

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report Title	Stroud District Community Safety Partnership (SDCSP) Plan
Purpose of Report	The SDCSP Plan details how it plans to tackle community safety issues that matter to the local community in partnership with other responsible authorities and co-opted members.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to adopt The SDCSP 2023 - 2026 plan.
Consultation and Feedback	<p>All members of the SDCSP were consulted about the priorities.</p> <p>Stroud District Council Departments Gloucestershire Police Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (Gloucestershire) Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) Gloucestershire County Council Departments Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board Barnardos Victim Support Trading Standards Solace Town Councils Safe Spaces Clewer Initiative (Modern Slavery) Bromford Housing Sovereign Housing Sanctuary Housing P3 Charity Change Grow live (Drug & Alcohol services) CGL. The Door Prospects (Youth Provision)</p>
Report Author	Tony Dix, Interim Principal Community Services Officer Email: tony.dix@stroud.gov.uk
Options	None
Background Papers	<p>S17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Serious Violence Duty Section 115 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Information Sharing OPCC Police & Crime Plan 2021 - 2025 Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2023 – 2026 Prevent Duty Updated Contest Strategy 2023 Council Guide to Tackling Modern Slavery Guidance National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales)</p>
Appendices	Appendix A – SDCSP Infographic

	Appendix B - Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2023 – 2026 Appendix C - SDCSP Plan 2023 – 2025 Appendix D - SDCSP - Sub-Group Plan Updates 2023 onwards Appendix E - Stroud District Crime Data analysis Appendix F – Equality Impact Assessment			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The responsibilities of the of Local Authorities are set out in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (“The Act”), which dictates that the responsible authorities (as defined by the Act see para 1.3) must consider the implication on crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in all of their day-to-day activities regardless of department. In its broadest sense the Act also brought about a duty to cooperate and led to the creation of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in each local authority area.
- 1.2 In section 1.3-1.5 I have illustrated a number of key duties identified in a number of the background papers which outlines the districts responsibilities to its residents and visitors.
- 1.3 In January 2023, an amendment was added to S17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 to include a statutory duty on Local and Responsible Authorities for serious violence and the responsibility to include it in any relevant plan or priority to tackle serious violence in all its forms, Serious Violence is defined by the World Health Organisation as: –
- "The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."**
- Duty to consider crime and disorder implications. **Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998**
- (1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent,
- (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in its area and
- (c) re-offending in its area and
- (d) serious violence in its area.
- (1A) The duty imposed on an authority by subsection (1) to do all it reasonably can to prevent **serious violence** in its area is a duty on the authority to do all it reasonably can to
- (a) prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence in its area, and
- (b) reduce instances of serious violence in its area.
- 1.4 Local authority Statutory guidance Serious Violence Duty (Updated 22 June 2023)

1.5 Local authorities are responsible for the delivery of a range of vital services for people and businesses in a local area. This includes but not limited to, children's and adult's social care, children, and adult safeguarding, schools, housing and planning, youth services, business support, alcohol licensing, leisure, substance misuse, and community safety. It also includes public health commissioning and commissioning of support services for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, crimes having an essential role to play in partnership arrangements.

1.6 Local authority chief executives should ensure that there is appropriate representation to the partnership to fulfil the local authority's duties. This representation may be delegated to an appropriate senior officer.

Within the local government landscape, specified authorities subject to the Duty are:

- a district council
- a county council in England
- a London borough council
- the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority
- the Council of the Isles of Scilly
- a county council in Wales
- a county borough council in Wales

1.7 Local authorities are well placed to complement the work of other agencies and contribute to the prevention and reduction of serious violence by:

- sharing a range of relevant aggregated data sets for the development of the strategic needs assessment (for example data already collected from local schools and social care services).
- conducting wider preventative work addressing general factors that contribute to risk and vulnerability (e.g., poverty, housing family challenges, environment)
- leading on wider public health commissioning to support prevention and address risk factors or impacts of trauma (e.g., substance misuse services including alcohol treatment services).
- providing information on availability/pressures on local resources including housing, community support, children's social care, etc.
- effectively commissioning and supporting early intervention initiatives such as Keeping Children Safe in Education which could be required in response to issues concerning child criminal exploitation, gang activity, sexual violence, domestic abuse.
- Local authorities should also be mindful of settings or locations falling within their jurisdiction which may have a specific risk or issue relating to serious violence, particularly when conducting the initial local strategic needs assessment. This may include residential care facilities for children in care, including secure children's homes, supported accommodation and domestic abuse accommodation- based services. Other public spaces such as parks, for which local authorities are responsible or Anti- Social Behaviour areas as locations of vulnerability, should also be considered as these may be areas where specific forms of serious violence are prevalent.

