



**SAFER BARNSELY
PARTNERSHIP**

SAFER BARNSELY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN

1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022

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1 FOREWORD

In spite of the unprecedented circumstance the Coronavirus pandemic has presented to us all in Barnsley, Community Safety remains at the heart of all our priorities.

As co-chairs of the partnership we are pleased to present our 2021-2022 Safer Barnsley Partnership Plan which takes effect from 1 April 2021.

Our partnership includes statutory agencies and non-statutory organisations as well as the South Yorkshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. We meet every quarter to ensure that we are working together effectively to make sure Barnsley feels a safe place for everyone who lives, works and studies here. Now, more than ever is an important time for us to work together to further strengthen our collective efforts in providing a safe community for our residents, businesses and visitors. Responding well to the pandemic has made it very clear how important and impactful we can be by working in partnership.

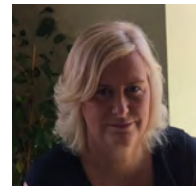
In Barnsley we strongly believe that working together with agencies and the community is the best way to deal with crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder. Our approach goes far beyond enforcement actions as we believe in dealing with the root causes. We have a strong focus on prevention and tackling the broader determinants of crime.

Our partnership plan is produced yearly so that it remains consistent with local needs and changing circumstances. This helps us respond to changes swiftly and accordingly.

Our plan is a live document which tells you how we performed over the last year, what our commitments are for the coming year and how we intend to meet these by working together within the new environment that the current pandemic presents us with.

The commitments for the coming year are set and are a real challenge for us all, but we recognise how important they are for the well-being of all of our residents and visitors.

We look forward to engaging with you throughout the next period and continue to make Barnsley a safer place to live, work and socialise safely. We hope that you will join us in rising to the challenge of continuing to make Barnsley a safer place for all.



Wendy Lowder

Barnsley Council
Executive Director for Adults and Communities
Co-Chair of Safer Barnsley Partnership



Sarah Poolman

South Yorkshire Police
Chief Superintendent, District Commander
Co-Chair of Safer Barnsley Partnership



2 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Barnsley Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is the statutory partnership responsible for tackling crime and disorder, protecting vulnerable people and reducing reoffending.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation place statutory duties on Community Safety Partnerships to:

- Produce an annual Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment.
- Prepare and implement a Community Safety Plan.
- Establish information sharing agreements.
- Establish domestic homicide reviews.

Our partnership is known as the 'Safer Barnsley Partnership' (SBP) and consists of representatives from the following agencies:

- Barnsley Council.
- South Yorkshire Police.
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.
- National Probation Service.
- South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company.
- Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Neighbourhood Watch.
- Berneslai Homes.
- South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board.
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- Violence Reduction Unit.
- Youth Offending Team.

This partnership plan aligns with the statutory requirement, priorities and aspirations outlined in the:

1. South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021), which ensures a collective approach to achieving the best possible outcomes for and in partnership with our communities.

2. Barnsley 2030 plan, with a vision for developing a Healthy, Growing, Learning and Sustainable Barnsley.

Healthy
Barnsley

Learning
Barnsley

Growing
Barnsley

Sustainable
Barnsley



3 OUR PARTNERSHIP

Partnership approaches to tackling crime and disorder are built mainly on the principle that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with complex community safety and crime problems.

Our guiding principles to achieve our collective vision are :

3.1 One public sector: One borough

Residents want efficient and effective services, no matter who provides them. We will continue working with our partners to:

- **Create joined up approaches that make sense to us all.**
- **Place the person in need at the centre of our planning.**
- **Adopt a whole system approach to providing support.**

We remain committed to Engage, Prevent, Intervene, and Enforce where appropriate to promote a safer Barnsley.

3.2 A proactive relationship with our residents

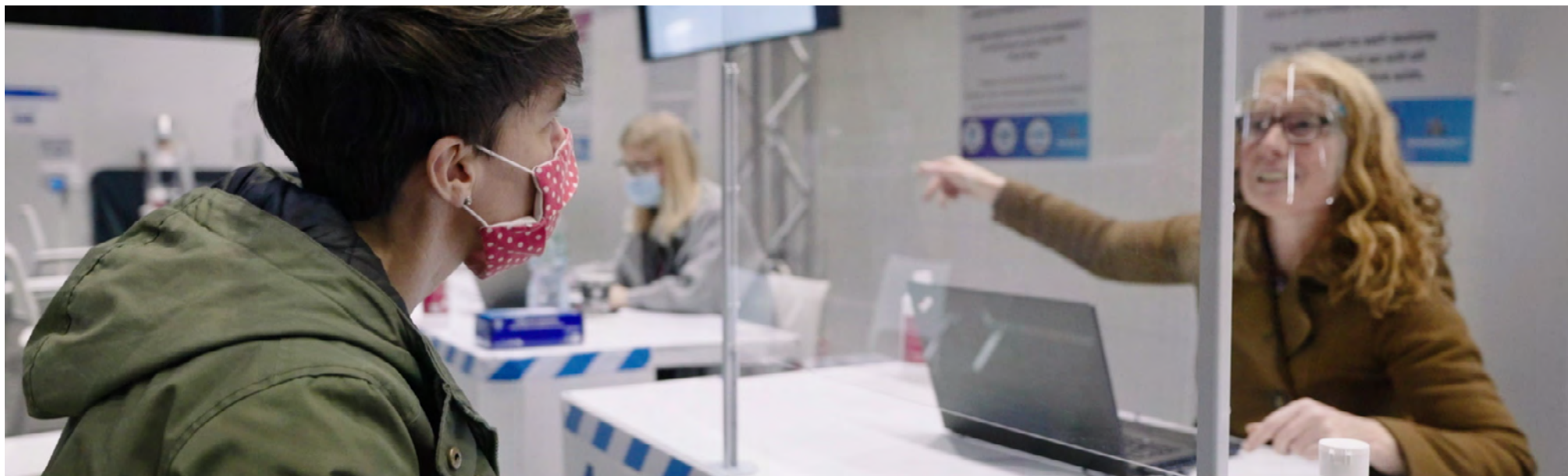
We will continue to provide better connected services, that regularly engage with our communities and places our residents at the heart of what we do. In return, we expect residents will do what they can for themselves, their families and their communities, to help us all feel safe and be safe from harm.

3.3 Responding to the Coronavirus pandemic

In response to the coronavirus outbreak our commissioned services have adapted the way they deliver their services to make sure they continue to operate safely whilst adhering to government guidelines and restrictions.

Support for service users has been available throughout the pandemic albeit in a range of different ways. As government guidelines and restrictions have been changing at short notice, the providers have continually reviewed and adapted their service provisions. This level of flexibility has been ensuring consistent access to support by service users. All service buildings where face to face appointments are offered have been reconfigured to be Covid secure with rigorous infection control procedures in place.

It must be noted that we are still operating within a pandemic situation. Our working practice will be an ongoing process of learning, adjusting, and planning to ensure services continue to deliver the best service within the circumstances.



4 DELIVERY AGAINST OUR PRIORITIES IN 2020-2021

In the plan for 2020-21, we delivered against our priorities through four sub-groups, each tackling specific areas under the following themes:

- **Crime and Violence Reduction Unit Plan.**
- **Protecting vulnerable people.**
- **Anti-social behaviour.**
- **Promoting community tolerance and respect.**

The section below provides a summary of the Barnsley Violence Reduction Unit's action plan and key progress achieved by each sub-group whilst also responding to the pandemic.

