderson joined the police when they mobilised using the mobile police station around the wards so that the community could see working in partnership together in providing visibility and accessibility to the community.
- **St. Thomas** The local police team work closely with Councillors Gwilliam and Hale to tackle drugs and ASB issues in providing initiatives to involve children in sporting activities and to break down the barriers between police and the young people in the community.

3.9 The Community Integration & Partnership team organised 16 Safer Swansea Community Engagement events across Swansea during the summer/autumn period of 2022. These were well attended and supported by Partners and crime and well-being surveys were completed on a voluntary basis by those who attended the events. This information has been used to develop bespoke partnership operational plans to address concerns around ASB and general nuisance. **Appendix 4** is an example of the info graphic produced after each event which is shared with partners and local ward members.

3.10 Progress on dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation is managed under safeguarding and not part of Safer Swansea, however work is ongoing looking at creating safe spaces and places for young people and a multi-agency operational group has been established, including a youth panel, to develop projects and initiatives. This aligns well with the recommendations from the IICSA inquiry.

#### **4. Key Points for Discussion**

4.1 The Safer Swansea Partnership has identified six key priorities that will provide the focus of its work for 2023 - 2026. The draft document is attached as **Appendix 5.**



We are currently working on individual action plans for the aims and strategic intentions of each of the priorities and progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the steering group.

**We would welcome the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee views and comments on the key priorities.**

#### 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 will need to be completed in 2023 along with a problem profile for Swansea. Once this has been done, an action plan will need to be developed by Spring 2024.

It is anticipated that a local partnership group will be established for both Swansea and Neath Port Talbot to deliver on this priority and progress will be monitored by the respective community safety partnerships.

### 5. **Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### 6. **Finance Implications**

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

### **Background papers:**

The Committee is required to hold a session, at a minimum, annually, and follows the last meeting on this on 15 Feb 2022. Link to meeting that agenda / minutes:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=188&MIId=9544&Ver=4&LLL=0>

**Appendices:**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership Annual Review 2022</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Operation Kendall Learning and Community Engagement</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>Draft VAWDASV Strategy</b>
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>Community Engagement Info Graphic</b>
<b>Appendix 5</b>	<b>Safer Swansea Community Safety Priorities 2023 - 2026</b>