

**Meeting of the Housing and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday, 10th June, 2021 at 6.00pm
In the Council Chamber at the Council House, Priory Road,
Dudley**

**Agenda - Public Session
(Meeting open to the public and press)**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. Public Forum
5. Annual Scrutiny Programme 2021/22 (Pages 1 – 5)
6. Housing White Paper (Tenants Charter) (Pages 6 – 9)
7. Overview of Safe and Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) and Focus on Community Cohesion Strategic Group (Pages 10 - 18)
8. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).





Chief Executive

Dated: 2nd June, 2021

Distribution:

Councillor I Bevan (Chair)

Councillor S Henley (Vice-Chair)

Councillors K Ahmed, A Aston, D Borley, J Clinton, A Davies, A Finch, P Sahota, S Saleem, D Stanley, W Sullivan and T Westwood

Cc: Councillor K Shakespeare (Cabinet Member for Public Realm)

Councillor L Taylor (Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Services)

Please note the following concerning meetings at Dudley Council House:

Covid-19 Secure Working

Hands

- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations in the Council House. Please ensure you sanitise your hands when arriving and leaving the building. Hand washing facilities are also available on site.

Face

- All persons entering or working in the Council House must wear face masks when moving around the building. Please remember to bring and use your own face masks. Face masks may be safely removed when you are seated in the meeting.

Space

- Seating in the meeting rooms is arranged to allow for safe distancing. You must only use the designated seating. Remember to maintain safe distancing at all times during your visit.
- Seating in the public gallery is currently restricted and will be allocated on a 'first come' basis.
- All persons must observe the signage in place throughout the Council House to ensure safety.

If you are unwell

- Do not attend the Council House if you feel unwell; if you have tested positive for Covid-19; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.



- You are advised to undertake a lateral flow test 48 hours before attending. If the test is positive, do not attend the meeting.

Toilets

- Toilet facilities are available on site and are subject to the Covid-19 secure measures that are in place. All the toilets have hand washing facilities.

No smoking

- There is no smoking on the Council House premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on the premises. You cannot use e-cigarettes and/or similar vaping devices.

In Case of Emergency

- In the event of the alarms sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

Submitting Apologies for Absence

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below). Members wishing to appoint a substitute should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. Any substitute Members must be eligible to serve on the meeting in question (for example, he/she must have received the training required by the Council).

Private and Confidential Information

- Any agendas containing reports with 'exempt' information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be handed to Democratic Services for secure disposal. If you choose to retain the documents you should ensure that the information is securely stored and destroyed within six months.

General

- Public Wi-Fi is available in the Council House.
- The use of mobile devices or electronic facilities is permitted for the purposes of recording/reporting during the public session of the meeting. The use of any such devices must not disrupt the meeting – Please turn off any ringtones or set your devices to silent.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk

If you need advice or assistance

- If you (or anyone you know) requires assistance to access the venue, or if you have any other queries, please contact Democratic Services - Telephone 01384 815238 or E-mail Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk



Meeting of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee – 10th June, 2021

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance

Annual Scrutiny Programme 2021/22

Purpose

1. To consider items to be included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for detailed consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended:-
 - that the items to be scrutinised by this Committee, as contained in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2021/22, be noted.
 - that the Committee confirm the programme of business as outlined in paragraph 5 of this report, subject to the need for flexibility to reflect any changes that might arise during the municipal year.
 - that the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements to enable this Committee to undertake its programme of scrutiny work during the 2021/22 municipal year.
 - That the terms of reference for the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the Appendix to the report submitted, be noted.

Background

3. The terms of reference specific to this Committee are set out in the Appendix attached to the report submitted. Meetings of this Scrutiny Committee have been scheduled during 2021/22 to carry out scrutiny reviews and consider any other items of business during the municipal year. All Scrutiny Committees will also undertake detailed scrutiny of the Council's revenue budget proposals in November.

4. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs met on 27th May, 2021 to give consideration to items for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Plan.
5. Following consultation, the items listed below are proposed for consideration by this Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22, at the programmed meetings:
 - Thursday 10th June, 2021
Annual Scrutiny Programme 2021/22
 - Housing White Paper
 - End of year update from the Safety Partnership and Community Cohesion Group

 - Wednesday 22nd September, 2021
Use of Glyphosate Weed Killer
 - Housing Board/Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (DFTRA) and tenant participation
 - Draft Annual Housing report

 - Thursday 18th November, 2021
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Review of Housing
Highways Maintenance (to include information on potholes and general condition of roads)

 - Thursday 27th January, 2022
Safe and Sound (Dudley Community Safety Partnership)

 - Wednesday 30th March, 2022
Black Country Transport Hub Collaboration Agreement
Waste Strategy
6. The Committee is requested to consider the proposed programme of business as outlined above taking account of the need for flexibility due to changing circumstances and any issues that might arise during the municipal year.
7. Subject to the views of the Committee at this meeting, the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will make the necessary practical arrangements for the Committee to conduct its agreed programme of work during 2021/22.
8. The Committee has the discretion to establish Working Groups at the first meeting of the municipal year or during the year to meet on an 'ad hoc' basis if this becomes necessary during. Where Working Group(s) are appointed consideration also be given to composition of membership.
9. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny). The associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained

within Part 4 of the Constitution which also contains the terms of reference for the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. These terms of reference are attached as an Appendix to this report.

Finance

10. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

11. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

Risk Management

12. There are no risks identified arising from this report. The Council is committed to adopting best practice in its management of risk. It aims to ensure risk is maintained at an acceptable level in order to maximise opportunities and demonstrate that it has given full consideration of the implications of risk to the delivery and achievement of its outcomes, strategic aims and priorities.

Equality Impact

13. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

14. The issues referred to in this report are administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required.

Commercial/Procurement

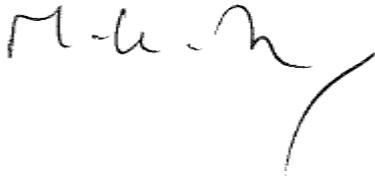
15. This report has no impact on the Council's potential to commercially trade. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported at the relevant Committee meeting.

Council Priorities

16. Dudley operates a One Council ethos to build an effective and dynamic organisation aligned to its three core priorities to grow the economy and create jobs; create a cleaner and greener place and support stronger and safer communities.



17. Items within the Annual Scrutiny Programme and the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee would contribute to the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.



Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance

Contact Officer: Karen Griffiths
Telephone No. 01384 818219
Email – karen.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Terms of reference

List of Background Documents

The Council's Constitution

Meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Reports and Minutes

HOUSING AND PUBLIC REALM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership

13 Councillors

Terms of Reference

In accordance with the Annual Scrutiny Programme and any statutory requirements:-

(a) To undertake overview and scrutiny and contribute to policy development relating to the functions of the following Directorates and the appropriate Cabinet Member(s):

- Housing and Community Services
- Public Realm

(b) To undertake scrutiny investigations/inquiries as required.

To undertake overview and scrutiny functions associated with the strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Safe and Sound).

To consider and determine any items that are called in for scrutiny in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.

To submit reports and recommendations to the relevant decision taker(s).

Meeting of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Director of Housing and Community Services

Housing White Paper (Tenants Charter)

Purpose

1. The Housing White paper brings about a change in the relationship between the Regulator of Social Housing, social landlords and tenants. It will develop into important legislation that incorporates the learning from the Grenfell fire tragedy and the last 5 years of regulatory approach.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended:-
 - That the contents of the report is noted
 - That a further report is brought back to the Committee once the white paper moves through Parliament into legislation

Background

3. Social and Affordable Housing is regulated across sectors (Councils, housing associations, TMO`s and ALMO`s) by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). There is also a specific Housing Ombudsman that also covers all those sectors.
4. The Regulator sets two main form of standards for such landlords
 - The Economic standard, which covers governance, finance, viability, and risk
 - The Consumer standard, the centre piece of which is strong intervention powers if there is “serious detriment” to tenants. It includes standards for Homes, tenancies, neighbourhood and community, and tenant involvement and empowerment.
5. Councils have been regulated by the RSH consumer standard since 2015, and by the economic standard since April 2020. The regulator takes a risk based and proportionate approach which routinely requires monthly, quarterly, and annual returns

from landlords. The Regulator can then determine which landlords are part of its annual In-Depth Assessments, which is an onsite and detailed review against its standards.

