



**SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET
BOARD**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2024**

**MULTI-LOCATION MEETING – COUNCIL CHAMBER PORT TALBOT
AND MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES TO BE SWITCHED TO SILENT FOR THE
DURATION OF THE MEETING**

Webcasting/Hybrid Meetings:

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to be filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

Part 1

1. Appointment of Chairperson
2. Chairpersons Announcement/s
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Forward Work Programme 2023/24 (*Pages 5 - 6*)
5. Public Question Time
Questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services, democratic.services@npt.gov.uk no later than two working days prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10 minute period

For Decision:

6. Community Safety Strategic Intent (*Pages 7 - 44*)
7. Permission to Consult on the review of Commissioned Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Emergency Accommodation Services. (*Pages 45 - 84*)
8. Urgent Items
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Regulation 5(4)(b) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 (as amended).

Part 2

9. Access to Meetings - Exclusion of the Public (*Pages 85 - 90*)
To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

For Information:

10. Contractual arrangements with The Hollins (*Pages 91 - 102*)

For Decision:

11. Housing Renewal & Adaptation Service Repayment of Disabled Facility Grant Monies (*Pages 103 - 112*)
12. Review of client fees to ensure quality and sustainable assistive technology services (*Pages 113 - 166*)
13. Nomination Agreement for Private Sector Temporary Accommodation (*Pages 167 - 196*)
14. Permission to Consult on the review of Commissioned Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Emergency Accommodation Services - Appendix 1 (Exempt under paragraph 15) (*Pages 197 - 232*)

K.Jones
Chief Executive

**Civic Centre
Port Talbot**

Thursday, 25 January 2024

**Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Cabinet Board
Members:**

Councillors. J.Hale, S.Harris and A.Llewelyn

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Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Cabinet Board
(Immediately following Scrutiny Committee starting at 2pm)

| Meeting Date 2024 | Agenda Item and Type | Contact Officer |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 21st March | Responsible Individual on Hillside | Sian Coffey/Mel Weaver/Dave Tiddy |
| | Hillside Manager Report | Sian Coffey |
| | Quarterly Performance Report Quarter 3 | Dave Harding/Lynette Jones/Leighton Jones |
| | APB Service Arrangements 2024/25 Financial Plan | Claire Jones/Julia Jenkins |
| | Housing Support Grant Contract | Chele/Hayley |
| | Advocacy Contract Extension | Hayley Short |
| | PAN Peer Advocacy | Keri Warren |
| | Spot Purchase Contract | Hayley Short |
| | Family Support Services Annual Report | Keri Warren |
| | Boundary Change for Social Work Teams | Keri Warren |
| NDD Strategic Plan | Keri Warren | |
| | Appointment of Consultant on Behalf of the Western Bay Area Planning Board to carry out an Evaluation of Substance Use Service Provision for Children, Young People & Families | Julia Jenkins/Chele Howard |

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| | Policy on Financial Contributions for Temporary Accommodation' | Chele Howard |
| | Domiciliary Care Tender | Hayley Short |
| | Disabled Facilities Grant – Update | Rob Davies |
| | Participation and Engagement Annual Report | Helen Sinclair/Keri Warren |
| | Corporate Parenting Charter | Victoria Smith |
| | PAN Disability Framework | Hayley Short |

| Meeting Date 2024 | Agenda Item and Type | Contact Officer |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 18th April (10am start) | Items to be confirmed | |
| | | |
| | | |



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET BOARD

2nd February 2024

**Report of the Head of Housing & Communities –
Chelé Zandra Howard**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected - All Wards

COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC INTENT DOCUMENT

Purpose of Report

To seek endorsement of the final draft of Safer Neath Port Talbot's 'Community Safety Strategic Intent Document' for 2024-2027.

This strategic intent document outlines the key priority areas of the Safer Neath Port Talbot Community Safety Partnership Board.

Executive Summary

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998), as amended by the Police Reform Act (2002), places a statutory obligation on local authorities and the Police to form multi-agency partnerships in order to reduce crime and disorder across the local authority area.

The Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership operates a multi-agency partnership approach to community safety and crime and disorder issues.

As a partnership, we are committed to working together to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour as well as providing practical crime prevention and community safety advice and reassurance.

Safer Neath Port Talbot is made up of the following 5 responsible authorities and other partners:

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- South Wales Police
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service

In December 2022 the Board held a development day where they agreed a new set of priorities. These agreed priorities have formed the basis of a new Community Safety Strategic Intent Document for 2024-2027.

The Strategic Intent Document attached at Appendix 1 has been developed and approved by a strengthened multi-agency partnership, co-chaired by the Superintendent, Head of Community Safety & Partnerships for South Wales Police and the Strategic Manager for Partnerships & Community Cohesion, NPTCBC.

Background

Community Safety Partnerships were introduced by Section 6 of the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities.

Community Safety Partnerships provide localised strategies tailored to the needs of their communities. They work on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and anti-social

behaviour, and that effective partnership working is vital to ensuring safer communities.

The Safer Neath Port Talbot Community Safety Partnership Board is a longstanding, well established strategic Board made up of senior representatives from various local services.

Using local intelligence as well as anecdotal information from residents and partners at public engagements, the Board are able to establish issues of most concern, as well as hotspot areas across the borough.

Over the years, the nature of Community Safety has significantly changed, with advances in technology, changes to legislation, new types of crimes, and of course more recently the Covid-19 pandemic.

Taking into account the changing community safety landscape, the priorities have been carefully selected in order to reflect the continued challenges.

Our aim is to work together more efficiently and effectively, to make best use all of the resources available to us in our communities, and to build positive, strong and resilient communities where the most vulnerable are supported and protected.

In developing this strategic intent document, it ensures the Board have a clear framework and governance structure to support the work of the local Community Safety Team and its partners.

Key Priorities

The 6 key priority areas are:

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence;
- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Serious Violence;
- Substance Use;
- Acquisitive Crime;
- Community Cohesion.

Within the Strategic Intent Document it explains why each priority has been chosen, the aims and strategic intentions, as well as outcomes we want to achieve.

Financial Impacts

No implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.

An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included below in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

The overall intention and impact is positive, in respects of Equalities, Community Cohesion / Social Exclusion / Poverty / Welsh Language and Wellbeing of Future Generations. It is anticipated that the document will have an important contribution recognising that crime, disorder and serious violence or abuse can affect people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, and marital status.

Valleys Communities Impact

No implications.

Workforce Impacts

No implications.

Legal Impacts

The preparation and publication of this Strategic Intent Document will

ensure the Council discharges its statutory duty as required within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Risk Management Impacts

There is a risk of non-compliance with duties in the Act if sufficient resources are not provided to local authorities and partners to cover the costs of the associated activities.

This risk has been mitigated by ensuring work contained within the Strategic Intent Document can be delivered within existing resource, either by the Local Authority or other responsible authorities. Albeit there is a continued need to refocus how those resources are best used, and work closely with partners to explore the potential to draw in additional funding.

Other Impacts

Crime and Disorder Impacts

The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area”.

This Strategic Intent Document will assist the Council in discharging this duty.

Counter Terrorism Impacts

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a 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”.

This Strategic Intent Document will assist the Council in discharging this duty.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and

Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which —

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

This Strategic Intent Document will assist the Council in discharging this duty.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

In developing the Strategic Intent Document, various Police intelligence reports were considered, as well as anecdotal information from our residents at many community engagement events hosted by the Community Safety Team throughout 2022 and 2023. Information was also taken from the annual survey conducted with Paws on Patrol members.

All of the above information has helped to shape the Strategic Intent Document and decide on the 6 priority areas contained within it.

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Strategic Intent Document, including the 5 responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership Board, as well as all other members of the Board.

