

**Report to Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 6th
March 2024: Nottingham Community Safety Partnership (NCSP)
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1.0 ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE NCSP

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), placing a statutory duty on a number of Responsible Authorities to co-operate in order to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder and for combating substance misuse in their area¹. The Nottingham Community Safety Partnership (formerly known as the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership) produces an annual Partnership Strategy, which performs this function and gives strategic direction to the Partnership.
- 1.2 The Police and Justice Act 2006 comprehensively revised the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and secondary legislation requires that CSPs will undertake an annual strategic assessment which not only informs a rolling three year Partnership Strategy but enables its revision before the start of each year.²
- 1.3 There are five Responsible Authorities within Nottingham Community Safety Partnership (NCSP), which are Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Police, the Probation Service, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board.
- 1.4 In addition to the Responsible Authorities, there are a number of other public bodies, who have joined the partnership on a voluntary basis. They are Nottinghamshire PCC, Nottingham City Public Health, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership, It's In Nottingham, the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and HMP Nottingham.
- 1.5 The board has an independent chair, Lord Vernon Coaker, and a vice-chair from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, Damien West. The thematic

¹ s5, s6 and s7 Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

² [Statutory Instrument 2007/1830](#)

sub-groups reporting into the board are chaired by a range of different partners.

1.6 The statutory aims of the Partnership are to:

- Reduce Crime
- Reduce Reoffending
- Reduce Substance Misuse
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

1.7 The statutory responsibilities of the partnership are:

- Strategic Assessment
- Partnership Strategy
- Reducing Reoffending Strategy
- Consultation with communities
- Information sharing
- Domestic Homicide Reviews

1.8 The partnership has three primary functions, as outlined below:

- Accountability – acts as the legal body for community safety partnership work in the Nottingham City Council area, ensuring compliance with statutory duties and addressing community safety issues.
- Governance – ensures systems and processes are in place amongst partners to deliver their duties and address issues.
- Leadership – sets priorities, determines policy and sets strategic direction. The NCSP’s leadership role also involves addressing issues and blockages that can’t be managed in other parts of the structure.

1.9 The NCSP Board also functions as the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board for Nottingham. This board is a statutory requirement as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.³ In line with the statutory guidance local domestic abuse services also sit on the board.

1.10 The Board also functions as the Combatting Drugs Partnership Board, as defined in the statutory guidance for the *From Harm to Hope* national drug strategy.⁴ Locally the arrangement will be known as the Substance Use Strategic Partnership.

1.11 In line with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Community Safety Partnership now has additional responsibilities in relation

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-strategy-guidance-for-local-delivery-partners>

to serious violence⁵. As per a local agreement made in 2021 the Violence Reduction Partnership is responsible for the production of the statutory products relating to the Serious Violence Duty and the NCSP Board provides oversight and assures itself that these duties are being carried out effectively.

2.0 PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2023-2026

- 2.1 The Nottingham Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023 to 2026 (Appendix 1) sets out the Partnership's approach to reducing crime, substance misuse, re-offending and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2 The final version of the 2023-2026 Partnership Strategy (the current three year rolling plan) was approved by the NCSP Board on 29th September 2023. The Strategy's content was developed in line with the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2022 and the priorities and targets agreed by the NCSP Board at their meeting on 5th December 2022.
- 2.3 As recommended in the 2022 Strategic Assessment, the following key priorities were agreed for the three year period 2023/24 - 2025/26:
 - Slavery & Exploitation
 - Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse
 - Preventing Radicalisation & Violent Extremism
 - Serious Violence
 - Substance Use
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
- 2.4 Hate crime will remain an area of focus for the partnership in the years to come. The governance arrangements are currently being improved and the hate crime strategy will be updated and relaunched with the support of partners from across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
- 2.5 The following cross-cutting issues, which may require strategic direction and governance by the partnership in 2023-2024, have also been identified:
 - The cost of living
 - Vulnerable adults, in particular those who do not meet the thresholds for criminal or safeguarding interventions
 - Migration and the integration of individuals into the community
 - Housing and homelessness
- 2.6 Delivery of the Partnership Strategy and associated activity is overseen by a range of sub-groups. These are listed below:

⁵https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/639b2ec3e90e072186e1803c/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf

- Slavery and Exploitation Strategic Group (to be established 2024)
- Serious Violence Strategic Group
- ASB Strategic Group (to be established 2024)
- Substance Use Strategic Partnership
- Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy Group
- Reducing Reoffending Board
- Prevent Board

3.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY:

- 3.1 Performance against the Partnership Strategy targets is closely monitored by the NCSP Performance & Intelligence Team. All crime, ASB and substance misuse figures are regularly scrutinised in order to detect changes in patterns or trends and to ensure that the partnership addresses any emerging issues.
- 3.2 Partnership performance is reported to the NCSP Board at all Board meetings (five times a year) and to subsidiary meetings as and when required.
- 3.3 The table below summarises performance against the targets contained within the strategy in the period up until the end of Dec 2023

Performance Outcomes	Performance Summary
Crime and Safety	Overall reductions are being seen in levels of victim-based crime due to the continued hard work of community safety partners.
Reoffending	Reoffending levels remain high and are increasing towards pre-covid levels. More work needs to be undertaken in addressing recidivism.
Slavery and Exploitation	Work in this area is recognised as best practice and is being replicated across other areas. This is resulting in increased caseloads as more vulnerabilities are identified and addressed.
Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse	Repeat victimisation is being reduced, whilst actions are being taken to drive up reporting levels, assess need and provide appropriate support.
Preventing Radicalisation	Actions against the prevent action plan are almost complete with future risks and mitigation identified and action planned
Serious Violence	Levels of serious violence remain consistent over the medium term, with overall improvements seen over the long term and work underway to deliver further improvements.
Substance Use	Performance is consistent; much work is underway to

	drive required improvements
Antisocial Behaviour	Long term reductions seen across the city.