4.1 Violence Reduction Unit: Tackling and preventing violent crime.

In the summer of 2019, the Home Office announced that 18 police force areas would receive funding to establish (or build upon existing) Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) which brings together different organisations to tackle serious crimes by better understanding the root causes. The VRUs' primary aim is to strengthen leadership and the strategic coordination of all relevant agencies to support a 'public health' approach to tackle serious violence and its root causes. Safer Barnsley Partnership, a part of the South Yorkshire VRU (SYVRU) secured funding in 2019/20 to further enhance its action tackling violent crime.

The three main areas of focus are to:

- **Build on the partnership arrangements to strengthen our approach.**
- **Increase local delivery of tried and tested multi-agency public health approaches.**
- **Develop new approaches and practices with partners across the county focussed on violence prevention and violence reduction.**

To deliver against our collective objectives Barnsley is adopting a longer-term view working with its partners and completed a comprehensive area profile. This information has informed the Barnsley action plan for the next period. The delivery of the plan will be monitored through the **Crime sub-group** of the Safer Barnsley Partnership.

Barnsley's VRU delivery plan is aligned with the Safer Barnsley Partnership's priorities as set out in this document. Safer Barnsley Partnership will be linking local delivery plans and actions with the broader SYVRU's prevention framework which are :

- **Primary prevention** - stopping violence before it starts.
- **Secondary prevention** - provide support early to stop violent behaviour from becoming established.
- **Tertiary prevention** - providing a way out for those already entrenched in violence.
- **Criminal justice and enforcement** - holding people accountable when they are criminally culpable.
- **Attitudinal change** - aiming to shift cultural norms in society.



4.2 Our Local Violence Reduction Unit plan – A brief summary

The Barnsley Violence Reduction Plan is broken down into **six themed** areas. These are:

	Place – Reduce violence in the streets and locations where it is most common.
	Alcohol – Reduce the impact of alcohol on violence.
	Evening and Night time economy – Reduce the instances of violence associated with night time economy.
	Address disproportionate levels of violence (both victim and perpetrator) associated with young people between the ages of 15 and 30.
	Domestic Abuse – Work to end domestic abuse and create zero tolerance towards domestic abuse in Barnsley.
	Weapon Enabled Crime – Prevent the escalation of the use of weapons in Barnsley and disrupt the activity of those for whom weapons are a feature of their criminal activity.

You can read the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit Strategy here:

[South Yorkshire Violence Reduction unit](#)

4.3 KEY PROGRESS OF THE SUB-GROUPS

4.3.1 TACKLING CRIME SUB-GROUP

This group focused on meeting the outcomes: *'Victims and Communities are protected through a partnership approach to the identification and prevention of crime and targeted offender management'.*

Last year we said we would: *'Improve our partnership response to domestic abuse, targeting our offenders and offering an excellent victims service.'*

We have developed a specific team within South Yorkshire Police to investigate domestic abuse which operates from Barnsley. The team works with multiple agencies to:

- a). carry-out comprehensive investigations and protection of victims.
- b). reduce length of investigation time.

We have adopted a multi-agency approach and protected more victims by using powers afforded through the Domestic Violence Protections Orders (DVPOs) and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS). Number of people protected through the DVPO's in 2020 was 262 (up from 149 in 2019). We have an increased emphasis on reducing risk and 146 people were supported through the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme. This scheme helps:

- a). A person to ask the Police to verify if their partner has a violent or abusive past
- b). The Police to advise on their own initiative if they have information about the violent or abusive behaviour of a person that may impact on the safety of that person's current or ex-partner.

We have adapted our working practices to be in line with the requirement of the pandemic. Aware that domestic abuse(DA) is a 'hidden harm' with victims feeling more isolated, alternative ways to report DA to the police have been created through the Silent Solution and an online portal. Together the partnership have sought to raise awareness and how to report. We have seen an increase of 7.3 % incidences in 2020 which can be linked to more awareness and confidence in asking for help early.

We have further increased our arrest rate for DA from an annual average of 44.4% in 2019 to 54.3% in 2020.

Case study: Supporting a victim of domestic abuse.

In 2020 officers were called to a disturbance relating to people fighting in the street. The victim informed officers that she had been attacked by her partner; however, she refused to provide a statement and left. Witnesses at the scene also refused to support a police investigation. In spite of this difficulty the police followed on with the investigation and were able to successfully protect the victim and prosecute the perpetrator.

Later in the year the victim reported a second incidence relating to being harassed by her partner, but again refusing to support the investigation. In spite of the victims reluctance the police focussed on reducing risk to all concerned. The police were able to successfully arrest and charge the partner who has been placed into custody awaiting trial for assault, harassment and witness intimidation.

The victim is being supported through key agencies working alongside the Police service. Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS), social care and other partners are now involved ensuring safeguards are in place for victim to feel safe.

Last year we said we would: *'Develop a consistent community response to the threat from organised crime to lessen the harm caused.'*

We have carried out a comprehensive assessment of organised crime groups within Barnsley according to their threat level to the community using national guidance. Organised crime groups are linked to a range of crimes such as threat of violence and production of controlled drugs without license.

We have sharpened our focus in Barnsley to monitor organised crime groups activities and prevent them taking root in our community. This approach of close joint monitoring with other agencies is resulting in a better understanding of these types of criminal behaviours.

We are using this approach and intelligence to provide early protection to the community and to also disrupt any threat early. So far, there have been fifty reported crimes in 2020 associated with organised crime groups compared with sixty one in 2019. Fifty seven organised crime group disruptions have been identified and pursued in 2020, to disrupt criminal activity, divert criminal gains and pursue those responsible.

Last year we said we would: *'Assist our communities in identifying emerging threats and issues that need a response through the crime sub group.'*

We have worked with the community in identifying and responding to new methods of committing robbery offences brought around because of the pandemic. We are seeing offences where offenders enter shops and disguise their activities using facemasks, worn in line with national pandemic prevention requirements. This makes it easier for the offenders to disguise their identities and not be easily recognised.

Overall personal robbery and commercial robbery offences in Barnsley are low. Offences are thoroughly investigated making sure our response is always victim and evidence focussed. This approach helps us to identify those responsible quickly and also to assist in jointly rehabilitate them back into the community through the integrated offender management programme.

Robbery has decreased from 221 recorded offences in 2019 to 200 offences in 2020, which can largely be attributed to a reduction in business robberies (19 fewer offences were recorded). Whilst the rate of personal robberies has remained relatively stable (2 offences fewer when compared with 2019) there has been an overall increase of 32 positive outcomes recorded compared with last year, resulting in a positive outcome rate of 20%.

Case study: Tackling threatening behaviour, assault and robbery.

A local man delivering milk, was robbed of his milk van and its contents. The offender threatened and assaulted the victim, using a knife. Through a professional response and investigation from the team of detectives, CCTV footage was secured at both the location of the original offence and the location where the stolen van was recovered. Evidence from a number of sources helped to quickly identify the offender. He was subsequently arrested, interviewed, formally charged and remanded into custody for this serious offence. He is currently awaiting criminal trial.

Last year we said we would: *'Increase our understanding and response to the threat of child exploitation and the threat to our most vulnerable in society through county lines.'*

We have re-engineered our response to child exploitation and understanding for 'county lines'. Specialist police officers working from the Worsborough Centre with social workers are deployed together as a team. They work with children or young persons, to develop supporting strategies collectively for their families.

We have explored how best we can understand the risks by engaging with children or young persons in challenging circumstances to help to keep them safe, using available legislative opportunities such as Sexual Risk Orders and joint-partnership working to deter offenders and protect victims.

We are continuing to work with our partners including children's social care, the Youth Offending Team, probation, Integrated Offender Management, health, Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS), schools and colleges, drug and alcohol services as well as the voluntary sector.