6. In November 2020, the Government launched the White Paper on social housing The Paper, which has been informed by a process of consultation and engagement with social housing residents following the fire at Grenfell Tower, sets out a range of measures with the aim of rebalancing the relationship between social landlords – both local authorities and housing associations – and tenants.
7. While much of the responsibility for delivering the expectations set out in the White Paper rests with social landlords, its implementation will be underpinned by a strengthened consumer regulation regime that will be carried out by the RSH. That regime will build on existing reactive consumer regulation role and standards, which all social landlords, including local authorities, are currently subject to, and includes health and safety responsibilities.
8. The White Paper sets out clear expectations that social tenants should be able to expect good quality homes and services, whoever their landlord is. The new remit, once implemented, will be proactive and involve regular regulatory engagement between RSH and local authorities with housing stock (including those with ALMOs and/or TMOs), as well as between the RSH and private registered providers (housing associations).
9. As the Government develop the new social housing consumer regulation regime, it considers that it must pass three tests for it to be successful:
 1. It must make a meaningful difference to tenants
 2. It must be deliverable by landlords, whether housing association or local authority landlords
 3. RSH must be able to regulate it effectively
10. To implement the changes, RSH will focus on the following broad areas:
 - Changes needed to the consumer standards that all social landlords will be required to meet
 - The proactive consumer regulation activity (including, for example, a programme of inspections as outlined in the White Paper) through which they will monitor and assess whether those standards are being met; and
 - agreeing a set of tenant satisfaction measures that will both inform regulation and help tenants hold their landlords to account.
11. By far the most important of these areas are the standards. The RSH need to have the right standards in place to get the right outcomes for tenants and allow them to act when these outcomes are not being delivered. Proactive consumer regulation and tenant satisfaction measures will be important supporting tools to help deliver those outcomes and support assurance to ensure that the standards are being met.

12. It will take time to carry out all the changes that will be needed including changes to legislation. During that time the Government is consulting with stakeholders, including local authorities and tenants, to make sure that social housing consumer regulation is fit for purpose and complements the economic regulation work. In the case of local authorities, RSH economic regulation work applies in respect of rent regulation. It is collecting rents data for 2020/21 and is consulting the LGA on how it will follow up proportionately to gain assurance of compliance where there is evidence that there may be an issue.
13. However, changes to regulation are only part of the picture. The outcomes set out by the White Paper's charter are about the relationship between landlord and tenant, and how landlords can work with their tenants more effectively. While full implementation of the proactive consumer regulation regime will take time, all landlords can act now to start delivering those outcomes. The White Paper sets a clear direction of travel and we can consider what steps we can take now to follow it. The existing consumer and economic standards continue to apply as the White Paper goes through Parliament.

Finance

14. There are no specific financial implications as the HRA and general fund budgets for 21/22 have been set with awareness of the white paper.

Law

15. There are no specific implications at this stage, but it is clear legislation will be strengthened for landlord regulator, particularly in tenant safety.

Risk Management

16. There are no material implications. Housing and Community monitor monthly compliance with the consumer standards and compete regulatory returns. No serious detriment has been identified in the service areas.

Equality Impact

17. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as Legislation is developed. The proposed changes may have positive impacts on all out tenants. However, we will make specific assessments of
 - i. Low income households, including those with disabilities and responsibilities for childcare
 - ii. Lone parents and small families
 - iii. People with disability needs who may require extra health and safety support
 - iv. "hard to reach" community sectors to ensure they can participate

18. The proposals will need to be considered in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 which places positive duties on the Council not just to eliminate such discrimination, but also to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between groups.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

19. The budget and service plans for 21/22 include the re-organising of services and increased resources particularly for neighbourhood management and ASB, health and safety and regulation.