Recommendations

Having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment it is recommended that:

1. The Cabinet Board approve the content of the Strategic Intent Document;

2. The Cabinet Board give delegated authority to the authors of this report to implement and publicise the Strategic Intent Document

Reason for Proposed Decision

1. To secure compliance by the Council with the duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

1. Safer Neath Port Talbots 'Community Safety Strategic Intent Document' (2024-2027).
2. Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers

Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

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Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnerships
Strategic Intent Document
2024-2027

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Background to Community Safety Partnerships | 4 |
| Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership – Membership | 5 |
| Legislation Behind the Partnership | 6 |
| Organisation Plans | 7 |
| Understanding the Governance of the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership | 9 |
| Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership – Governance Structure | 10 |
| Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership – Priorities for 2024-2027 | 11 |
| PRIORITY 1 Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) | 12 |
| PRIORITY 2 Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour | 14 |
| PRIORITY 3 Substance Use | 16 |
| PRIORITY 4 Ensuring our communities are cohesive, and that any community tensions are reduced | 20 |
| PRIORITY 5 Serious Violence reduction: Safeguarding those at risk of Violence & Exploitation | 22 |
| PRIORITY 6 Crime Prevention/Acquisitive Crime | 26 |

Introduction

'Working in partnership to make Neath & Port Talbot a safer place to live, work and visit.'

This is the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnerships 'Strategic Intent Document' for 2024-2027.

This document outlines the priority areas of our Community Safety Partnership for the next 3 years.

Our local partnership board is a longstanding, action focused forum, committed to improving safety in all of our communities across the borough.

Over the years, the nature of Community Safety has significantly changed, with advances in technology, changes to legislation, new types of crimes, and of course more recently the Covid-19 pandemic.

In December 2022, the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership Board held a development day in order to realign their priorities, taking into account the changing community safety landscape. The priorities have been carefully selected in order to reflect the continued challenges.

Our aim is to work together more efficiently and effectively, to make best use all of the resources available to us in our communities, and to build positive, strong and resilient communities where the most vulnerable are supported and protected.



Background to Community Safety Partnerships

Since the Scarman Report in 1981, successive governments recognised that effective partnership working resulted in better crime reduction outcomes. This was consolidated by the Morgan Report in 1991 and culminated in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

This Act established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, defines a Community Safety Partnership as;

“An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”.

Community Safety Partnerships are statutorily responsible for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in each local authority area.

The make-up and role of CSPs has been altered since 1998, through the Police and Justice Act 2006, Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, the Local Government and Health Act 2007, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 and finally the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011.

Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership – Membership

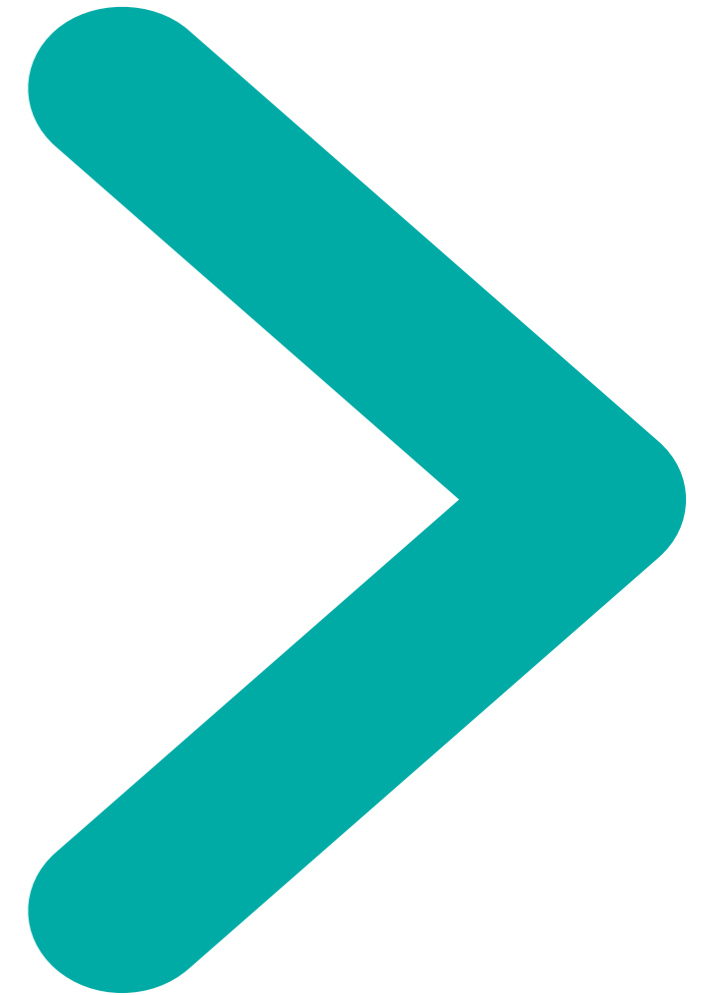
The Safer NPT Partnership Board consists of key representatives from statutory agencies and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues and who are key contributors in the priority setting process.

Statutory Members include:

- NPTCBC Council
- South Wales Police
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- National Probation Service
- Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Other Members include:

- Police and Crime Commissioners Office
- Youth Justice Service
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Protection
- Western Bay Safeguarding Board
- Western Bay Area Planning Board
- Welsh Ambulance Service
- CVS
- Tai Tarian
- Third Sector representation



Legislation Behind the Partnership

Welsh Government's Safer Communities Programme

The Welsh Government's Safer Communities Programme was established in December 2017 following the completion of the Working Together for Safer Communities Review – Welsh Government's response to the Auditor General's Community Safety in Wales report of the previous year. At the heart of the programme is a new shared vision for community safety in Wales in which:

1. Every community is strong, safe and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity and social justice, resilience and sustainability for all;
2. The shared responsibility of government, public and third sector agencies is to work together with the communities they serve and the private sector to address activity or behaviour that is unlawful, anti-social, harmful to individuals and society and to the environment;
3. Sharing knowledge and ensuring early intervention with prompt, positive action tackles local issues and addresses vulnerabilities.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts a duty on specified public bodies to act jointly and establish statutory Public Service Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales. The Safer NPT Community Safety Partnership Board reports into the Neath Port Talbot PSB on a quarterly basis.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and police services duties to work together to develop crime and disorder assessments and implement reduction strategies and to work in partnership with other agencies as a Community Safety Partnership - to tackle the identified problems.

Another key strategy taken into consideration when formulating the priorities is the new Serious Violence Duty Dec 2022. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, and to take a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.

The Serious Violence Duty outlines the changes made to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, ensuring preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships and requires specified authorities to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence

Local Wellbeing Plan

The work and priorities of the Safer NPT Community Safety Partnership will support the development of Local Wellbeing plans.

The priorities set out in this document also co-exist alongside the South Wales Police Chief Constables Delivery Plan 2021-2025 and the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan 2022-2026. These are key strategies that align with the steering group's priorities, both of which strengthen the working links across key partners.

Organisation Plans

This document will support the following existing plans:

NPTCBC Corporate Plan

Wellbeing Objective 2 in the Neath Port Talbot Corporate Plan states;

'People live healthy, long and good lives in thriving and sustainable communities where people get along together and support one another'

The Safer NPT Partnership priorities will support the Council in meeting this objective.

South Wales Police – Local policing priorities

South Wales Police have local policing priorities that are aligned to the broader community safety priorities. These are:

- Drug trafficking and supply / Rape and Serious Sexual offences / Domestic abuse
- Serious violence/ Terrorism and extreme threats / Child exploitation and abuse
- Fraud and Vulnerable Victims / Modern Slavery

South Wales Police & Crime Commissioners Plan for 2022-2026

The Safer NPT Partnership priorities align with those outlined in the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioners Plan for 2022-2026

- reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people safe and confident in their homes and communities
- involve and empower our communities, working with partners in local government, health, fire and Welsh Government, the third sector and education to deliver services that people need
- work to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, understanding causes and taking prompt positive action as issues arise
- work to make the local criminal justice system efficient and effective to meet the needs of victims and reduce re-offending
- ensure that South Wales Police continues to be a high performing force in terms of the operational response to crime, threats, harm and the detection of offenders
- spend money wisely, playing our part to protect the environment and support our people to provide the best possible policing in your community

The National Probation Service - Reducing Reoffending Plan

The plan illustrates how the Probation Service in Wales will work with partners to reduce reoffending, bring down the costs of crime within communities and protect the public over the next three years.

Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue - Service Strategic Plan (2022 – 2027)

The Strategic Plan 2022-2027 outlines MAWWFRS five-year Commitments, which they have developed in accordance with the sustainable development principle and incorporated the five ways of working

The Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership is also directly responsible for the delivery of Community Safety specific actions that come out of these other Partnership plans:

- Neath Port Talbot 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy' 2023-2026
- Youth Justice Blueprint
- Western Bay Area Planning Board Commissioning Strategy
- Community Cohesion Delivery Plan
- CONTEST West Glamorgan Regional Plan

Swansea Bay University Health Board – Recovery & Sustainability Plan (2023/24 - 2025/26)

The Health Board sets out its aim to become a population health focussed organisation in its Plans, and the tools used to deliver are the Four Pillars, Marmot Principles and a set of Wellbeing Objectives. The Health Board's 'Four Pillar' model acknowledges the role we can play in contributing to improving our population's health. The four-pillar model acknowledges the role the Health Board has as a Healthcare Provider, Employer, Anchor Institution and a Productive Partner. The Health Board sets out its Quality & Safety Vision which includes suicide prevention, multi-agency working and delivering preventative services in the community.

Understanding the Governance of the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership

The Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board

The Public Services Board (PSB) brings together senior leaders from public and third sector organisations across the area to work in partnership for a better future. The Community Safety Partnership feeds directly into the PSB and updates on progress made towards the priority areas. The Public Service Board is responsible for agreeing the direction of the Safer NPT Partnership and responsible for transmitting strategic information to inform actions of the partnership.

The Safer NPT Community Safety Partnership Board

The Safer Neath Port Talbot Community Safety Partnership Board is responsible for the overall strategic steer and governance of the partnership. It receives quarterly progress on the priority areas, performance updates and escalated issues and risks from each priority area and its sub groups. It is responsible for scrutinising these updates, making financial decisions and for signing off this Strategic Intent Document and Delivery Plan.

Regional Boards

The Safer NPT Community Safety Partnership Board will share information with, and receive information from, the partnered regional groups to ensure that strategies and delivery plans are aligned and actions are assigned to the most suitable partnership across the landscape. This good communication ensures no duplication across other partnerships and work streams.

Sub Groups & Task and Finish Groups

There are a number of groups responsible for carrying out the work of the Partnership. These groups will report to the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership Board who will in turn provide guidance and direction or support to resolve issues and barriers.

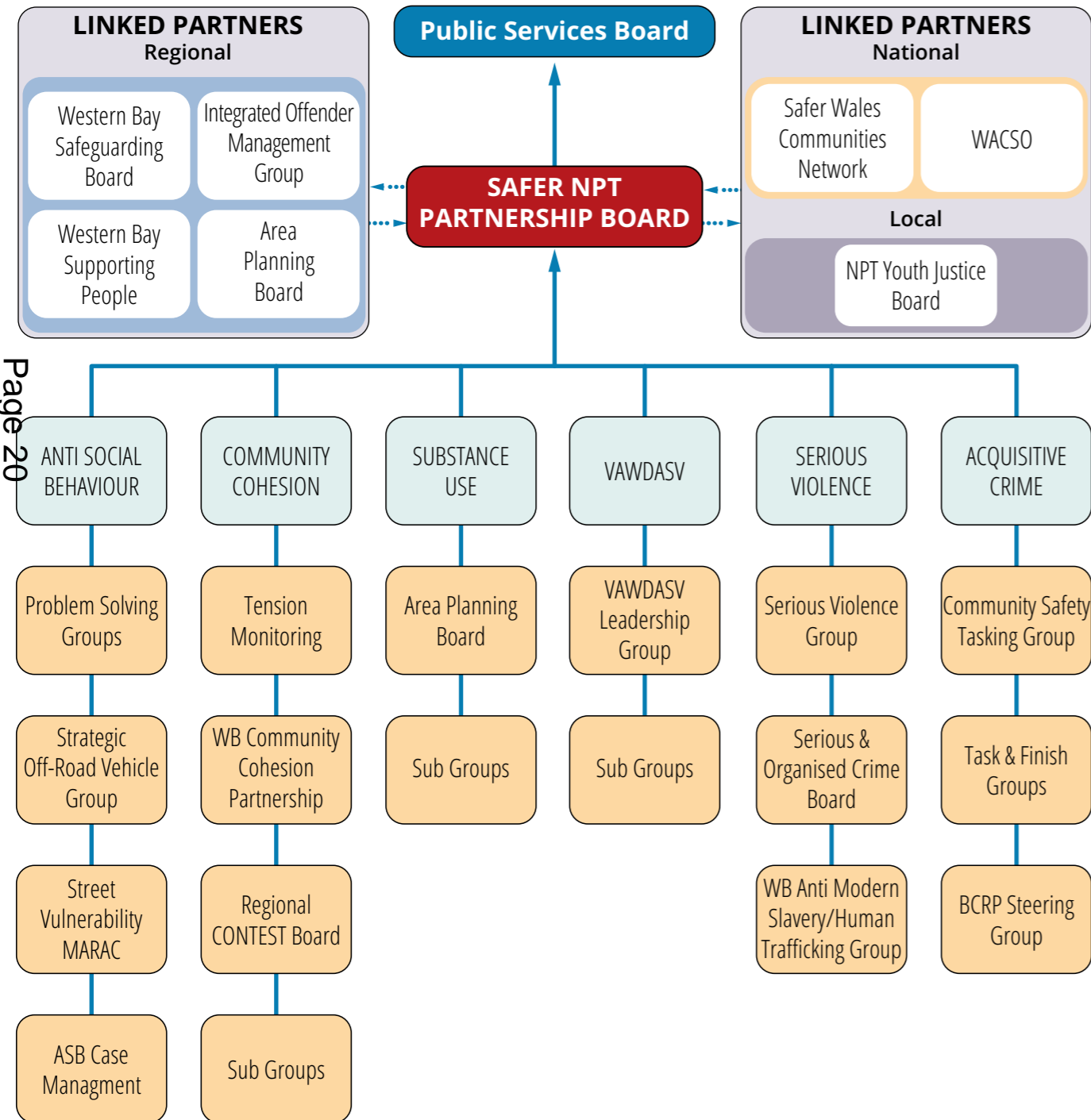
NPTCBC's Community Safety Team

The Council's Community Safety Team are the bridge that joins the wider partnership together in relation to community safety. The Councils Community Safety Team are co-located in Neath Police Station, enabling them to work together with South Wales Police Community Safety colleagues; to receive all incidents of anti-social behaviour across the borough and to proactively prevent issues where evidence and intelligence indicates a probability of impending crime or disorder.

The teams work in regular partnership with other Council departments, including but not restricted to; adult and children's services, education, enforcement and many others, as well as working in close partnership with wider policing teams, probation, health, probation, substance use teams and other third sector organisations across the borough.

The Community Safety Team are responsible for driving forward the work of the Partnership and responding to the issues that arise in relation to the priority areas outlined in this document.

Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership – Governance Structure



Page 20

Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership – Priorities for 2024-2027

This document outlines the 6 agreed priorities of the Safer NPT Partnership. They are all of equal importance.

Working in partnership, the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership will ensure it monitors and responds to other specific crime types that present an ongoing problem in NPT.

Each of the partnership priorities will be assigned to the most relevant subgroup, who will be responsible for driving the work forward. Each priority area will be underpinned and supported by individual action plans. Progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Community Safety Partnership Board.