Case study: Supporting a young person at risk of exploitation



A vulnerable 14 year old person under the influence of illegal substance was reported to be in the town area.

Working in partnership with agencies such as the social care teams, children mental health team and safeguarding the fourteen year old was supported to manage his drug addiction at his home in a safe environment. The fourteen year old is being supported by carers and key workers who are overseeing his progress and recovery programme.

The programme of support includes lived in carer and daily home visits by a range of professionals.



Last year we said we would: *'Engage with communities and developing a response to the threat from violent and knife enabled crime.'*

We have maintained our commitments to preventing and investigating serious violence working with the Violence Reduction Unit. We are continuing our push and drive on 'stop and search' and we have commissioned several targeted knife related operations called 'Operation Sceptre', where knife crime focus and prevention activity take place. Through partnership working we have obtained a better understanding of the frequency of knife crime offences, the locations and the identity of habitual knife users. This has helped inform and direct many proactive policing activity based around trends and patterns. This approach has resulted in:

- a). A decrease in violence with injury by 14% (i.e. by 230 offences to 1383).
- b). A reduction in knife crime in Barnsley in 2020 recording 241 offences, as compared to 2019 recording 300 offences. This represents a 19.7% reduction.

Last year we said we would: *'Work in partnership through our "Fortify" approach to tackle those who cause the most harm around serious acquisitive crime, in particular burglary offences. We will take appropriate action against those that choose to both supply and take illegal drugs.'*

We have recognised and responded to the harm from serious acquisitive crimes in Barnsley priority, by ensuring we have new evidence-led processes have been put in place to tackle this problem. We are making better use of crime data to identify and support police patrol operations into the key hot spots for residential burglaries, ensuring a more connected prevention plan with the necessary supportive daily governance structures in place.

We have worked with victims and communities to ensure the necessary engagement and prevention work continues to ensure a seamless victim-focussed service along with identifying and responding to emerging issues at the earliest opportunity. Serious acquisitive crimes have reduced from 4506 in 2019 to 3332 in 2020 (a decrease of 26%).



Last year we produced our Local Violence Reduction plan.

Delivery against the action plan is overseen by the Crime sub-group.

Since approval of the local plan **we have:**

- ✓ Gathered in-depth information detailing types of violence at street level and this will inform our actions in 2021.
- ✓ Worked with the Barnsley Alcohol Alliance and Safer Barnsley priority sub-groups to promote healthy life style and reduce alcohol related crimes.
- ✓ Engaged with businesses and the voluntary sector partners to ensure our night time economy operates within safe environments and the public are supported and protected through schemes such 'Street Pastors'.
- ✓ Introduced the 'Mentors in Violence' prevention programme into secondary schools. This programme offers training to 10/11 years old students to become mentors who in-turn provide series of raising awareness sessions to 7, 8 and 9 years olds. This creates assurance amongst younger people in dealing with any types of abuse safely and confidently. This programme is being rolled out to schools working with the Barnsley Targetted Youth Support service.

We are also working with partners towards creating a zero tolerance to domestic abuse through education and prevention.

We are applying a planned approach using the '**Plan B Custody Navigator scheme**'. This approach aims at engaging young adults to make the right choice and step away from crime. In doing so, the scheme helps provide support to individuals working with range of other partners and prevent escalation of criminal activities.

For more detail please see our online information via this link: [**Violence Reduction Unit and Initiatives**](#)



4.3.2 PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE SUB-GROUP:

This group focussed on meeting the following outcome: *The threat, risk and harm to vulnerable people, families and communities are minimised.*

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Developing domestic abuse services that will meet the needs of the community.'*

We have invested grant money awarded from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to develop a local community hub in Goldthorpe. Through careful re-design of an existing building we have progressed the 'hub project' as new office premises for IDAS (a service that supports victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence). We have also added within the hub a community café – 'The Snap Tin' which has increased its capacity to service more local people and groups. The café is also designed to cater for people with dementia which is promoting wider awareness and increasing engagement with the wider community.

A further element of the MoJ project is to source safe accommodation for female offenders from the Borough who have experienced domestic abuse. In spite of the Covid restrictions, two properties have been purchased and will be available for tenants from mid-February 2021. The Council's 'Housing Options' team and commissioned services, 'Humankind' and 'IDAS' are working together to make sure the right tenants are matched with the right property. Substance misuse services are also delivered from the building with a carefully redesigned access point and refurbished office space.

We have also commenced a strategic review of domestic abuse service provision to inform the re-commissioning of services for 2022.

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Continuing to support individuals with multiple support needs who are aged 25 years and over to access accommodation and support that are appropriate to their needs.'*

We have:

- Extended the interim contract for 25+ provision to ensure service continuity and support was not interrupted during the pandemic.
- Supported the service to become 'COVID-secure' and able to maintain social distancing, and self-isolation.
- Commenced a strategic review of the service provision to inform the re-commissioning of multiple needs services in 2022.

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Co-ordinate a multi-agency response across the Safer Barnsley Partnership to tackle substance misuse across the borough by implementing a substance misuse plan.'*

We have established a multi-agency group to undertake a strategic review of substance misuse in Barnsley. A Needs Assessment has recently been compiled. The findings will inform the development of a multi-agency plan to reduce harms to individuals, families and communities that are associated with alcohol and drugs misuse.

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Continue to develop the current substance misuse service to help those with drug and alcohol problems to access the most suitable support that is appropriate to their needs.'*

We have during 2020-21 reconfigured the substance misuse service to make the accessibility of the service easier for people who are highly vulnerable and struggle to engage. A harm reduction pathway has been developed and implemented to provide a more flexible open access approach to engagement. This enables better support for people with multiple and complex needs. *See case study.*



Case study: Outcomes achieved through the new Harm Reduction / Open Access Pathway



A service user has been receiving support from 'Barnsley Recovery Steps' since September 2017, during this time they have used a number of different drugs simultaneously as well as heroin (this is called poly drug use). This person who has a history of rough sleeping also has a diagnosed epilepsy. Additionally, the person has a history of poor self-care and fails to take her epilepsy medication on time which has led to increased episodes of epileptic seizures. The seizures have a negative impact on the individual's daily functions which then causes her to relapse into starting with drug use which increases risk of exploitation from peers and associates.

To support this person 'Barnsley Recovery Steps' placed them onto the harm reduction open access pathway in the hope that the open access approach and a more flexible care plan would increase engagement and reduce the risks associated. This person's involvement with the service has been inconsistent in the past, often missing clinical appointments. This person was also known to be difficult to engage in one-to-one key working sessions and tended to attend the service outside of allocated appointment times. Since moving to the harm reduction pathway the individual has:

- 1). Had 100% attendance and not missed appointments.
- 2). Received harm reduction advice, safer injecting practices and education around misuse of medications.
- 3). Up to date blood borne virus testing and a hepatitis B booster vaccination.
- 4). Supported to change the administration of epilepsy medication to a more user friendly system, therefore this is easier to manage and reduces the risk of her not taking medication. This has resulted in a reduction in seizures episodes and overall improvement in the person's health.
- 5). Reduce frequency of substance use from daily to 1-2 times a week.
- 6). Stopped using 'class A' substances, heroin and crack cocaine and reports no current injecting practices.
- 7). Maintained compliance with substitute medication and has not needed a re-start or break in prescribing since moving to the harm reduction pathway.

The individual's care plan was built around reducing risky behaviours and encouraging compliance with medications. This has led to better and safe management of substance use over the last six months and becoming more independent with planning longer term goals.

