

Report of the Strategic Director Place to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 29th September 2022

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Subject:

Community Safety – Bradford South

Summary statement:

This report updates members on key areas of partnership work to build and develop community safety in the Bradford South constituency.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

It is recognised that our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods experience a greater range of community safety issues. In addition, a range of minority ‘community of interest’ groups can experience extra barriers in accessing services.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates members on key areas of partnership work to build and develop community safety in the Bradford South constituency.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Bradford South Neighbourhood Policing Team works closely with Bradford Council's Neighbourhoods (Area Co-ordinator's) Team across the South constituency. There are named Police and Council Ward Officers aligned to wards across the area who are supported by designated staff with allocation to specific areas. The operational boundaries of Police and Council are co-terminus and therefore enable effective co-ordination, tasking and problem solving.
- 2.2 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act requires statutory agencies including local authorities, police authorities, fire and rescue services and health authorities set up a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to work with partners, the community and voluntary sector to tackle issues including: crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending in its area.
- 2.3 The Bradford District CSP is chaired by councillor Abdul Jabar and produces a Community Safety Plan, identifying areas of priority attention. The CSP has determined to produce a 'plan on a page', this is based on the logic model approach of the Health and Wellbeing Board and increases visibility and focus on key actions. A copy of the Community Safety 'Plan on a Page' is attached as **appendix one**.
- 2.4 The West Yorkshire Mayor published the regional Police and Crime Plan in April. The Plan sets the strategic direction for community safety over the next three years and has a wider partnership focus than just policing.
- 2.5 The Plan has a strong emphasis on safety of women and girls and an understanding of how important early intervention, prevention and equality, diversity and inclusion are to a safe and just West Yorkshire. This reflects many of the priorities already in place in the Bradford District Community Safety Partnership Plan
- 2.6 Understanding how a range of external issues will impact on community safety will be essential over the coming years. Most notably, the impact of the COVID period and the current cost of living crisis which continue to present a number of significant challenges, especially within our most disadvantaged communities.
- 2.7 Difficulties in 'reaching' some of the most vulnerable in society during the pandemic has meant that some support and engagement with those most in need, including those at risk of offending, was more limited and services have worked hard to pick this up. Inflation and the 'cost of living crisis' will continue to put pressure on household budgets and families for some time.
- 2.8 We will continue to prioritise the issues which are important to our communities and expect some further perception survey data from the West Yorkshire Combined

Authority in October. Dangerous driving, litter, drugs and anti-social behaviour continue to be some of the most important issues flagged by residents. We also seek to focus on the issues which can be the cause of so many safety issues including serious and organised crime, violence and domestic abuse. In addition, we seek to join our early intervention/ prevention approaches with the broader early intervention approaches to support households at most risk.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- 3.1.1 There were 18,033 incidents of domestic abuse recorded on Police systems across the Bradford district (May 2021 to April 2022). When compared to the previous 12 months, this is an increase of 11.7%. December 2021 had the most incidents recorded in this 12-month period (a total of 1754 incidents). Over the same period, in Bradford South, there were 4606 incidents of domestic abuse recorded on Police systems. A comparative increase of 11.6%.
- 3.1.2 It is likely that Covid restrictions have had an impact on this increase with more people spending time at home in closer proximity. Increased reporting also demonstrates an improvement in social awareness and confidence in victims feeling comfortable in coming forward to report instances of domestic violence. There has also been an increase in crime recording in line with Home Office counting rules.
- 3.1.3 Domestic abuse victims are the most satisfied victims of crime with levels over 85%. A process has been in place since June 2016 to ensure that feedback from victims of domestic abuse is obtained and incorporated into learning and development. This includes, improving contact with victims of high-risk offences, a regular dip sample of crimes to understand where processes can be improved through victim support and investigation. Also there has been closer collaboration with the Crown Prosecution Service.
- 3.1.4 Within the district there has been a 0.2% comparative increase in the repeat domestic abuse victimisation rate to 43.6% over the last 12 months when compared to the same period the previous year (May 2021 to April 2022). In Bradford South there has been a 0.1% comparative increase in the repeat domestic abuse victimisation rate to 46.4% over the last 12 months when compared to the same period the previous year.
- 3.1.5 We have introduced various initiatives such as the use of Smart-water and 'Ring Doorbells' to support victims of domestic abuse. We have close links with partners through the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) process for high risk victims and also through agencies such as Staying Put, who will support victims of domestic abuse through a range of mechanisms. We also are investing in our investigation teams and their skills to improve positive outcomes.
- 3.1.6 Referral occurrences are recorded when a victim is referred to be heard at a MARAC. In the last 12 months (May 2021 to April 2022) there have been 559 referrals compared to 470 in the previous period. This is a change of 89 or 18.9%. 88 referrals were made in September 2021.