Commercial/Procurement

20. There are no specific Commercial/Procurement implications

Council Priorities

21. **Providing Excellent Services for Tenants** (Goal)
- o Ensuring efficient and effective services that provide best value for tenants (Objective)
22. **Offering High Quality Housing** (Goal)
- o Implementing a 30-year Asset Management Strategy to ensure a viable business for current and future tenants (Objective)
23. **Supporting Vulnerable People** (Goal)
- o Working in partnership with others to ensure that anti-social behaviour and appropriate joint service interventions are in place to support communities (Objective)



Paul Davies
Director of Housing and Community Services

Contact Officer: Paul Davies, Director of Housing and Community Services
Telephone: 01384 815076
Email: paul.davies@dudley.gov.uk



Meeting of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
– 10th June 2021

Report of the Director of Housing and Community Services

Overview of Safe and Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership)
and Focus on Community Cohesion Strategic Group

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Safe and Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) and more detail in respect of the work of the Community Cohesion Strategic Group.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended: -
 - that the content of the report is noted

Background

3. Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) is Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership as required in statute by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, its subsequent amendments and other relevant legislation.
4. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 -Section 17 – Amended June 2010 states that: -

“without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority 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 crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour, reduce re-offending, prevent behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and prevent the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area.”
5. The Responsible Authorities are: -
 - Dudley MBC

- West Midlands Police
 - West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
 - National Probation Service
 - Community Rehabilitation Company (Private Probation)
 - Clinical Commissioning Group
6. There is a duty to cooperate with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
 7. The Responsible Authorities also have a statutory duty to ensure that key agencies come together to work in partnership in a Community Safety Partnership.
 8. While the term “partnership” is applied to all those who sit round the table, legally, the Responsible Authorities are the only bodies or agencies under the duty to meet regulatory requirements.
 9. The Community Safety Partnership’s statutory requirements include: -
 - To do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour
 - Reduce re-offending
 - Prevent behaviour adversely affecting the environment
 - Prevent the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in its area
 - Take responsibility for Domestic Homicide Review process
 - Produce an Annual Strategic Assessment
 - Hold at least one public meeting per year so that members of the public can meet senior decision makers in respect of community safety

Local Governance

10. The work of the Community Safety Partnership is directed by the Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) Strategic Board. The Board is chaired by Chief Superintendent Kim Madill.
11. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Services and the Shadow Cabinet Member are Members of the Community Safety Partnership Board together with representatives from the Responsible Authorities and Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector.
12. The work of Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) is carried out by number of sub-groups that relate to the Board’s priorities. (Appendix 1)
13. The work of safe & sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) is currently part of the Health and Wellbeing “system” to ensure a coordinated approach to the work of Boards across the Borough.
14. The Community Safety Partnership also “links” in with the work of Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership and the Youth Offending Service Management Board.



Other Arrangements

15. There are formal links to work that takes place at a regional level for example with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit, the West Midlands Wide CSP, four "Exploitation Boards" and the Regional Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group.
16. Through working in partnership safe & sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) contributes to the Borough's Vision (Forging a Future for All) in respect of building healthy and resilient communities.

Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) – Priorities

17. Priorities are identified through Dudley Borough's Strategic Assessment, Dudley: Have Your Say (Annual Public Meeting) and WMNow – online consultation Priorities for 2021/22 are: -
 1. Tackling and Reducing Violent Crime (including gang and knife related crime)
 2. Reducing Reoffending – including links to Youth Offending Service – under 18s and First Time Entrants and a focus on females who offend
 3. Reducing Victimisation (including Domestic Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda)
 4. Reducing Vulnerability – (including Substance Misuse, Mental Health, Modern Slavery, Prevent, Hate Crime)
 5. Reducing Burglaries (links to organised car crime)
 6. Anti-Social Behaviour – (Including the development of a place-based approach to ASB and other "issues")
18. Each sub-group will take into account on-line risks and harms and disproportionality in their action plans.
19. In conjunction with the above priorities there will also be a focus on the West Midlands Police High Impact Areas. For Dudley Borough these areas are "Dudley Central" and Brierley Hill. High Impact Areas are identified by overlaying data including crime and deprivation.