The person is now interacting well with, drug worker, social worker and housing support with a view to finding suitable longer-term accommodation.

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Continuing to strategically align the work to deliver 'Think Family' programme objectives working with our partners.'*

We have used funding secured through Barnsley's Government's Troubled Families programme to:

- Develop the Council's Data Warehouse which processes data to identify vulnerable people, groups and their needs so that early interventions can be effectively targeted.
- Fund early intervention services to ensure that they deliver a holistic approach to supporting families with one worker, one plan and team wrapped around family.

5,095 families have been supported by the 'Think Family/Trouble families' funded programmes to date. These families experience multiple interconnected problems such as;

- Children with poor school attendance/excluded from school
- Domestic violence
- Crime/Anti-social Behaviour
- Youth Offending
- Unemployment
- Drug and alcohol use
- Involvement with Children's Social Care

The case study below shows how the support received by the 'Think Family/Trouble families' funded programmes can help families affected by the above problems and achieve positive changes.



Case Study: Think Family funded Early Intervention worker.

A family was referred to Family Support following safeguarding concerns arising from domestic violence directed to the mother by her partner. The partner was a known perpetrator with outstanding warrants for his arrest.

A Family Support worker was allocated to the family to complete an 'Early Help' assessment and devise a support plan with the mother. Additional issues were identified including behaviours of the children at school, the mental health and wellbeing of the mother and financial difficulties linked to the family previous rent arrears and unemployment.

Over a 24-week period the Family Support worker acted as the Family's single point of contact and supported them to access a range of services to assist with their multiple issues. Services included the Think Family Employment Adviser, Doctor, Family Centre, Housing, Benefits and Domestic Violence support.

As a result of the support, the mother received help for her mental health issues from her Doctor, she started attending Domestic Violence support sessions, Barnsley College and Community Education classes, and going to the Family Centre with her younger child for social and sensory sessions. She received back payments on Tax Credits and put in place a payment plan for rent arrears. The behaviour of both children at school improved and the elder child attended domestic violence support group sessions. At the end of this support programme the safeguarding concerns were also addressed with the perpetrator who no longer living in the family home. The family were offered continued support through Early Help services to ensure longer term independence and resilience.

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Address the challenge of people with complex needs to help their recovery and resettlement.'*

We have:

- Maintained the supply of accommodation and support services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Introduced 'virtual' meetings for multiple needs services using video technology to ensure referrals continued.
- Successfully delivered additional capacity during the pandemic in response to the Government 'Everyone In' initiative to reduce rough sleeping.
- Increased temporary accommodation capacity in partnership with Berneslai Homes.
- Secured 'Next Steps Accommodation' funding to keep rough sleepers off the streets and supported to identify onward funding options.

Case study: supporting rough sleepers through the pandemic



In response to the coronavirus pandemic the government called for council's to accommodate all rough sleepers, through the 'Everyone in' scheme. The Housing Options team secured and furnished twelve flats and the first rough sleepers moved in on the 9 April 2020. Two additional flats were acquired to provide extra capacity through the winter months and to support cold weather provision.

Part of the work within the accommodation's scheme is to undertake a detail assessment of the client in partnership with other key services with a view to identify support and reduce future risk of homelessness. Partners involved include services which support offenders, individuals with mental health, substance misuse and physical health problems.

The impact of Covid and limitations associated with lockdowns has resulted in the service managing its operations with various levels of flexibility. This has ensured clients were receiving meaningful support and opportunities to interact in a positive way. Support provided includes assistance with claiming benefits, registering with primary care services such as a GP, supporting payment of bills, debts management, reconnecting with families and facilitating access to other services.

4.3.3 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SUB-GROUP:

This group focussed on meeting the following outcome: *The impact of anti-social behaviour on residents and visitors to Barnsley is reduced*

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Further enhancement of the local safer neighbourhood services to better tackle local crime and antisocial behaviour.'*

We have enhanced the capacity and therefore resilience of our local neighbourhood policing and town centre teams during 2020/21 by:

- Increasing the number of police officers following ongoing recruitment and training of new officers.
- Deploying five town centre wardens from April 2020.
- Introducing a further fifteen wardens across the area teams by the end of 2021.

Despite the pandemic the overall trends for anti-social behaviour reports have continued to show a flattening trajectory during 2020/21. Barnsley has experienced the lowest rates of recorded anti-social behaviour per 1000 population compared with the rest of South Yorkshire which is attributed to a large degree to the impact of the integrated Safer Neighbourhood Service teams.

Increases in police and council uniformed staff operating within the town centre and locality teams.



Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Improving approaches to and opportunities for engagement to identify priorities, improve perceptions and help to strengthen communities.'*

We have continued to support and promote engagement through our 'Partners and Communities Together' (PACT), meetings in compliance with the pandemic restrictions. This has resulted in over 1300 new users registering onto the South Yorkshire Police Alerts' system. This has facilitated better insight into the community in respect of anti-social behaviour issues, but also best way of dealing with such issues with the communities. In addition this has also added to the level of engagement of the public with the Barnsley Joint Strategic Intelligence survey and the Berneslai Homes Star survey.

We have worked to inform the use of dedicated social media sites for each locality team to broaden accessibility and hosted numerous online question and answer sessions to further capture local priorities and responses. The local partnership teams have conducted numerous open air local drop-in events typically targeted in locations where anti-social behaviour problems have been identified. These have included the setting-up of a mobile police tent at Cudworth Park, Bank End, the Town Centre and Athersley. To support the priority to address environmental crime and blighting, the council also undertook extensive public consultation in late summer of 2020. This was to consider the introduction of a boroughwide 'Public Spaces Protection Order' to assist with the better control of dog fouling.

Note: COVID19 has created a different dimension in relation to public concerns and priorities relating to anti-social behaviour. Different types of behaviours and activities more typically accepted within our communities before COVID have during this period been the cause of greater "alarm and distress" requiring more action and interventions.

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Focussing on those problems identified as causing most concern including anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse, environmental crime and housing related nuisance to tackle anti-social behaviour most impacting communities.'*

Notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic **we have** continued to address concerns relating to substance misuse and particularly drug related activity, environmental blight, crime and housing related nuisance. We have dealt with an increased number of drugs related offences in 2020 and intervened in more than 1000 environmental blighting issues per quarter of that period.

Working with our partners **we have** significantly increased our efforts to improve standards of behaviour and environmental conditions in the private rented housing sector. We have delivered specific initiatives working with the public and partners which included the 'Cannabis Aware' campaign and 'Anti-social behaviour' campaigns in areas prone to such challenges. This has resulted in a sustained reduction in rented properties being used for cannabis growths and continued support in the Dearne and Central areas of the town.

We have also dealt with increases in neighbour related nuisance cases where local relationships between neighbours were being affected due to increased anxiety and pressures associated with the initial lockdown rules.



Case study: Working with the residents to tackle anti-social behaviour.



Princess Street was a relatively quiet street of terraced properties close to the town centre. Shortly after a new tenant moved into the street, residents witnessed several known offenders and drug users in the property. This led to fear in the community and residents reported that they felt frightened in their own homes. The initial issues reported included noise nuisance, a build-up of waste in the garden and alleyways, fly-tipping, the presence of rats and drug dealing from the premises and the local park. The condition of the property was also noted to quickly deteriorate. A multi-agency meeting was called and a community action plan drawn up. A joint investigation was initiated by the Police and Council's team.

A community engagement plan was developed to build residents' trust and confidence in our approach to dealing with the issues. This included door to door ASB conversation in order to better understand the impact on their quality of life of residents. Information recorded helped establish that there was little to no accountability from the landlord, disinterested Letting Agent and a high turnover of tenancies leading to a lack of resident investment in their community. This resulted in a rapid decline in the look and feel of the area.