- 3.1.7 The police recorded 1,989 serious sexual offences in Bradford during the 12 months to 30th April 2022. This is a 19% increase in the number of offences on the previous year. Previously there had been an increase in the number of serious sexual offences, in part due to a large proportion of historical investigations.
- 3.1.8 Although an increase, contributory factors include confidence in victims feeling comfortable in coming forward to report serious sexual offences. Serious sexual offences are recorded at first contact, ensuring as an organisation we are victim focused from the start and then will progress the investigation. The improvement in utilising different reporting mechanisms such as reporting online or through other agencies.
- 3.1.9 Currently one of the most pressing issues nationally for victims of sexual offences is the low successful prosecution rate. Prosecution rates for West Yorkshire are currently above the National Average at 8%. National average as of July 2021 was 5.3%. Measures have been put in place to continue to support and improve this trend including working closely with partners. West Yorkshire Police work closely with partner agencies, such as Staying Put, ISVA's and IDVA's (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate/ Independent Sexual Violence Advocate) to ensure strong communication links between ourselves and the victims. There has been an internal uplift of staff within the Safeguarding unit, therefore increasing number of specialist officers in departments.
- 3.1.10 A pilot on Buttershaw Estate was established in October 2021 to support families fleeing domestic abuse who had been relocated to the area. These families struggled to integrate into the local community, leaving them isolated and sometimes returning to the abusive relationships.
- 3.1.11 The key strand of the pilot embeds a community IDVA within the local family centre. Bespoke support has included advocacy work, referrals to counselling services; helping clients with their household bills through grant applications, linking the individuals and families to stay and play sessions, the community café and local activities.
- 3.1.12 The IDVA has also supported parents in securing nursery and school places for their children within the local area. The Pilot is currently paused due to recruitment and we hope to restart it soon, it will then run for another 18 months. In the interim support to victims in the Buttershaw area is provided by Staying Puts community IDVA team.
- 3.1.13 A partnership between Outloud (who are a specialist youth organisation supporting vulnerable people), Bradford Youth Services and local primary and secondary schools in Holme Wood has developed to support early intervention and prevention for children and young people who are victims of domestic abuse.
- 3.1.14 This pilot project supports the transition of year five and six pupils over the last academic term and during the summer holidays. The Outloud team create a bespoke response to meet individual needs and deliver one-to-one and small group work sessions and aiming to increase young people's self-esteem and confidence.

- 3.1.15 Following the intensive bespoke offer, the Youth Service works with Outloud to support their participation in accessing localised universal provisions and creating long-term positive relationships for the young people with trusted professionals within their communities.
- 3.1.16 'Girl On the Street' project is now running in Great Horton; this is a partnership piece of work delivered by Scholemoor Beacon and Bradford Youth Service. The project was set-up for young women who didn't feel confident accessing the community centre and reported feeling unsafe. The work has increased their confidence, and built on their well-being and resilience. The young women report that they now feel empowered and are educated on their rights and the group is growing in numbers, and a cohort of young people are advocates for other young girls and are working together to reduce gender-based violence.
- 3.1.17 In Bradford South, the Youth Service has started collating data on young people impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence. They have developed a tracking tool to record the data to aid understanding of this issue and how they can further support young people. Those young people identified as impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence have been supported to access specialist services as needed and integrated into their localised youth provisions.
- 3.1.18 The Specialist Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Practitioner (SDAP) project is a pilot partnership between the Commissioned Domestic Abuse consortia and in-house provision based within the Council. The project provides a trauma-informed response and holistic support to families who experience DA & SV but wish to remain as a family unit
- 3.1.19 The project is placed within BMDC Neighbourhoods but is overarched by Early Help & Prevention and has four key elements; consultancy, case management, service development and training.
- 3.1.20 The SDAP has supported 12 individuals within three families across Bradford South and provided training and consultancy with several partners. We have recently increased the capacity within the team by employing an additional 2.5 staff to meet the increasing need.
- 3.1.21 Bradford Council's DASV Team have been creating and developing a new bespoke domestic abuse and sexual violence website which you can now access (<https://bradford-dasv.co.uk/>). The site was launched on the 30th August 2022. The Team has ensured the site is accessible, safe and engaging and is another route by which victims can access support.