Community Cohesion Strategic Group

20. The Community Cohesion Strategic Group undertakes some of the work relating to the Reducing Vulnerability priority.
21. The Community Cohesion Strategic Group (CCSG) is chaired on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership by the Director of Housing and Community Services. It is a multi-agency group. The purpose of the CCSG is: -
 - To support and promote community cohesion by ensuring that partners come together, share information and direct resources as appropriate.
 - To understand local community dynamics and identify potential or actual tensions
 - To support or coordinate effective responses to these tensions as appropriate



- To minimise the potential negative effects of tensions and hate crime, prevent escalation, and reduce conflict.
- To understand issues relating to hate crime, modern slavery, the prevent agenda and issues relating to gang activity within the Borough and support prevention and intervention work as required
- To implement the community cohesion communications strategy as required

22. Work is taken forward through an action plan and standing agenda items. These agenda items include:-

23. **Community Cohesion**

Tensions are currently assessed to be low level on the tension monitoring report for the Borough.

The tension monitoring form continues to be promoted via various routes so that Partners are aware of issues within the Borough and can respond accordingly

Work within Lye continues with issues being addressed via the multi-agency working group. (Wider Lye – Community Cohesion, Health and Engagement Group)

24. **Hate Crime**

Work has taken place across the Borough to promote the reporting of Hate Crime in response to regional and national increases because of COVID-19. Specific communications have been sent through social media accounts and Hate Crime has been highlighted in our Working together campaign as outlined above.

Additional work took place during Hate Crime Week, including additional communications, a briefing note being sent to educational settings and other partners promoting various resources and training, a ‘virtual’ 3rd party reporting centre tea party and work undertaken by police partnership team with bus and train stations.

A small pilot has commenced in respect of schools reporting numbers of hate crimes / incidents into the LA, to enable us to identify any trends.

Communication continues to take place with 3rd party reporting centres, including an opportunity for them to request support on a quarterly basis through a returns document.

25. **Modern Slavery**

The DMBC Modern Slavery Statement has been updated, signed off by Leader of the Council, Shadow Leader and the Chief Executive and it has been uploaded to the DMBC website.

Due to COVID-19 “face to face” Modern Slavery training across the Borough was postponed. However, National Referral Mechanism training took place virtually with DMBC ‘champions’ on 24.04.20 - this is now being rolled out to identified staff, in addition the basic awareness course is now available as an e’learning package via Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership for both DMBC and multiagency staff.



Work continues to take place with partners to identify victims / concerns and respond as appropriate. A 'protocol' has been developed in respect of new cases to be used to ensure that partners are being involved as appropriate and know what their response should be in respect of first responder organisations and non-first responder organisations. This was shared at CCSG in October and has been ratified following partners consideration and agreement.

Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and the types of exploitation that fall under this banner have been included in the Local Authority's new Liquid Logic recording system that will be used by both Children and Adults Services. This will enable us to collect data going forward and identify any trends and subsequent work streams.

A briefing note has been developed and shared with unregulated accommodation providers and private sector housing to highlight the signs of modern slavery, how to report concerns and signpost them to the available training.

26. Preventing Extremism

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Government Guidance sets out that specified authorities should work in partnership to agree risk and coordinate activity. Work is taken forward through Dudley's Prevent Delivery Group in respect of planning and delivering partnership activity and through Dudley's Channel Panel in respect of safeguarding individuals who are at risk of being drawn into radicalisation. (Dudley MBC has the Statutory Duty to Chair Dudley's Channel Panel).

Dudley is not a Prevent Priority Area; however, Right Wing ideologies are of most concern for Dudley Borough.

Counter Terrorism Policing have launched a new website www.actearly.uk to encourage family and friends to share concerns, that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation. This has been promoted via social media and at a number of Forums.