An annual report will be presented to the Public Service Board.

PRIORITY 1

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

PRIORITY 2

Anti-Social Behaviour

PRIORITY 3

Substance Use

PRIORITY 4

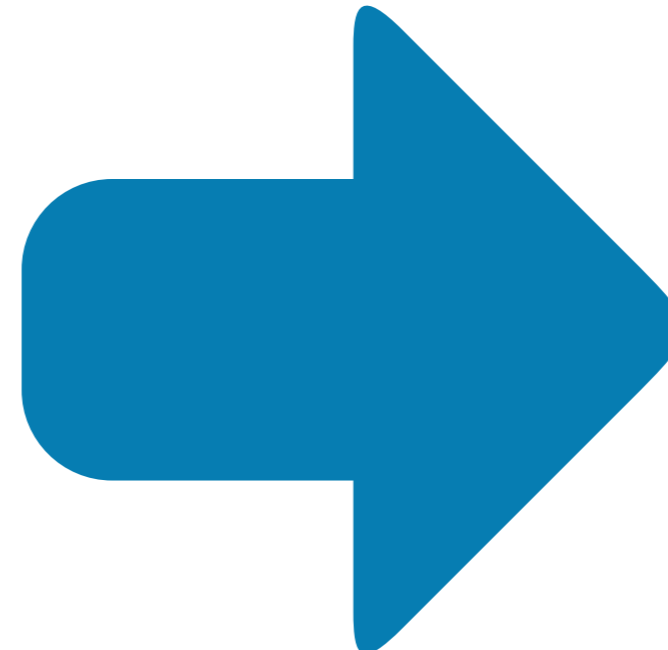
Community Cohesion

PRIORITY 5

Serious Violence

PRIORITY 6

Acquisitive Crime



PRIORITY 1

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Key Areas of focus

- Communications & Engagement
- Children & Young People
- Perpetrators
- Early Intervention & Prevention
- Training
- Accessible Services
- Criminal Justice

Page 21



Why is this a priority?

The objectives within our local VAWDASV strategy¹ 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities' are derived from those in the WG National Strategy 2022-26. Having similar objectives within NPT enables us to demonstrate how we will support the Welsh Government in achieving its policy objectives regarding Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. These objectives support our vision;

"To prevent and eradicate gender based violence by promoting: equality; safety; respect; and, independence to enable everyone to live free from abuse and the attitudes that perpetuate it."

Our aims and strategic intentions

In line with Welsh Government's National Strategy² on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2022-2026³), we have seven objectives:

1. Increase reports of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Neath Port Talbot, through awareness raising and challenging attitudes.
2. Increase awareness in children, young people and adults of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.
3. Increase the focus on holding those who commit abuse to account and supporting those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.
4. Make early intervention and prevention a priority – To reduce the number of repeat victims and reduce the number of high risk cases.
5. Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

6. Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales.
7. Increase focus on improving the recognition of, and responses to VAWDASV in all Criminal Justice proceedings³.

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Increase in referrals to local specialist services, and to Police and Health
- All victims to have equal access to appropriate services
- VAWDASV is 'everyone's business'; Negative attitudes are challenged and communities are educated and better informed of the issues around VAWDASV
- Victims and perpetrators are offered support at the earliest possible time and to prevent cases reaching a point of crisis
- Perpetrators are held to account
- Victims are fully informed and supported through the Civil and Criminal justice system
- Professionals are more informed and confident in reporting incidents of abuse

¹ Healthy Relationships For Stronger Communities Strategy 23-26 Final Version.pdf

² Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: strategy 2022 to 2026 [HTML] | GOV.WALES

³ This is a local, additional objective that is not included in the WG National Strategy

PRIORITY 2

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Key areas of focus

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Street Vulnerability MARAC
- Evening & Night Time Economy



ZERO TOLERANCE

iStock™
Credit: Kameleon007

Why is this a priority?

- Anti-social behaviour is an underreported crime. Through the partnership we must continue to raise awareness of what constitutes Anti-Social Behaviour and how it should be reported
- Anti-social behaviour is not as a series of isolated incidents but is a pattern of behaviour that is almost always repetitive and oppressive, often directed at victims who are vulnerable and live in more deprived areas and is often a prediction of more serious offending later down the line
- ASB can devastate communities and can have a profound impact on victims. Any behaviour that intimidates residents or puts them and visitors at risk in our communities is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated
- Proactively dealing with ASB and providing sustainable solutions will increase public confidence in the partnership and will facilitate increased reporting in this area and the levels of community intelligence

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Continuously deliver a victim-focused response to ASB
- Develop prevention and early intervention initiatives in partnership to ensure a holistic approach to problem solving
- Work in partnership through our local Problem Solving Groups and Contextual Safeguarding Group to safeguard vulnerable victims and perpetrators of ASB
- Continue to raise awareness of what constitutes ASB within our communities, to encourage reporting via the appropriate mechanisms
- Work with partners and residents to address neighbourhood and cross border issues
- Challenge irresponsible business practice through licencing and trading standards functions
- Working in partnership to improve fire safety and fire prevention
- Work in partnership to mitigate the effects and consequences of off-road biking

Outcomes we want to achieve

- A reduction in the number of repeat victims to incidents of ASB and neighbourhood crime
- Development of a comprehensive ASB profile for the borough, to inform operational tactics
- Correct procedures to report ASB are widely known in our communities
- Improvements in the way issues and concerns are and escalated to Problem Solving Groups and outcomes monitored
- Aim to reduce the number of deliberate fire incidents/ off road biking incidents

PRIORITY 3

Substance Use

Key areas of focus

- Engagement
- Interventions and Treatment
- Prevention and Health Improvement
- Enforcement (SWP)

Page

Why is this a priority?

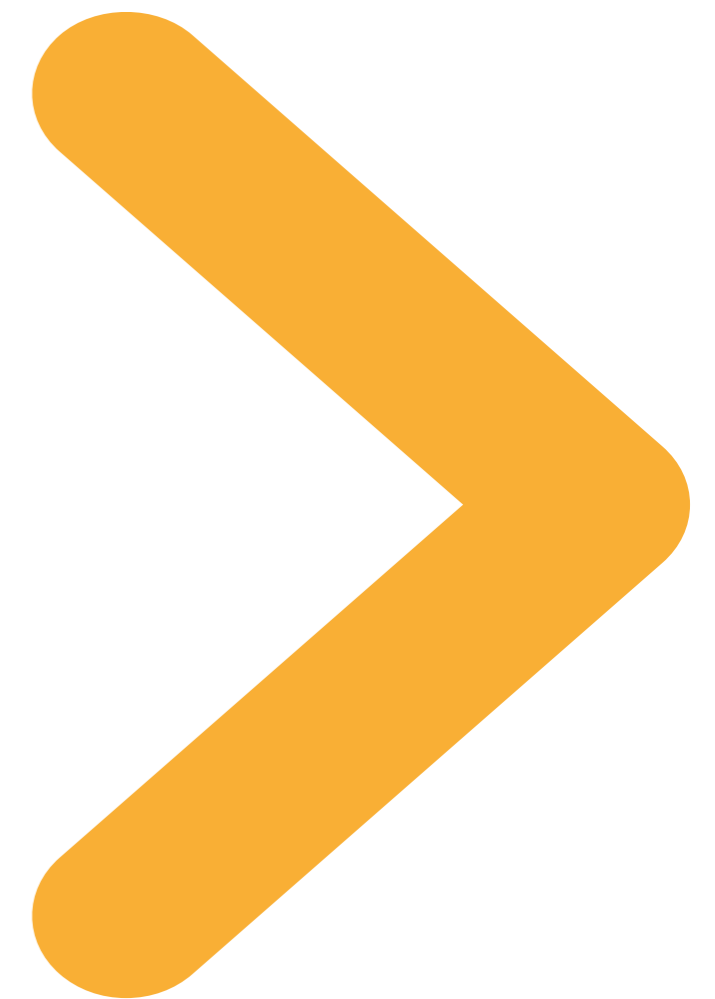
- Welsh Governments Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-2022⁴ outlines key priorities that have been focused on over the past 3 years
- The plan built on the good progress made in the lifetime of the previous 2008-18 strategy, 'Working Together to Reduce Harm' which saw progress of key harm interventions
- NPT has a high number of drug related deaths
- Western Bay Drugs Commission has been developed and is underway

