

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 7 NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT OF REPORT: CRIME AND DISORDER PROFILE

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: HOWARD POTHECARY - COMMUNITY
SAFETY MANAGER, NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL**

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members receive and consider the information presented.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 A Crime and Disorder profile for North Somerset 2016/17 has been produced by the Council's Community Safety Team which will be presented in detail at the meeting of the Panel on 7 November.
- 1.2 The profile sets out crime and disorder trends over time in North Somerset, with comparisons to other areas. The majority of the data in the profile relates to 2016/17. However, there will also be an update on crime and disorder during the first 6 months of 2017/18.
- 1.3 The information contained within the profile has been used when developing a joint Community Safety Plan for North Somerset and informs partnership work programmes, resource allocation and commissioning decisions.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (subsequently amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on a number of organisations (the Local Authority, Police Force, Probation Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group and Fire Service) to work together in a Community Safety Partnership to prevent and tackle crime and disorder. This includes specific requirements to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. The People and Communities Board fulfils the role of Community Safety Partnership in North Somerset.
- 2.2 There is also a requirement for the Community Safety Partnership and Police and Crime Commissioner to have regard for each other's priorities. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset is represented on the North Somerset People and Communities Board. There has been joint work in developing both the North

Somerset People and Communities Strategy and in developing the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plans.

- 2.3 The North Somerset People and Communities Strategy 2017-2020 under the Priority Theme 4 – *Enabling communities to thrive* includes the priorities:
- o building strong resilient communities
 - o tackling crime types and locations where there are particular concerns (and opportunities)
 - o supporting vulnerable victims
- 2.4 The North Somerset Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 identifies the following three priorities:
- o Prosperity and opportunity
 - o Health and wellbeing
 - o Quality places

Crime and Disorder impacts on each one of these. Effective partnership working to tackle crime and disorder is identified as crucial in building and sustaining 'quality places' to live and visit in North Somerset that are vibrant, accessible and safe. Community safety work programmes contribute to a range of public health outcomes including in relation to substance misuse, domestic abuse, violent crime and re-offending.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 Crime and Disorder Profile for North Somerset has been produced by the Council's Community Safety Team and this will be presented in detail at the Panel meeting.
- 3.2 The majority of data in the profile relates to the last 12 months. It includes police recorded crime data as well as other agencies' data where relevant/possible.
- 3.3 The profile provides an overview of current crime, disorder and community safety issues affecting North Somerset with comparisons to historic trends and other areas, using regional and national data.
- 3.4 Key findings set out in the profile include
- Significant changes to police crime recording practices have made comparisons of crime levels over time very difficult. HMIC concluded that an estimated 1 in 5 offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not. The greatest levels of under-recording were for violent and sexual offences.
 - North Somerset saw an 18% increase in total crime in 2016/17. However this is comparable to trends both regionally and nationally. Avon & Somerset force area saw a 14% increase and England and Wales a 10% increase. These increases need to be considered in the context of changes nationally to police recording practices.
 - Two areas of particular focus for partnership activity in the past twelve months are Worle and Villages and Weston Urban (area between Weston-super-Mare town Centre and Worle).
 - Domestic abuse crimes recorded by police have continued to rise linked not only to police crime recording changes but also that partnership agencies have an ambition to increase reporting.
 - Crime and Disorder recorded by police on Friday and Saturday evenings in the Evening and Night Time Economy (ENTE) has reduced in both of the past two years,

this is linked to the significant ongoing partnership activity to improve the town centre after dark.

- The under-reporting of hate crime is an issue nationally and Avon and Somerset Constabulary has worked hard with partners in the past two years to increase confidence in reporting. This is supported by efforts by the Constabulary to improve identification and recording of hate crime in 2016/17.

3.5 The profile enables North Somerset Council and its partner agencies to assess the impact of the challenges presented and make informed decisions on areas of focus and allocation of resources moving forward.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Information in the profile has been used to inform the development of the joint Community Safety Plan and there have been a number of consultation opportunities in relation to the draft Plan. Members of the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel have had an input to the Plan, a draft has been considered by the People and Communities Board with comments provided by a number of partner organisations. The draft Plan has also been presented to the Older People's Champions Group.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council's duties under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and the Police and Justice Act (2006) are set out in Paragraph 2.1 of this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The crime and disorder profile identifies emerging trends and risks in relation to crime and disorder. This enables the Council and its partners to develop plans and work programmes to mitigate and manage these risks.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken directly in relation to this report. The information set out in the crime and disorder profile will facilitate informed decision making.

8.2 Some communities including those with protected characteristics may experience a disproportionate impact from crime and disorder.

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Building safer and stronger communities is one of the six corporate priorities

AUTHOR

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