The aim of the website is to: -

- Increase awareness of where to go for further information and support
- Increase awareness of the signs of radicalisation
- Increase understanding of and confidence in the Prevent referral process
- Encouraging referrals from concerned family and friends at an early stage
- Highlighting the police safeguarding role in Prevent

Other information can be found on the safe & sound website, including how to make a referral <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org> in the Prevent Help hub

27. Impact and Outcomes CCSG work in 2020/21



Standing agenda items of the group include Tension Monitoring and Hate Crime Data, this enables the group to identify and respond appropriately to any concerns or issues across the borough in relation to tensions or trends in hate crime.

Standing agenda items of the group also include Prevent and Channel Panel, through this the group get assurance that work in respect of radicalisation is taking place and that we are working together to protect our communities. Work that takes place through Channel Panel helps to safeguard individuals and keep our communities safe from harm.

Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership are now hosting a multiagency basic awareness eLearning courses in respect of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and Hate Crime which will ensure that professionals across the Borough are aware of these issues and where to report concerns / signpost / support victims.

Communications took place throughout the year around the above topics in the safe and sound communications plan - this ensures that members of the community are aware of these issues and where to report concerns / signpost victims, thus offering reassurance to the wider community and offering support to those who may need it.

The work of the Group increases reassurance in communities that tensions are dealt with in a timely manner. It also allows people to know what behaviour constitutes a hate crime and how to report incidents (in a variety of ways) and access support if required. This in turn builds on the resilience of our communities and increases their ability to shape their own future without living in fear of abuse.

The Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking work stream increases the safety of potential victims and their families within the borough, it allows individuals themselves or members of the wider community to know how and where to report if they are experiencing, have witnessed or have concerns around any form of exploitation. It also enables victims to access support, thus improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals who have been exploited.

28. Looking Ahead/Moving Forward

- Refresher training is planned for 3rd Party Reporting Centres post COVID19
- Local Football Clubs have been contacted to ask if they would become 3rd Party Reporting Centres
- Modern Slavery and Prevent Training will be re-scheduled.
- Some work relating to our response to the needs and perceptions of communities within the Borough, including new and emerging communities had been put on hold due to COVID-19. Work is now included in the 2021/22 action plan
- The Group will consider any workstreams required going forward in relation to COVID-19.
- Communications and campaigns will continue as a matter of course.



Finance

29 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Law

30. Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) must meet the requirements set out by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its subsequent amendments.

Other legislation that applies to Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) includes:-

- Police and Justice Act 2006
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse Act – 2021

Risk Management

31. There are no material risks related to this item.

Equality Impact

32. There are no equality impact implications arising directly from this report. However, there are differential impacts on individuals, families, and communities in respect of issues that the Community Safety Partnership seeks to address. This needs to be borne in mind when planning and delivering work and services

33. Communities, including young people have been consulted with to inform the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership

34. Work undertaken by the CSP will have a positive effect on children and young people who may be affected by the issues that the CSP seeks to address.

35. There are two Youth Police and Crime Commissioners on the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board. They are supported in their role through DMBC – Youth Service and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer. The Board receives updates in respect of their work and concerns of young people.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

36. Whilst this report does not have any immediate organisational development/HR or transformational implications, it is important to build the confidence of the workforce in respect of a range of issues covered in this report and relating to the "community safety" agenda.



Commercial/Procurement

37. There are no commercial or procurement implications arising directly from this report.

Council Priorities

38. The work of the Community Safety Partnership links in with the Council Plan particularly in respect of Safer and Stronger Communities

Supporting Vulnerable People (Goal)

- Working in partnership with others to ensure that anti-social behaviour and appropriate joint service interventions are in place to support communities (Objective)

39. We have a Statutory Duty to “deliver” in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.



Paul Davies
Director of Housing and Community Services

Contact Officer: Sue Haywood – Head of Community Safety
Telephone: 01384 818115
Email: sue.haywood@dudley.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) Structure Chart

For more information please visit Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) website <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org>



Safe and Sound – Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership Structure Chart – May 2021



NB: Disproportionality and on-line risks and harms are a “golden thread” addressed through all sub-groups