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Reducing harms and relative risks associated with drug and/or alcohol use
- Timely support for people to improve their health and aid and maintain their recovery
- Supporting and protecting families
- Tackling substance availability and protecting individuals and communities
- Stronger partnerships, workforce development and Service User Involvement
- Recognise the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex based discrimination and other social inequalities that affects people's vulnerability and capacity to effectively deal with drug related harm

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Reduce the number of drug related deaths in Neath Port Talbot (and Swansea)
- Reduce the harms associated with substance use
- Embed Service User involvement into delivery and planning of services
- Substance use issues are identified and challenged early through strong partnership working and information sharing
- Everyone across the region affected by substance use issue can access timely, evidence based, safe and effective quality services



The ONS data for deaths relating to drug misuse per Local Authority in Wales

| AREA | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Isle of Anglesey / Ynys Môn | 1 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Gwynedd / Gwynedd | 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| Conwy / Conwy | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| Denbighshire / Sir Ddinbych | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Flintshire / Sir y Fflint | 8 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 9 |
| Wrexham / Wrecsam | 12 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Powys / Powys | 6 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Ceredigion / Ceredigion | 3 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| Pembrokeshire / Sir Benfro | 11 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Carmarthenshire / Sir Gaerfyrddin | 15 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 19 | 10 | 4 |
| Swansea / Abertawe | 28 | 34 | 22 | 36 | 43 | 26 | 29 |
| Neath Port Talbot / Castell-nedd Port Talbot | 13 | 11 | 4 | 14 | 19 | 24 | 15 |
| Bridgend / Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr | 14 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| Vale of Glamorgan / Bro Morgannwg | 3 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Cardiff / Caerdydd | 26 | 10 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 27 | 16 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf / Rhondda Cynon Taf | 21 | 9 | 17 | 23 | 16 | 23 | 17 |
| Merthyr Tydfil / Merthyr Tudful | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Caerphilly / Caerffili | 12 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Blaenau Gwent / Blaenau Gwent | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| Torfaen / Tor-faen | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Newport / Casnewydd | 8 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 9 |



PRIORITY 4

Ensuring our communities are cohesive, and that any community tensions are reduced

Key areas of focus

- Community Cohesion
- Hate Crime
- Extremism



Why is this a priority?

- Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation, or other crimes motivated by hate and bias have debilitating effects on victims and wider communities and impact directly on community cohesion
- Confidence in the partnerships ability to both educate and deal effectively with these issues will increase reporting and ensure our joint response is both informed and robust
- Community cohesion is critical to maintaining safer communities and both an understanding and the implementation of strategies to calm local and regional tensions will achieve this goal
- Doing our very best to be proactive as a partnership to deliver locally on the Government's CONTEST Strategy, i.e., Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare, to counter any rise in extremism and acts of terrorism that is critical to community cohesion and safety of the public
- We need the support and confidence of communities to improve our ability to identify those people who are most vulnerable to radicalisation and who may need support and intervention

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Ensure we deliver on the Welsh Government Community Cohesion Strategic Framework and 'Hate Hurts Wales' agenda
- Increase victims confidence to report incidents of hate crime and to improve third party reporting
- Ensure staff are trained on reporting hate crime/hate incidents through Victim Support or suitable provider
- Through communications campaigns, encourage more residents to be 'supportive bystanders' if they witness any incidents on hate
- To appropriately support victims of hate crimes
- Ensure we safeguard those at risk of radicalisation
- Ensure frontline professionals are trained in the Prevent duty and referral process
- Maintain a strong focus on community cohesion activities and tension monitoring

Outcomes we want to achieve

- More people are reporting hate crime they experience, and feel well supported
- Offer regular training and awareness of hate crime and Prevent for front line staff
- Increase the number of Prevent Referrals through education and training
- Improved public trust and confidence that support is available and that everybody is treated fairly
- Ensure people know what to do if they are concerned about someone who is vulnerable to radicalisation or think are being radicalised

PRIORITY 5

Serious Violence reduction: Safeguarding those at risk of Violence & Exploitation

Key areas of focus

- Exploitation/Victimisation
- County Lines
- Knife crime
- Modern slavery
- Serious violence
- Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Contextual safeguarding

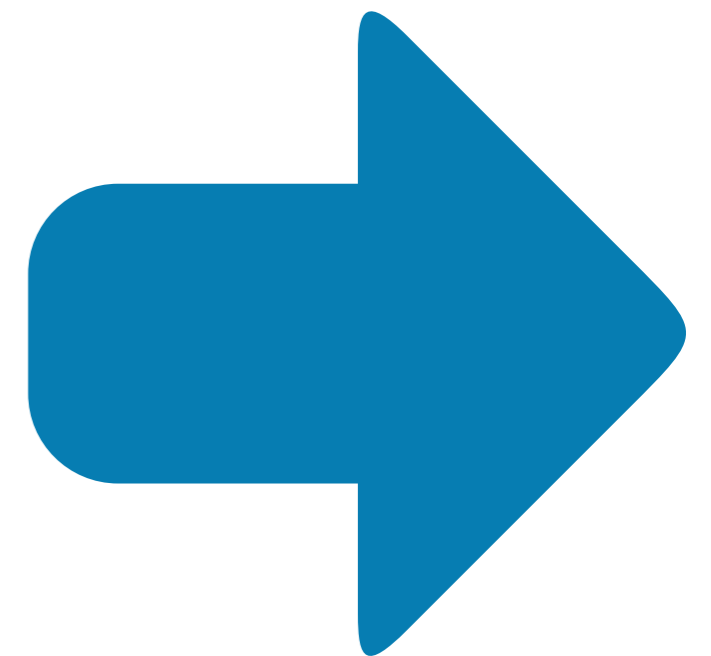
iStock™
Credit: Anna Frank

Why is this a priority?

- Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families, and instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014. The newly introduced Home Office Serious Violence Duty⁵ is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence
- Tackling serious violence has been a key aim for the Police and Crime Commissioner since 2012, using data sharing with health to pinpoint where and how violence occurs. Working closely with the Violence Prevention Unit, we can seek to understand the epidemiology of violence, and using this evidence to develop interventions focused on tackling the root causes of violence
- We recognise the significant impact youth violence and exploitation can have on a young person's safety, health and wellbeing. The Local Authority are committed to reducing youth violence in Neath Port Talbot and providing the right service at the right time to young people who have been adversely affected by youth violence
- Through our contextual safeguarding board we need to consider the context of where this harm occurs, which is often outside of the family environment and in the places where young people spend time