A small number of key residents agreed to act on behalf of the whole street to ensure they were all kept informed of progress. The tenant of the property was assisted by Housing Options team and given an opportunity to move to a supported tenancy, but this was refused. As evidence was being gathered to support a partial premises closure order, 4 of the occupants were arrested and subsequently found guilty of street robbery and sentenced to prison terms. The Council worked with the tenant's relatives to arrange the termination of the tenancy. The Letting Agent has worked with the SNS to ensure proper vetting and reference checks for the new tenant moving in. The residents collectively decided to become a Neighbourhood Watch area and the scheme is now up and running. They are being further supported by Stronger Communities.



Community and Safer Neighbourhood Service Housing Team coming together to tackle blighting at Princess Street.

Case Study: Operation Fitzwilliam



Operation Fitzwilliam, was aimed at tackling a long-standing issue near to Barnsley town centre associated with the dealing and use of Class A drugs, Organised Crime Groups, anti-social behaviour and environmental blight. A number of prolific town centre offenders and drug users were regularly staying in the area and a number of warrants had previously been executed and arrests made.

A broad range of agencies were involved in the operation which included the council team and the Police teams. A joint approach was used to execute the warrant and arrest of suspected offenders. Crack cocaine was recovered along with seventy-nine individual wraps (estimated value of £2,500), cash and other dealing paraphernalia.



As part of the operation officers involved also conducted door to door visits to offer support and provide reassurance to other residents in the affected area. Properties and gardens were also inspected to check for waste and graffiti. Support was provided to deal with excess waste and environmental blight issues through provision of additional refuse bins.



Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Provide tailored interventions to those most susceptible to causing or being a victim of persistent anti-social behaviour to protect and support those most vulnerable to the impacts of anti-social behaviour.'*

In response to the pandemic we adjusted our plans to identify and target support to those people and problems that were most at risk of worsening due to the impact the pandemic and national lockdown rules. Included in our support were people at risk of coming to harm as a victim of crime and anti-social behaviour and those at risk of causing such problems.

The Safer Neighbourhood Services developed an assessment methodology working with multiple partners including Bernelseigh Homes and the police. This enabled the team to prioritise high risk areas and respond in a timely way therefore preventing any deterioration of issues at early stage. This approach has resulted in:

- Support provision to over 200 households who were affected by anti-social behaviour during 2020 and early 2021.
- Achievement of 80% positive outcomes when closing cases for victims of antisocial behaviour.
- Over 300 cases dealt with up to December 2020 by the Safer Neighbourhood Services high demand hub (police team) and over 200 cases closed as successfully resolved.
- Continued emphasis on problem solving approaches to tackle the most abiding anti-social behaviour locational problems across the borough with more than 100 active Problem Oriented Plans in place per quarter throughout the period.
- The consolidation of the CCTV infrastructure across Barnsley to include improved offer in the Town Centre and coverage extended to include most of Barnsley's Principal Towns and villages.
- Ensuring those who were rough sleeping or threatened with homelessness in our borough to be appropriately accommodated to minimise risk to themselves and others while keeping the town centre as safe during the lock down.

It's important to note that some of the challenges presented by the pandemic have included reduced and restricted access to the courts. This has impacted on the ability to escalate interventions to deal with some individuals and offences in a timely way. The majority of anti-social behaviour can be resolved at an early stage with the right intervention; however, some issues can equally become often entrenched and prolonged requiring the courts intervention. The restriction of court availability has unfortunately resulted in unexpected challenges in respect of addressing some of our more enduring problems.



Tackling Environmental Crime with the help of technology and the public

New CCTV Capability in our Principal Towns (Above Hoyland Town Centre)

Last year we said we would be committed to: *'Develop and improve our analytical capabilities across the partnership to be better informed in achieving our aim of tackling anti-social behaviour.'*

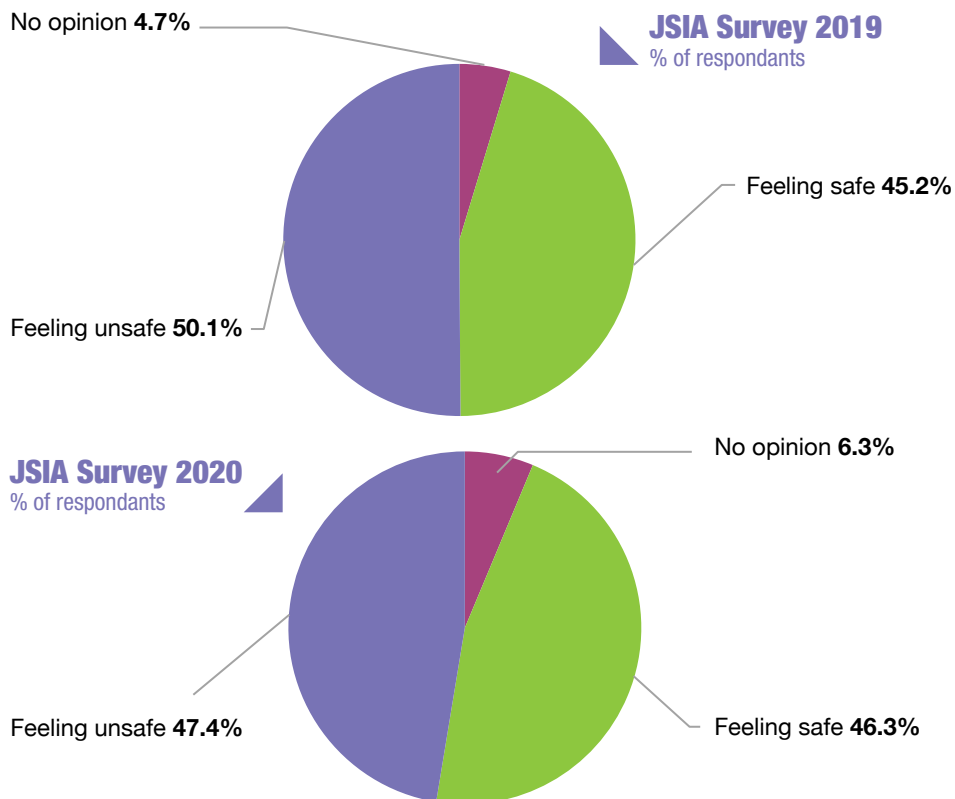
We have continued to develop the Threat Harm and Risk (THRIVE) and 'Tactical Tasking' models of analysis working with partners to manage risk of anti-social behaviour from an early point. To strengthen our work the council have also added to their business intelligence capacity function. This is helping the team to carry out targeted planning and response in respect of potential anti-social behaviours.

Responses to the social impacts of COVID have also necessitated the development of a community intelligence element to planning COVID specific response activity which often corresponds with community reporting of concerns about anti-social behaviour.



Last year we said we would be committed to: 'Continue to work towards improving perceptions of safety in our town centre and other principal towns to help build tolerant and respectful communities.'

We have developed a communications plan to improve perceptions of safety across the borough. The plan will help us to focus on issues that generates the greatest concern and to develop communications that provide accurate information early on to the public. Using various social media platforms we have shared the positive outcomes and updated the community on the work we are doing. Perception of safety in the community is improving in spite of the impact on teams capacity due to the pandemic. The Berneslai Homes 'Star Survey' of tenants and the JSIA Public consultation have registered positive responses in relation to perceptions of safety. See pie charts below.



There is improvement in perception of safety in the town centre.