1.8 Section 115 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Information Sharing Appendix C. The S115 information sharing provision is a part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in the United Kingdom. It enables different agencies involved in crime prevention and community safety, such as responsible authorities, to share relevant information for the purpose of reducing crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour.

Under S115, agencies can share information about individuals or groups involved in criminal activities, including their personal details, criminal records, and other relevant information. The provision aims to enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention efforts by facilitating better communication and collaboration between different agencies.

However, the sharing of information must be done lawfully and in accordance with data protection regulations. Agencies must ensure that the information shared is necessary and proportionate to the purpose of preventing crime or protecting the public. They should also have appropriate data protection policies and procedures in place to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of individuals.

The S115 information sharing provision has been particularly important in multi-agency initiatives such as Community Safety Partnerships, where agencies have a duty to reduce crime and disorder.

- 1.9** An Annual Report will be presented to CS&L Committee, on the performance of the SDCSP together with the Action Plan to support the role and decision making of that committee. The date of annual report meeting will be in September each year.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1** The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”) in 2021 has set out its priorities in its Police and Crime Prevention Plan for Gloucestershire (2021-2025).

The six priorities are:

- Creating Safer Communities
- Tackling Violence against Women and Girls
- Strengthening your Constabulary
- Targeting the causes of crime
- Supporting victims and reducing re-offending
- Empowering local communities

- 2.2** In January 2023 Safer Gloucestershire undertook a Strategic Needs Assessment (“SNA”) which provides a solid evidential basis for planning and delivery of community safety activity at County, District, thematic and cohort levels.

This identified six priority areas:

- Serious Violence
- Violence and Intimidation Against Women and Girls, including Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Road Safety
- Prevent
- Urban Street Gangs and Organised Crime

Each of these priorities is set out in an action plan which will be subject to regular review and refresh over the life of this strategy.

- 2.3** SDCSP is supporting and working closely with the OPCC, it set out its own plan and priorities in 2023 that are relevant to the local area. The priorities contained in the plan are included due to the fact as a Local Authority we have duties under legislation to be included, this includes those mentioned in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, Counter Terrorism Prevent Duty (Priority 3) and Modern Slavery Duty (Priority 2).

The OPCC and the SDCSP must have due regard to each other's plans and priorities.

2.4 Responsible Authorities:

- Stroud District Council
- Office Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire
- Gloucestershire Police
- Probation
- Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- Gloucestershire County Council Fire and Rescue Service/adult & children's social care and Public Health

2.5 The SDCSP Action Plan (2023 - 2026), priorities are as follows: -

- **Priority 1:** Aim to reduce and proactively tackle ASB in all its forms, raise awareness of alcohol and substance misuse and reduce related crimes/incidents including street related ASB.
- **Priority 2:** Aim to reduce but increase awareness and reporting of violence against women and girls, serious violence, domestic abuse/sexual violence, and exploitation whilst supporting victims, including criminal exploitation, modern slavery, and human trafficking.
- **Priority 3:** Aim to Prevent people being drawn into extremism and take positive action in respect of hate crime.
- **Priority 4:** Build Stronger and cohesive communities with a focus on increasing community confidence.
- **Priority 5:** Aim to reduce and prevent re-offending by working with partners to address persistent and prolific offenders who cause the most harm.

The five priorities above were adopted in June 2023 by the members of the SDCSP and can be viewed in **Appendix C**. The plan is a live document and is constantly under review. CSP members will decide at their next meeting on 19th September 2023 how the plan will be updated by the members.

The SDCSP plan consists of various sub-groups each of which has a Chair to oversee its function and to ensure the priorities are progressed into achievable actions and appropriate decision making.

Each of the SDCSP's priorities are broken down into specific tasks and activities that will be undertaken by members in delivering the outcomes required for each priority.

2.6 Members of the CSP are feeding back to the chair of the CSP their current work plans which sit under the 5 priorities as listed in 2.4. This work will be fed into the action plans as existing projects and reported back through the annual report.

2.7 The SDCSP meet quarterly March, June, September, and December of each year with additional meetings if deemed necessary by the Chair of the SDCSP.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The SDCSP Strategy provides the framework to not only identify the areas of focus for the partnership priorities but to also identify the direction of travel in the Partnership's performance and delivery. The Strategy therefore provides the mechanism to hold partners to account on the commitment to collectively work together to reduce crime and disorder. The partnership

strategy demonstrates how we can make a difference to residents and communities of the district.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as it is to adopt the SDCSP 2023 -2026 plan, which tackles community safety issues that matter to the local community in partnership with other responsible authorities and co-opted members.

Adele Rudkin, Accountant

Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Vikki Fennell, Senior Lawyer

Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

4.3 Equality Implications

An EIA has been carried out by Officers in relation to the decision made in this report and no equality implications arise.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.