Our aims and strategic intentions

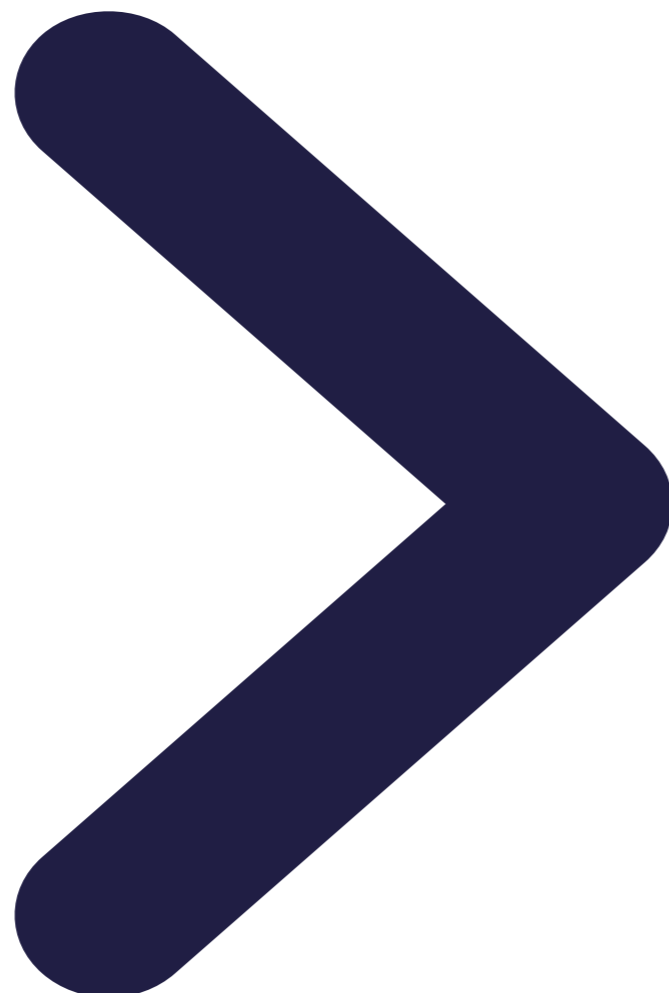
- Tackle hidden, high harm crimes such as modern slavery
- Partnership response to tackling violent crime, including; knife crime, serious youth violence, group offending and gang violence
- Take a safeguarding approach to both victims and perpetrators of violent crime, adopting a public health approach to addressing violence
- Ensure access to statutory mental health support for both victims and perpetrators of violence
- Ensure arrangements are in place throughout the partnership to effectively prevent and address both Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation
- Ensure intelligence is shared and activity is informed to provide both a preventative and enforcement response to county lines throughout partnership arrangements



⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-duty>

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Strategic Needs Assessment to be completed for the South Wales Police force area relating to the Serious Violence Duty
- Serious Violence Problem Profile completed for NPT
- Development of a local Serious Violence action plan to address issues and provide partnership solutions to tackling the issues
- Development of prevention and intervention initiatives
- A holistic safeguarding approach offered to all young people who experience significant Extra Familial harm
- Operational and Strategic approach to disrupting those that exploit young people.
- A multi-agency approach to recognising and preventing early indicators of youth violence and child exploitation
- Effective multi agency information sharing that supports the disruption of youth violence and exploitation
- Identification and disruption of Exploitation by organised crime groups (OCG)
- Development of safety within the places and spaces young people spend time



PRIORITY 6

Crime Prevention/Acquisitive Crime

Key areas of focus

- Burglary
- Shoplifting
- Robbery
- Car Crime
- Fly tipping/Graffiti/Dog Fouling

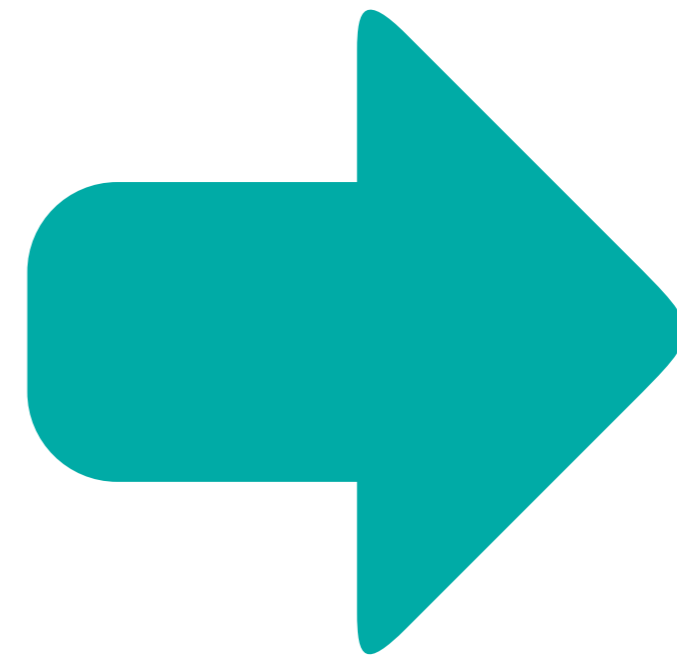


Why is this a priority?

- Our residents consistently tell us that acquisitive crime and the fear of these types of crimes is what matters to them
- Previous evidence has demonstrated an association between changes in the economy and criminal behaviour, and suggests that economic recession and the cost of living crisis could lead to an increase in acquisitive crime
- The look and feel of a local area has a direct link to residents' fear of crime and whether or not they feel safe where they live, shop and spend their leisure time

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Continue to tackle acquisitive crimes like burglary with a focus on prolific offenders
- Develop early intervention and prevention initiatives in partnership to ensure a holistic approach to problem solving
- Ensure delivery of a proactive, effective Business Crime Reduction Partnership
- Utilise our Community Safety Engagement Team and the 'Paws on Patrol' scheme to ensure continued bespoke community events that raise awareness of crime prevention, reporting mechanisms, target hardening
- Work with the Crime Reduction Tactical Advisors to help people feel safer, and be safer
- Further develop our 'Feel Safe' Scheme for the most vulnerable in our communities
- Maintain a strong social media presence to raise awareness of relevant crime prevention, community safety campaigns and initiatives





Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Working Together

The delivery of this document will be overseen by the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership and it will ensure that all delivery plans are reflective of changes in the landscape and the real time needs of our communities and residents.

The Neath Port Talbot Council's Community Safety Team are responsible for the coordination and secretariat of the Partnership. They are always keen to hear from those who live and work in the borough in order to create an effective partnership.

If you would like to get involved or have any thoughts that you would like to share with us, then please contact us on communitysafety@npt.gov.uk

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Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

| Version | Author | Job title | Date |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Version 1 | Elinor Wellington | Principal Officer, Community Safety | January 2024 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

1. Details of the initiative

| | |
|----|--|
| | Title of the Initiative: Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnerships 'Strategic Intent Document' |
| 11 | Service Area: Community Safety – Housing & Communities |
| 1b | Directorate: SSHH |
| 1c | Summary of the initiative: The Strategic Intent Document has been developed and approved by a strengthened multi-agency Community Safety Partnership. The Crime and Disorder Act (1998), as amended by the Police Reform Act (2002), places a statutory obligation on local authorities and the Police to form multi-agency partnerships in order to reduce crime and disorder across the local authority area. |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | <p>The Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership operates a multi-agency partnership approach to community safety and crime and disorder issues.</p> <p>As a partnership, we are committed to working together to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour as well as providing practical crime prevention and community safety advice and reassurance.</p> <p>Using local intelligence as well as anecdotal information from residents and partners at public engagements, the Board are able to establish issues of most concern, as well as hotspot areas across the borough.</p> <p>In developing this Strategic Intent Document, it ensures the Board have a clear framework and governance structure to support the work of the local Community Safety Team and its partners.</p> <p>Our aim is to work together more efficiently and effectively, to make best use all of the resources available to us in our communities, and to build positive, strong and resilient communities where the most vulnerable are supported and protected.</p> |
| 1d | Is this a 'strategic decision'? Yes |
| 1e | Who will be directly affected by this initiative? All residents of Neath Port Talbot, particularly those most vulnerable to crime and disorder. |
| 1f | <p>When and how were people consulted?</p> <p>In developing the Strategic Intent Document, various Police intelligence reports were considered, as well as anecdotal information from our residents at many community engagement events hosted by the Community Safety Team throughout 2022 and 2023. Information was also taken from the annual survey conducted with Paws on Patrol members.</p> <p>All of the above information has helped to shape the Strategic Intent Document and decide on the 6 priority areas contained within it.</p> <p>A wide range of stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Strategic Intent Document, including the 5 responsible authorities of the Community Safety Partnership Board, as well as all other members of the Board.</p> |
| 1g | <p>What were the outcomes of the consultation?</p> <p>As per above.</p> |

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

A range of evidence will be used, including;

- Best practice
- Legislative requirements, national reviews, relevant strategies, etc.
- Case Reviews (Domestic homicide reviews); for lessons learnt
- Resource and service mapping to understand services available, how funding is utilised and demand on services
 - Quantitative information e.g. number of police reports for various different crime types
 - Qualitative information e.g. consultation and engagement including events, feedback and questionnaire

This Strategic Intent Document has a key role to play in ensuring compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act, as well as other relevant statutory guidance and reports as outlined in the document.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The work of the local Community Safety Partnership contributes to meeting the 7 wellbeing goals, in particular 'A healthier Wales' and 'A Wales of Cohesive Communities', and the five ways of working.