4.3.4. PROMOTING COMMUNITY TOLERANCE AND RESPECT SUB-GROUP:

This group focussed on meeting the following outcome: **Communities are safer, cohesive and more resilient.**

A picture of our achievements

Last year we said we would:

- 1). Improving our service delivery to the public by developing our understanding of the make-up and needs of our communities.
- 2). Increasing our engagement with the 'hard to reach' communities to build trust and confidence in service providers.
- 3). Increasing the delivery of hate crime-related training to key stakeholders.
- 4). Increasing the provision of 'Safe Places' and third-party reporting centres.
- 5). Providing an early intervention approach to raising awareness amongst young people of hate crime and its impact.

We have participated in a research project called 'Communities Up Close', which focusses on communities that have seen high levels of new migration. The project engaged with both long-standing residents and new arrivals into that community. This was to understand how each felt that their communities and lives have been impacted on. The report produced have been shared within the group and are currently being used to guide our activities to improve community cohesion and integration. Further information about the project can be found here: [Migration Yorkshire.org.uk](https://migration.yorkshire.org.uk)

We have supported training and engagement sessions to be delivered for groups such as the 'Refugee Council' and a 'Mencap Support Group'. Engagement with the 'Visually Impaired Group' and the wider Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic(BAME) and Disability Forums is planned for the next period within the limitation of the lock down rules. Virtual engagement has been continuing offering a route to report hate crime early.

We have been working in partnership with the Barnsley Council Communications Team to strengthen key messages going out to local communities to increase broader understanding of how to access local services and support through the pandemic period.

We have increased the number of places in Barnsley where vulnerable people can ask for help when feeling unsafe away from home. Three 'Safe Places' sites added in the last year are:

- Café in Birdwell.
- Mencap in the Town Centre.
- Barnsley main Police Station.

There is a 'Third Party Reporting Centre' added at the Refugee Council and updated training delivered to library supervisors. Promotion of the Safe Places scheme has continued with an open-air stall in Barnsley Town Centre each week throughout August month.

We have worked to extend the 'Mini-Police' scheme. This is an introduction to the positive experience of policing and working with communities. Two schools in Barnsley have taken part, Bank End School in Worsbrough and Milefield School in Grimethorpe with their Year five children. The objective of this scheme has been to equip a group of students to pass on their learning to other children. This training has also been extended to Year Three groups at the Thurnscoe Primary School.

The council's 'Prevent and Cohesion Officer' will be working towards delivering a young person's mentoring scheme that will provide tailored support to those who may be at risk of becoming disconnected with the society.

Case study: Raising awareness on reporting hate crimes.

The Barnsley Refugee Council contacted the Hate Crime co-ordinator following the assault of one of their clients. The assault was dealt with by Police and was not racially motivated but had caused considerable fear amongst service users. The co-ordinator offered to deliver hate crime training to service users which was attended by approximately twenty residents. Service users consisted of individuals from various countries such as Senegal, Iraq and Romania. The training session enabled the service users to proactively engage and ask questions, dispel myths, provide reassurance and guidance on how to report incidents. Service users reported the training to be a success in raising awareness.

Case study: Working in partnership with Refugee Council

Hate Crime training was offered to the new Town Centre wardens by South Yorkshire Police Hate crime co-ordinator via Microsoft Teams in August 2020. One of the wardens had been subject to racial abuse and was able to relate their experiences of what had happened. This led to partners to explore the development of a third party reporting centre through the Refugee Council, which is a local centre for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants as well as women's groups. Further training has been delivered to staff and volunteer at the local centre.



5 BARNSELY JOINT STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT (JSIA) AND OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2021-22

The JSIA is an annual review of data from the police, council and partner agencies which identifies existing and any emerging issues within the borough. The production of the JSIA involves a comprehensive analysis of information and feedback from the public about their views on :

- What is important to them in respect of community safety.
- What would they view as key priorities for the next period.

Responses to our Public Consultation survey continues to increase year on year. There was a 7.4% increase in 2020 compared with the previous year.

The majority of the respondents (95.8%) live in Barnsley of which (4.6%) were residents who had served or are currently serving in Armed Forces.

Analysis of crime data suggests that there has been an overall reduction noted in environmental crimes themes such as criminal damage, arson, and deliberate fires during 2020 period.

There is an increasing awareness of crime types including cyber-enabled offences within the community. Further conclusion drawn suggests that:

- Multi-agency approaches to tackling crime is having a positive impact on vulnerable people's lives.
- Promoting awareness of the wide range of crime types is an integral part of our activities to ensure early intervention and prevention.

Overall the public opinion on key areas of priority has not changed as compared with the last period.

Findings from the JSIA proposes priorities to the relevant partners agencies, with the aim of ensuring that we all work together effectively to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, protect vulnerable people and promote community tolerance and respect. Action to deliver against the priorities are undertaken by the partnership's four sub-groups.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2021-2022

Priority themes set out below were identified last year and these have not changed for the next period. We will be focussing our resources into wider areas in parallel to the priority themes below to ensure our residents continue to be resilient, stronger and safe from harm.

Acquisitive crime

Acquisitive crime is where the offender has a material gain from the offence, for example theft, burglary and robbery offences. It is recognised that these offences have a harmful impact on both individuals as well as businesses; therefore it is a high priority.

Environmental crime

Environmental crime includes fly-tipping, graffiti, arson, littering, noise complaints and dog fouling. Barnsley Council's '#EverybodyThink' campaign raises awareness about disposing of rubbish responsibly and the "Love Where You Live" campaign seeks to increase pride in our borough and its communities. We will continue to pursue the reduction in harm to our beautiful borough.

Substance misuse and Drug Offences

Substance abuse and drug dealing are a high priority because of the harm and impact this has on the individuals, organisations and our community. Within Barnsley, there is an integrated substance misuse service which supports people with drug and alcohol problems. There are also a number of schemes in place to help with alcohol misuse in Barnsley, including the Best Bar None initiative, incorporating licensed premises in the town centre. Barnsley also has a Public Space Protection Order, which forbids drinking in the street and around the town centre.

Vulnerability and Safeguarding

There is support available across Barnsley, where we have a variety of specialist teams ready to listen, support and provide advice on the steps you can take to get out of an abusive situation. The "Speak Up" campaign raises awareness of domestic abuse. If you'd like to speak to someone, call the domestic abuse charity IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services) on 03000 110110. There will always be someone ready to listen.

The council is working in partnership with IDAS to launch another new campaign, "Speak to me", based around GP surgeries and establishes a safe environment to discuss domestic abuse, healthy relationships and reducing risk.

6 SUB-GROUPS FOR 2021 -2022

For the period 2021-2022 the Safer Barnsley Partnership strategic priorities and vision will continue to be delivered through our four sub-groups which are:

- Tackling Crime and Violence Reduction Unit.
- Protecting Vulnerable People.
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Promoting Community Tolerance and Respect.

The four sub-groups' actions continue to promote a holistic and multi-agency approach with a clear focus on harm reduction and prevention. This approach is important because, for example, the harm caused by substance misuse and drug dealing has far reaching consequences. There are also significant implications for health and wellbeing in respect of the individual, families and the wider community, all of which have to be taken into account with equal importance.

6.1 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY IN 2021



Working together across the partnerships remains an important aspect of our ambition. The Safer Barnsley Partnership is one part of a wider partnership that aims to make Barnsley a great place to live. The diagram in section 9, illustrates this.