3.2 Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- 3.2.1 During the Pandemic complaints of certain types of anti-social behaviour increased significantly. Complaints about youth nuisance, neighbour disputes motorbikes and quads all rose in 2020 and then fell back in 2021 (falling by 18% on 2020 levels) and continuing to fall into 2022

- 3.2.2 There were just over 8265 incidents of antisocial behaviour reported to the police in the 12 months to May 2022 within the Bradford District. This is a comparative reduction of 36% on the previous year over the same period. Within Bradford South there has been a 39.6% decrease in recorded ASB over the same comparative period. Most significant decreases have included adult nuisance related ASB has reduced (65.9% decrease). Also a reduction in neighbour related disputes (55.7% decrease), There have also been significant reductions in youth related ASB (46.6% decrease) and nuisance vehicles (41.2% decrease) and nuisance motorcycle/quad bikes (16. % decrease).
- 3.2.3 We are aware that many communities are still experiencing unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour and that this can have a serious impact on quality of life. In hotspot locations across wards this can be particularly acute and remains a significant issue for local residents
- 3.2.4 Ward Officers and Police partners have highlighted some of the key safety priorities in their Ward Plans and these are reflected in the priorities highlighted in **appendix two**.
- 3.2.5 In 2022 the following ASB interventions have been issued so far in Bradford South:
- 22 ASB Warnings
 - 4 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
 - 3 Final Warning letters
 - 1 Criminal Behaviour Order.

We recognise that there are significant pockets of ASB in certain localities which remain a problem. Some of the specific actions to tackle this include:

- 'Trojan Bus' Operations have been undertaken on a regular basis for a couple of years now in conjunction with First Bus to identify those who are throwing objects at buses. A number of youths have been identified as being involved in the damage of buses travelling through Holme Wood and have been issued with relevant ASB interventions.
 - NPT have executed a number of drugs warrants from which they have recovered drugs and paraphernalia and charged those responsible. We have been working with Registered Social Landlords to provide them with relevant evidence and statements to assist them with eviction proceedings.
 - Ongoing work has been carried out to identify those responsible for motorcycle nuisance. Those identified have been issued with ASB interventions and if applicable their landlords have been informed so they can take relevant housing enforcement action.
- 3.2.6 In July 2022 Bradford Council was successful in a partnership bid with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and has received a share of Home Office's 'Safer Streets' funding to crack down on nuisance behaviour on motorbikes and quadbikes across the district. Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and Steerside Enforcement Officers will hold days of action, targeting five of the most problematic wards, including Royds and Tong. The NPTs will carry out two operations per week over 37 weeks across the five wards, focusing on enforcement action, engagement and education. This is extra resourcing and work in other Bradford South wards will continue as normal.

3.2.7 In addition, to this, ten local practitioners will be trained to run restorative sessions with young people to help them understand the impact of their actions and reduce the likelihood of them reoffending and there will also be a small amount of funding to help restrict access to certain sites that are repeatedly abused by quad/bike users.

3.3 Operation Steerside and Road Safety

3.3.1 Bradford District's Operation Steerside is now a well-established model for tackling anti-social vehicle use. We know that the enforcement element of Operation Steerside has been positively welcomed by our communities; however, as a partnership we recognise that enforcement alone cannot resolve or tackle the issues across the District.

3.3.2 As such there is an aim to deliver more collaborative working which dovetails into the Vision Zero ambition, utilising all our collective resource and powers to ensure that we have a comprehensive plan that not only focusses on enforcement but also looks at changing behaviours. This includes working with our young people in schools and youth settings.

3.3.3 Collectively we have developed a 3-year partnership ambition document which sets out our aspiration and ensures the commitment from our partners to take a whole system approach for better outcomes for our communities. Together we aim to make the roads of Bradford safer in line with the ambitions of Vision Zero.

3.3.4 For the period June 2021 – May 2022, Operation Steerside has produced the following district results:

- 2489 Fixed Penalties, Traffic Offence Reports, Vehicle Defect reports
- 54 Reports to DVLA for road tax offences
- 427 Reports for Summons / Charges
- 194 S.59 warnings
- 391 Vehicle seizures
- 72 Arrests
- 44 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) notices submitted to the Council

3.3.5 **Proactive approach to tackling 'Car Meets'** – Car Meets often include vehicles entering the district via the M606 and begin in Bradford South. Intelligence was received in June regarding a car meet due to take place in Bradford involving groups from outside West Yorkshire. Early intervention was undertaken by Steerside including direct engagement with the organiser in Humberside. Additional resources including roads policing units were put in place for the night in question as well as neighbourhood resources at likely locations. From South's perspective The Euroway was an obvious target. This event did come to pass as advertised but was very proactively policed by Steerside, NPT and RPU to the point that at times we were arriving at locations before the car meet. Over a period of a couple of hours, and several locations, the car meet was declared something of a failure on their social media pages and they left the area.

3.3.6 **Multi-agency work** – In July 2022 a multi-agency operation was held in the Great Horton ward area, based at Quora Retail Park. Policing was run under the Operation Steerside model with support from various council departments and DVSA. All areas of business reported a successful day and it is likely that more council departments will be invited to future operations on this back of this.