New safeguarding guidelines for children and adults at risk which set out the essential roles and responsibilities for anyone working with children or adults who are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

Welfare Reform

Other evidence includes;

- Evidence around people reporting (or not reporting incidences of crime, antisocial behaviour and violence)
- NPTCBC Corporate Plan
- South Wales Police – Local policing priorities
- South Wales Police & Crime Commissioners Plan for 2022-2026

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

| Protected Characteristic | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|------------------------------|---|---|-----|---|
| Age | ✓ | | | <p>The strategy recognises everyone can be a victim of crime, regardless of their protected characteristics. However those with protected characteristics may be more vulnerable to experiencing crime or experience a disproportionate impact as a result of crime and the strategy recognises that more work is needed to better support marginalised groups in our society.</p> <p>As such a key underlining principal of this strategy is to enhance support to those that are at higher risk of being a victim of crime. For example our Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) priority supports the objective of prevention and elimination of gender based violence. Another example are the actions to ensure there is appropriate support for victims of hate crime and the development of community cohesion activity.</p> |
| Disability | ✓ | | | |
| Gender reassignment | ✓ | | | |
| Marriage & civil partnership | ✓ | | | |
| Pregnancy and maternity | ✓ | | | |
| Race | ✓ | | | |
| Religion or belief | ✓ | | | |
| Sex | ✓ | | | |
| Sexual orientation | ✓ | | | |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Safer NPT Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategic Intent Document. This should help to identify if the implementation of the document is having a negative impact on people due to their protected characteristics. Furthermore providers of services are required to implement monitoring systems, which should also help to identify if the implementation of the document is improving the impacts of inequality of outcomes of those with a protected characteristic.

We will undertake a three year review of the document and compile an annual report, which will involve feedback and consultation with stakeholders. This should help to identify if the implementation is improving the impacts of inequality of outcomes of those that have a protected characteristic.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

| Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|
| To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation | ✓ | | | The strategic intent document is underpinned by the need to; Advance equality of opportunity between different groups Foster good relations between different groups Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well to advance equality of opportunity between different groups. Our commitment to engage with different organisations, groups and communities in the development of the priorities has allowed a shared sense of purpose, and a sense of increasing confidence to tackle crime and disorder issues. Actions within the plan directly promote PSED, such as delivery of the ‘Hate Hurts Wales’ agenda and providing all victims of domestic abuse with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales. |
| To advance equality of opportunity between different groups | ✓ | | | |
| To foster good relations between different groups | ✓ | | | |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Safer NPT Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategic Intent Document. This should help to identify if the implementation of the document is having a negative PSED impact on people. Furthermore providers of services are required to implement monitoring systems, which should also help to identify if the implementation of the document is having a positive or negative impact on PSED.

We will undertake a three year review of the document and compile an annual report, which will involve feedback and consultation with stakeholders. This should help to identify if the implementation is improving PSED.

4. Socio Economic Duty

| Impact | Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage |
|-----------------------|--|
| Positive/Advantage | <p>This document will have a positive impact on the Council meeting its socio-economic duty, as it is designed to ensure that the Council and its strategic partners are best placed to support residents in our communities, including victims of crime and disorder.</p> <p>We will build on, and further develop relationships with partners, to help us develop and implement robust responses for those experiencing crime and disorder issues in our communities.</p> <p>It is recognised that those living in areas of higher levels of socio-economic deprivation can be disproportionately impacted by issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour, substance use and serious violence, all of which are priority areas within the strategy.</p> |
| Negative/Disadvantage | - |
| Neutral | - |

What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome

The Safer NPT Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategic Intent Document. This should help to identify if the implementation of the document is having a negative socio-economic impact on people. Furthermore providers of services are required to implement monitoring systems, which should also help to identify if the implementation of the document is improving the impacts of inequality of outcomes of those who are considered to have a socio-economic disadvantage:

We will undertake a three year review of the document and compile an annual report, which will involve feedback and consultation with stakeholders. This should help to identify if the implementation is improving the impacts of inequality of outcomes of those who are considered to have a socio-economic disadvantage.

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

| | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|--------------------|---|---|-----|---|
| Community Cohesion | ✓ | | | <p>Crime, Disorder and Serious Violence may have a range of consequences including homelessness, mental health, problematic substance misuse, child protection issues, physical injury and offending behaviour.</p> <p>Working with our partners we will help provide support and assistance to those who experience isolation and exclusion due to their previous or current circumstances.</p> |
| Social Exclusion | ✓ | | | <p>The document will have a positive impact on social exclusion by helping address the negative experiences of victims helping rebuild confidence to take a more active and positive role within family and community life.</p> |
| Poverty | ✓ | | | <p>Over recent years we have become increasingly aware of the various aspects of poverty within our area and have identified work streams to address some of these; our work to address adverse childhood experiences is one such work stream.</p> <p>There are many forms of poverty; financial, social, emotional and the lack of opportunity. With the successful implementation of the strategy we anticipate there</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | will be a positive impact on the various aspects of poverty particularly emotional poverty. |
|--|--|--|--|---|

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Safer NPT Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of this Strategic Intent Document. This should help to identify if the implementation of the document is having a negative impact. Furthermore providers of services are required to implement monitoring systems, which should also help to identify if the implementation of the document is improving outcomes in this area.

We will undertake a three year review of the document and compile an annual report, which will involve feedback and consultation with stakeholders. This should help to identify if the implementation is improving outcomes in this area.

6. Welsh

| | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this effect? |
|--|---|---|-----|---|
| What effect does the initiative have on: – people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language | ✓ | | | The document will be available in Welsh. Any services commissioned will be delivered in both Welsh and English. Statutory organisations will deliver services in line with Welsh Language requirements |
| – treating the Welsh and English languages equally | ✓ | | | The document will be available in Welsh. Any services commissioned will be delivered in both Welsh and English. Statutory organisations will deliver services in line with Welsh Language requirements. |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Regular monitoring of the documents implementation should help to identify if work is having a negative impact on the Welsh Language. Furthermore providers of local services are required to implement monitoring systems, which should also help to identify if the implementation of the document is having a negative impact on the Welsh Language.

We will undertake a three year review of the strategy and compile an annual report, which will involve feedback and consultation with stakeholders. This should help to identify if the implementation of this Strategy is having a negative impact on the Welsh Language.