During 2021 the partnership will undertake a much broader campaign of public consultation in respect of its Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment process. This will create wider opportunities to inform our priority setting work for the community. *Our engagement with the community will be within the limitations of any restrictions that may exist to safeguard the public from the impact of the current pandemic.*



7 KEY OUTCOMES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2021-2022

With the exception of child abuse and child sexual exploitation, all priority areas identified within the JSIA will be tackled by each of the four sub-groups as set out for the year 2021-2022. Child abuse and child sexual exploitation are already key priorities for the Barnsley Safeguarding Children's Board. Crime sub-group will undertake the monitoring and reporting of delivery against our Violence Reduction action plan.

The Safer Barnsley Partnership Board works collaboratively with other key partnerships such as the 'Children Trust Executive Board', 'Stronger Communities Partnership Board' and both the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards. This arrangement is reflected and facilitated by the Inter-Partnership Joint Working protocol which is reviewed annually.

7.1 KEY COMMITMENTS OF THE SUB-GROUPS

CRIME SUB-GROUP

Outcome to be achieved: Victims and Communities are protected through a partnership approach to the identification and prevention of crime and targeted offender management.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- 1). Improve and enhance our response to domestic violence by targeting offenders and offering an excellent victim's service.
- 2). Develop a robust and sophisticated community response to the threat from organised crime to lessen the harm caused working through our local Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Action plan.
- 3). Improve our engagement and further assist our communities in identifying emerging threats and issues that need a response through the crime sub group.
- 4). Increase our understanding response to the threat of child exploitation and the threat to our most vulnerable in society through "county lines.", ensuring that those who commit offences involving the exploitation of children are brought to justice.

- 5). Engage with communities and develop a proactive evidence-led response to the threat from violent weapon enabled crime with a clear focus on tackling serious organised crimes as per the VRU action plan.
- 6). Tackle those causing harm around acquisitive crime in particular burglary offences. We will take appropriate action against those that choose to both supply and take illegal drugs.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE SUB-GROUP

Outcome to be achieved: The threat, risk and harm to vulnerable people, families and communities is minimised.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- 1). Implement and manage a new contract for Barnsley's Safe Places Scheme that focuses primarily on engagement and support for people with disabilities.
- 2). Implement the substance misuse plan to facilitate a co-ordinated multi agency response to tackle alcohol and drug issues across the borough.
- 3). Complete the strategic review of substance misuse, domestic abuse and multiple needs services and present a business case for recommissioning the service.
- 4). Evidence how the local authority is leading in developing domestic abuse services as proposed in the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 to ensure victims have safe accommodation.
- 5). Continue to develop the support and accommodation pathway for people with multiple and complex needs to inform future commissioning decisions.
- 6). Improve levels of customer engagement and consultation with targeted vulnerable groups and identify community champions for BAME and Disabilities communities.
- 7). Promote mental health and suicide prevention through training, learning from suicide review panels and the impact from projects funded by the suicide prevention innovation fund.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SUB-GROUP

Outcome to be achieved: The impact of anti-social behaviour on residents and visitors to Barnsley is reduced.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- 1). Launch a new anti-social behaviour policy.
- 2). Address anti-social behaviour linked to poor housing and environmental conditions.
- 3). Broaden our support to those with the most complex needs perceived to be more involved in and responsible for anti-social behaviour.
- 4). Target physical prevention improvements to those locations most at risk.
- 5). Tackle the impacts of entrenched behaviours in the town centre and other high streets.
- 6). Make sure the right intervention to reduce the risk of young people being involved in or the victim of anti-social behaviour.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY TOLERANCE AND RESPECT SUB-GROUP

Outcome to be achieved: Communities are safer, cohesive and more resilient.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- 1). Identify, understand and recognise all of Barnsley's communities, and ensure that all have a voice which can be heard and can influence.
- 2). Strengthen existing relationships and forge new ones with seldom heard communities.
- 3). Understand the barriers to reporting hate crimes and incidents and develop and promote activities to address these barriers.
- 4). Work closely with Silver Prevent to monitor, respond and address all extremism in Barnsley.
- 5). Promote a 'one voice' ethos across all partners and provide a united and consistent response to negative media/social media. We will ensure that good news is celebrated, factual information is provided and myths are dispelled.
- 6). Establish and roll out a comprehensive training programme to raise awareness of and address hate crime, extremism and community tensions.
- 7). Develop a robust communications plan across all partners which will support all the above areas of work.