3.4 Crime Statistics

- 3.4.1 The total number of crimes recorded in Bradford South has increased by 12.6% (comparing June 21- May 22 to the same period in the previous 12 months). This increase was expected following falls in overall crime rates during the Pandemic (8.7% fall in 2020).
- 3.4.2 Particular crime types were affected in different ways. The biggest decreases were in relation burglary offences, residential burglaries fell by 36.4%, commercial burglaries fell by 35%. The biggest increase was vehicle interferences, which increased by 160%, linked to this theft of motor vehicle offences increased 48%. This increase was largely because of a spike in offences between September 2021 – January 2022.
- 3.4.3 The trend post lockdown has been an increase in recorded crime. For example, Public Order offences rose 21.9% year on year. This can be attributed to society post lockdown returning to interacting with each other. Another significant increase was stalking and harassment offences, which increased 22.8%. The reasons behind these increases have been explained within the 'Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence' section.

3.5 Environmental Enforcement/ Neighbourhood Wardens

- 3.5.1 The Bradford Covid Response Hub over the past two years has delivered a range of programmes extending from testing, vaccination, business and community engagement as well as supporting community initiatives such as local food banks and holiday activities across the district. With the easing of Covid restrictions and the introduction of work related risk assessments the majority of the Neighbourhood Wardens & Environmental Enforcement work has returned to normal. Please note a more detailed report on Environmental Enforcement/ Neighbourhood Wardens will be brought to Committee in December.
- 3.5.2 Community Safety Support by Wardens:
- Wardens have been assisting with parking and road safety issues at Beacon Road mosque liaising with the Imam at prayer times to remind worshippers about driving and parking responsibly.
 - On a weekly basis Wardens have been attending 'Mancave' which is an initiative to support men's mental health and well-being.
 - Wardens also support initiatives in a number of local primary schools to help build more active engagement with young people and their communities.
 - Wardens on a weekly basis attend the Police Contact point at Victoria Park, Oakenshaw. Here members of the public come and speak with Wardens, Police and the Oakenshaw Residents Association about any issues/concerns
 - Weekly support is provided to Bierley Life Centre where Wardens provide advice and engage with local residents who attend the drop in centre.
- 3.5.3 Environmental Enforcement
- CCTV has now been deployed at over 40 locations with static CCTV at 9 sites in Bradford South and a number of fly tipping incidents have been caught on camera and are being investigated. Some Wardens in Bradford South have also been trained to deploy some of our 'VIPA' and 'Wildlife cameras'.

- This has secured a number of enforcement actions and there have been five fly-tipping FPN's
- In Bradford South this year the team recently secured a successful prosecution of a serial fly-tipper who fly-tipped types at multiple locations across the Bradford South constituency and other areas of the district. The person was caught on CCTV and traced to an address in Bradford South. The Police provided assistance and his van was seized and crushed.
- Fly tipping reports for South Wards:
 - Great Horton – 244
 - Queensbury – 38
 - Royds – 59
 - Tong – 135
 - Wibsey – 75
 - Wyke – 82
- There have been five fly-tipping FPNs issued by South officers.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Externally provided funding from the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner is used to commission services and activities to address the Partnership's priorities within the terms and criteria applicable to that funding. The annual grants for 2020/21 £256,343, currently there is no indication what the allocation will be for 2021/22. This does not have a direct effect on the Council's mainstream funding.
- 4.2 Bradford Council has recently invested in the Neighbourhood Service, employing a number of 'Assistant Ward Officers'. Bradford South has three new posts and it is envisaged the extra support will contribute to increased community safety support.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The Community Safety Partnership Board reports through to the Health and Wellbeing Board governance arrangements.
- 5.2 Risks likely to cause community tensions are monitored and mitigating actions put in place through the Community Safety Partnership structure.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 Aspects of the Community Safety Partnership Board's work is governed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and associated guidance.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1.1 There are no sustainability implications apparent.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

7.2.1 There are no direct greenhouse gas emission impacts apparent.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.3.1 Implementation of the Community Safety Plan is expected to positively impact community safety across the district.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.4.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

7.5 TRADE UNION

7.5.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.6.1 Certain Ward areas suffer greater crime and community safety issues. Ward Plans are expected to prioritise these locations.

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

7.7.1 It is recognised that looked after children can be more vulnerable to specific crime types and appropriate Corporate Parent leads should be kept up to date with trends and concerns in relation to community safety.

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.8.1 There are no issues arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 That the Area Committee offers further views and advice to the Council/Police Partnerships tackling crime and community safety in Bradford South Area.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Bradford South Area Committee notes the work undertaken by the Bradford South Neighbourhood Policing Team and Community Safety Partners that contributes toward to addressing priorities within the ward plans for the Bradford South Area.

- 10.2 That the Bradford South Area Committee notes the positive partnership working that has been established with Elected Members, Council Officers, Community Organisations, volunteers and residents within the Bradford South Area.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix One - District Community Safety Plan.

- 11.2 Appendix Two - Key Safety Priorities – South Ward Plans

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 None.