4.0 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2023 – FINDINGS

- 4.1 The Strategic Assessment 2023 was presented to the NCSP Board for sign off in December 2023. A number of themes were identified, and these are summarised below:
- 4.2 The themes identified through the report can be broadly categorised in three areas; Understanding the need for services and provision to meet these needs, working together in partnership to deliver these services, and measuring the impact of service delivery on the citizens on Nottingham.
- 4.3 The recommendations for understanding need and provision are focussed on improving processes for capturing and analysing information and data to inform service delivery and measure impact. Improved data and information management will also help the completion of accurate needs assessments, and to identify capacity, capability, and efficacy of services in addressing areas such as domestic and sexual violence, substance use, reoffending and safeguarding.
- 4.4 Where gaps or weaknesses are identified, the strategic assessment makes recommendations which should assist in addressing these areas whilst building on the strong partnership working arrangements already in place. Focus should be applied to areas of Mental Health, Criminal Justice and a rapidly changing demographic landscape across the city, both in reference to changing populations and changing needs within those populations.
- 4.5 The final thematic area identifies actions that should be taken to ensure the impact of services are captured, to evidence the effectiveness and efficiency of the Community Safety Partnership in providing effective and efficient services which reduce victimisation, threat and harm to our communities.

5.0 SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES: PREVENT

- 5.1 Prevent is a key pillar of the national counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, the aim of which is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas.
- 5.2 Sec 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a general duty on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to 'have due regard

to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’. Sec 29 of the same Act confers on the Secretary of State the right to ‘issue guidance to specified authorities about the exercise of their duty under section 26’. These authorities MUST have regard to any such guidance in carrying out that duty. The effect is that Prevent Duty Guidance is largely mandatory rather than guidance.

- 5.3 The Head of Community Safety is responsible for strategic delivery of the Prevent Duty and for chairing the statutory multi agency panel for preventing radicalisation. Channel is a safeguarding function which provides contextual safeguarding and interventions for people susceptible to being radicalised.
- 5.4 The Preventing Violent Extremism Team was established in 2022 following a successful bid to the Home Office. This team is made up of two officers, a Prevent Coordinator with responsibilities for coordinating delivery against Home Office benchmarks, managing community networks and the Prevent Education Officer. The Prevent Education Officer provides Prevent support to City and County (20%) schools (80:20 respectively).
- 5.5 The Counter Terrorism Local Profile for Nottingham /Nottinghamshire published by Counter Terrorism Policing in December 2023 has highlighted the following priorities:
- Online Extremism;
 - Self-Initiated Terrorism;
 - Extreme Right Wing Terrorism;
 - Islamist (AQ/IS inspired) Terrorism;
 - Extremism in Prison/Prison Releases
- 5.6 In the first three quarters of 2023-24, the Coordinator and PEO have delivered training to 25 educational and other settings to a total of over 1700 individuals. During the same period, six Home Office funded CSO Prevent projects have been initiated and supported by the team. The majority of delivery will take place in Q4 but, to date, 6 workshops have been run with a total attendance of 268.
- 5.7 Compliance with Prevent Duty Guidance and the associated toolkit is benchmarked annually by the Home Office. Scores range from 1-5 with duty compliance at 3 and funded areas expected to be 4s or 5s. Nottingham City Council was most recently assessed in March 2023 with the following results:

	Benchmark	2022 Score	2023 Score
1	Risk Assessment	2	5
2	Multi Agency Partnership Board	3	4
3	Prevent Partnership Plan	3	4

4	Referral Pathway	3	4
5	Channel Panel	5	4
6	Prevent problem-solving process	4	5
7	Training	2	4
8	Venue Hire and IT Policies	1	3
9	Engagement activity	2	3
10	Communications	2	3

The next Benchmarking exercise will take place in early March 2024 when the numerical scoring system will be replaced by 'met/unmet/exceeded'.

6.0 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

- 6.1 The partnership went through a review process in 2023/24, which delivered a new governance and operating model. This involved a review of priorities and the creation of clear outcomes, a clear ambition and an understanding of what the 'additional value' of the partnership is and what it can bring to partner organisations and the city beyond the business as usual of the partner organisations.
- 6.2 The governance structure was amended, and strategic groups were created in relation to Serious Violence, Anti-Social Behaviour and Slavery & Exploitation. It was also agreed to move to 6 meetings a year, including one review workshop, to accommodate the governance and duty changes. Board membership was broadened out to encompass other partners, such as It's in Nottingham.
- 6.3 These changes to the way that the partnership operates have strengthened the delivery of existing duties, whilst also allowing for the effective incorporation of new duties, such as the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Duty, Serious Violence Duty and the responsibilities outlined in the '*From Harm to Hope*' national drug strategy.
- 6.4 Looking ahead to the next financial year the Partnership will need to continue to adapt and review practice and how it works in line with contractions across the public sector. Working with the new streamlined governance, with new tools in how we capture and use performance data NCSP will be shifting many functions from a universal offer to an intelligence led model in line with the resources available.