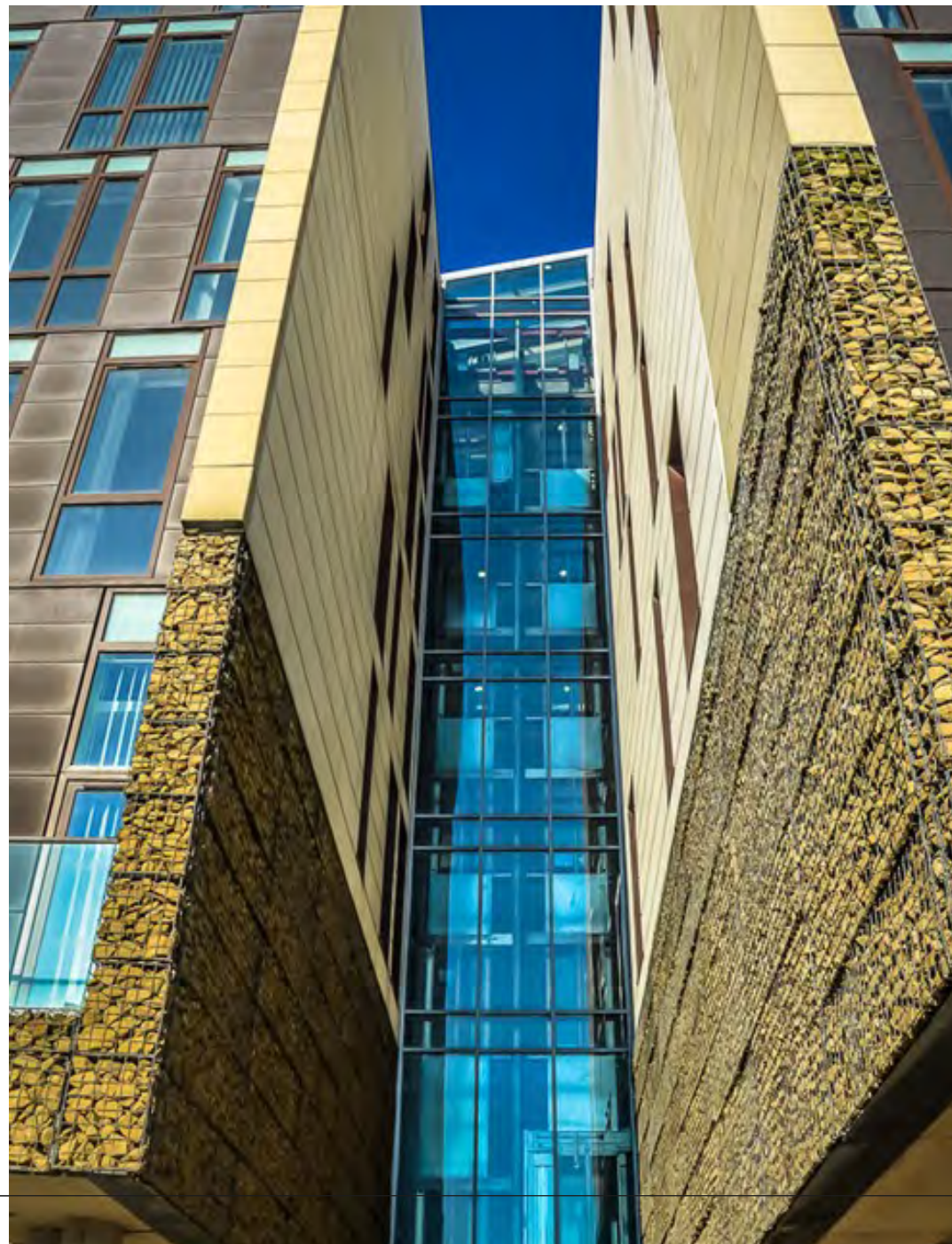


8 RIGHT SUPPORT, RIGHT TIME AND AT THE RIGHT PLACE

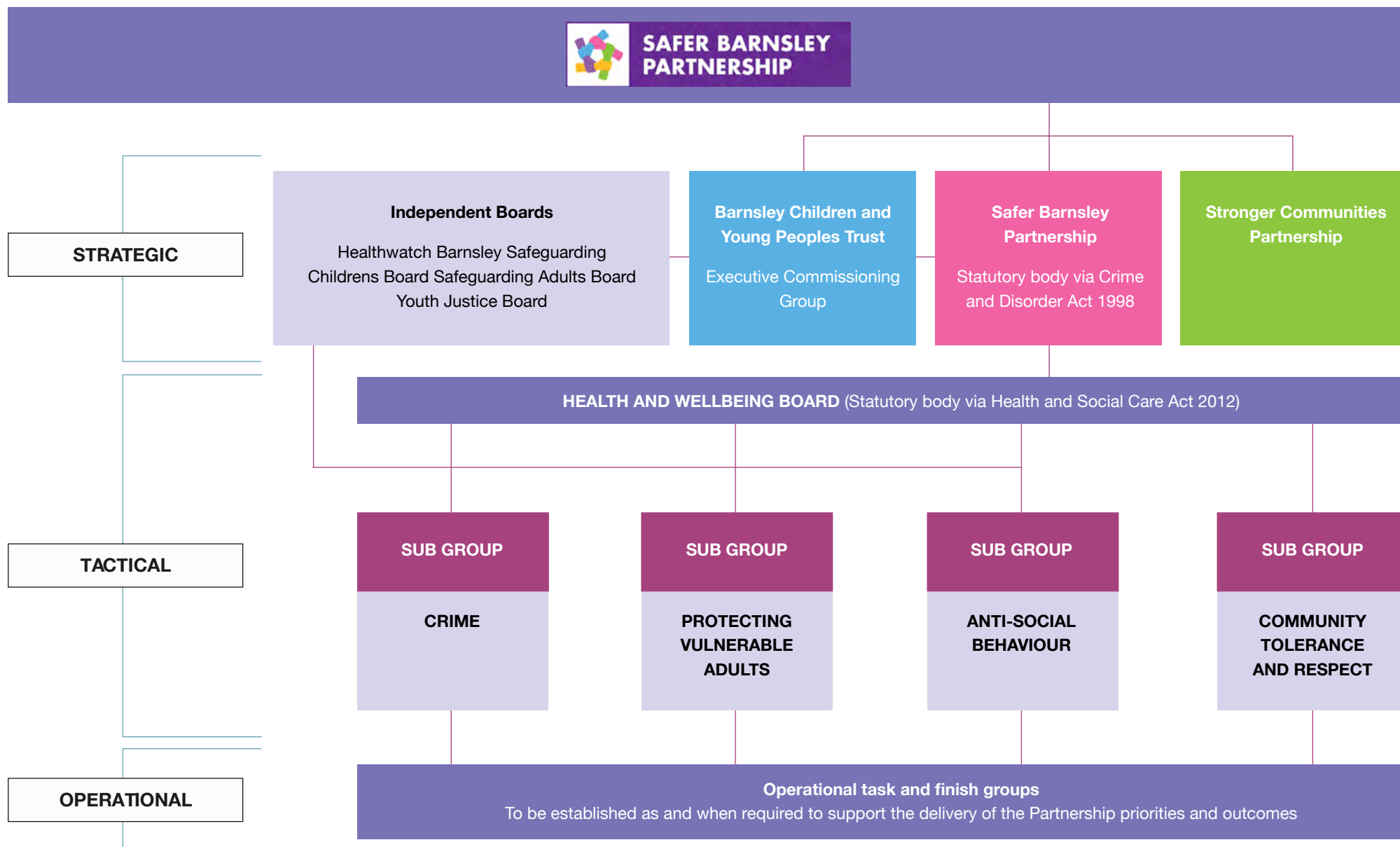
The Safer Barnsley Partnership Board is one part of a wider partnership that aims to make Barnsley a great place to live, work, invest and visit.

This partnership links closely with the Stronger Communities Partnership Board and Safeguarding Boards. This close relationship enhances an integrated approach in supporting vulnerable people. In doing so, it helps partners to focus on enabling early help for adults, young people and families therefore making our communities safer, stronger and resilient.

Actions are taken across many partnerships and its sub-groups. The Safer Barnsley Partnership Board ensures that progress and key issues linked to community safety are reported into the Safer Barnsley Partnership Board. This approach is assured through the 'Inter-Partnership Joint Working Protocol' which ensures the Stronger Communities, Safeguarding Boards and the TEG work closely to support people holistically.



9 MONITORING THE DELIVERY OF OUR PLAN



10 DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES

The Safer Barnsley Partnership has overall responsibility for making sure that we deliver the priorities set out in this plan. Helping people to be safe in the community and protected from harm is everyone's responsibility. Working together with various organisations and community groups will help deliver against our priorities.

Key officers will be responsible to deliver against commitments made in this plan in the period 2021 - 2022. The results of their actions will be monitored and supported through a performance and development group. The focus will be to demonstrate how the community is benefiting from our actions.

11 REVIEW

This partnership plan covers the period 2021-2022 and will be reviewed annually to ensure any emerging trends from the JSIA are factored into future years' delivery.



12 PLAN ON A PAGE



STRATEGIC VISION

Our strategic vision for Barnsley people and communities is to be:

- Safe.
- Able to contribute to community life.
- Able to take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2021 AND 30 MARCH 2022

Our main priorities for this period, as recommended by the JSIA findings are:

- Acquisitive Crime
- Substance Misuse and Drug Offences
- Environmental Crime
- Vulnerability and Safeguarding

DELIVERING AGAINST THE PRIORITIES

Our priorities will be delivered by four sub-groups, which are:

- Crime
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Promoting Community Tolerance and Respect

OUTCOMES TO BE ACHIEVED BY EACH SUB-GROUP

Each sub-group will achieve the following outcomes by the year end:

- **Crime** - "Victims and communities are protected through a partnership approach to the identification and prevention of crime and targeted offender management".
- **Protecting Vulnerable People** - "The threat, harm and risk to vulnerable people, families and communities are minimised".
- **Anti-social Behaviour** - "The impact of anti-social behaviour on residents and visitors to Barnsley is reduced".
- **Promoting Community Tolerance and Respect** - "Communities are safer, cohesive and more resilient".

HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We will measure our achievements through key performance indicators and case studies that demonstrate:

- The impact of joined-up approach with all our partners.
- That the person in need is placed at the centre of their support planning process.
- An increase in user satisfaction with the support they have received.
- A reduction in the level of crime and anti-social behaviour compared to previous periods.



SAFER BARNSLEY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN

1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022

CONTACTING US

If you need help understanding this document e-mail us at: safer@barnsley.gov.uk

If you need to report instances of anti-social behaviour or crime call **101** or **999** in an emergency.

If you need to report environmental crime such as graffiti, fly tipping, or un-authorised encampments visit: www.barnsley.gov.uk/tell-us-about-it



**SAFER BARNSLEY
PARTNERSHIP**