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

| Biodiversity Duty | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|--|----------|----------|------------|---|
| To maintain and enhance biodiversity | | | ✓ | NA - It is not expected that the document will have any adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem resilience. |
| To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc. | | | ✓ | NA - It is not expected that the document will have any adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem resilience. |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

N/A

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

| Ways of Working | Details |
|--|---|
| i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead | <p>In line with the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, our aims and key principles within the document have been developed to meet the following 5 ways of working which will help us to work together better, avoid repeating any past mistakes and tackle some of the long term challenges we are facing.</p> <p>Long Term To ensure there is a strong focus on education and work with young people with the aim of reducing and preventing crime and disorder, or the fear of crime over the long term To provide services that offer best value for money</p> |
| ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse | <p>Early Intervention & Prevention</p> <p>Continued work to raise awareness of what constitutes a crime, and how to report any issues. Ensuring victims are supported at the earliest possible time and to prevent cases reaching a point of crisis</p> |
| iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external | <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Continue to build and develop a confident, strong partnership To develop regional and national collaborative approaches where this is more effective than a local response</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population | Involvement To ensure our service delivery is person centred To ensure the voices of people affected by crime, disorder and serious violence or abuse are heard. |
| v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to: | Integration To adopt a holistic approach so that the wellbeing of people affected by crime, disorder and serious violence or abuse is considered in service responses |
| Council’s well-being objectives | Work in respect of the priority areas will help meet the Council’s Wellbeing objectives and complement the priorities and steps in the revised Corporate Plan for 2022-2027 |
| Other public bodies objectives | The document outlines all of the relevant legislation and statutory guidance that we have had regard to in its development and future working |

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

The strengthened partnership arrangements will enable people to highlight any unintended negative consequence of the document, which will then be considered.

The Safer NPT Partnership Board will progress work in respect of the priorities through relevant sub group, and frequent reporting.

An annual report will be published to highlight progress made on all areas of the document.

The intended impact of the document will be monitored and the outcome reported in the above annual report

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

| | Conclusion |
|---|---|
| Equalities | The indication is that the document will have a positive impact; however, processes are in place to review whether the document is delivering the intended outcomes and is not creating any unintended negative consequences for people with a protected characteristic. |
| Socio Economic Disadvantage | The indication is that the document will have a positive impact, however processes are in place to review whether the document is delivering the intended outcomes and not creating any unintended negative consequences for people in regard to social economic disadvantages. |
| Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty | The indication is that the document will have a positive impact, however processes are in place to review whether the document is delivering the intended outcomes and not creating any unintended negative consequences for people in regard to community cohesion, social exclusion and/or poverty. |
| Welsh | The indication is that the document will have a positive impact, however processes are in place to review whether the document is delivering the intended outcomes and not creating any unintended negative consequences for people in regard to their use of the Welsh Language. |
| Biodiversity | N/A |
| Well-being of Future Generations | The indication is that the document will have a positive impact, however processes are in place to review whether the document is delivering the intended outcomes and not creating any unintended negative consequences for people in regard to the five ways of working. |

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised ✓
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions

- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

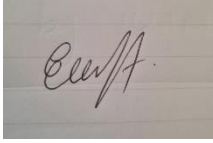
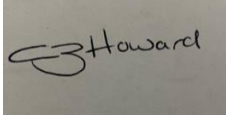
The over-all intention and impact is positive, in respects of equalities, Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty, Welsh Language and wellbeing and future generations. It is anticipated that the document will have an important contribution recognising that crime, disorder and serious violence or abuse can affect people regardless of their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, and marital status.

11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

| Action | Who will be responsible for seeing it is done? | When will it be done by? | How will we know we have achieved our objective? |
|---|--|--|--|
| Ensure the document is appropriate to meet need | Safer NPT Partnership Board | COMPLETE – This work will be ongoing for the life of the strategy | Document amended in light of partner feedback |
| Annual review of progress against plan and delivery of outcomes and assessment against the IAA principals | Safer NPT Partnership Board | Annually | Review report |

12. Sign off

| | Name | Position | Signature | Date |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|----------|
| Completed by | ELINOR WELLINGTON | PO COMMUNITY SAFETY |  | 05/01/24 |
| Signed off by | CHELE HOWARD | Head of Service |  | 05/01/24 |



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Appendix 1 - Not for publication pursuant to Regulation 5(2) & (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Pursuant also to Paragraph 21 of the Schedule, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption is considered to outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET BOARD

2nd February 2024

**Report of the Interim Head of Housing and Communities– Mrs
Chelé Zandra Howard**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All wards.

Report Title: Permission to Consult on the review of Commissioned Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Emergency Accommodation Services.

Purpose of the Report:

To seek Members' approval to conduct a consultation exercise with a view to decommissioning one traditional communal refuge building and commissioning dispersed refuge units in its place, which will allow Officers to address the identified gaps in service provision.

Executive Summary:

Following the review of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) emergency accommodation services purchased by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (the Council), a business case has been developed (Appendix 1) setting out a proposal for the remodelling of existing services.

Officers preferred option (option 2) outlined within this business case is to reduce the number communal refuge based emergency accommodation from 3 sites to 2 sites to develop dispersed emergency accommodation in its place.

The remodelling of VAWDASV emergency accommodation provision will work towards meeting the gaps identified in the emergency accommodation provision.

Whilst all stakeholders have been involved in this review, Officers are mindful that this proposal represents a significant change from the current provision and therefore wishes to undertake a 90 day public consultation in order to inform any decision making on future service provision.

Background:

As part of the implementation of the Councils response to the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Act (Wales) 2015, Officers were asked to undertake a review of commissioned services by the VAWDASV Leadership Group.

The Neath Port Talbot Strategy for VAWDASV; ***'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities'*** identifies the need to the 'refocus funding and remodel services so that victims and perpetrators can access help at the earliest possible time to prevent cases reaching crisis point' and it also recognises that there is the need to commission services differently.

The Council currently commissions VAWDASV Emergency Accommodation, Supported Accommodation and Floating support funded by our Housing Support Grant (HSG).

Officers have split the review into 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Review of Emergency Accommodation
- Phase 2 – Review of Supported Accommodation
- Phase 3 – Review of Floating Support

This report and attached business cases (Appendix 1) highlights the findings and proposals for Phase 1 of the VAWDASV review.

The Council currently commissions 3 VAWDASV communal refuges offering emergency accommodation in Neath Port Talbot.

Officers have worked with Providers, members of the VAWDASV Leadership Group, survivors, regional partners, and other local authorities to carry out the review. This review also involved Officers considering alternative models of support and accommodation across Wales to develop a comparison.

Throughout the review, Officers have attended the VAWDASV Leadership Group meetings and updated stakeholders on review progress and proposals.

The review has identified gaps in the emergency accommodation service provision for people with a number of protected characteristics, complex support needs and behaviours, larger families and families with older male children.

Following the review and gap analysis, Officers are proposing that the Council decommission one communal refuge and realign this funding to commission a number of dispersed refuge units in its place, which will allow the Council to address the gap in the service provision.

To ensure that any decisions made by the Council to redevelop the VAWDASV services is properly informed by all relevant stakeholders, including survivors and VAWDASV professionals, Officers are requesting permission to undertake a 90 day consultation.

Financial Impacts:

The total Housing Support Grant (HSG) spent on VAWDASV services in Neath Port Talbot is £865,896 with £419,472 being spent on Accommodation based services, £331,423 on floating support and outreach services, and a further £115,000 on the internal Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) Service and one Antisocial behaviour case worker role.

Officers anticipate that there will be no additional funding made available from the Housing Support Grant, however as part of a HSG service wide review, Officers will look to realign funding to meet any budget deficits, that have been identified as a risk of retendering the services.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the

Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.

An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included below in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

It is concluded that overall, the proposals will contribute towards positive outcomes for a range of protected characteristics as clients typically have services which are age, gender, marriage/civil partnership and/or disability related.

The purpose of the proposal is to help protect Neath Port Talbot's most vulnerable citizens. The intention is to broaden access to VAWDASV Services for all those with an eligible assessed need. It will also ensure long term sustainability of services in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There is currently no communal refuge provision situated in the Valley areas of NPT, however all people can access the service. The provision of dispersed units does present an opportunity to locate emergency accommodation in the Valley areas.

Workforce Impacts:

There will be no Council workforce impacts.

Legal Impacts:

There are no legal impacts associated with the contents of this report.

Risk Management Impacts:

Failure to carry out a stakeholder consultation would carry a risk of the Council making a decision without input from stakeholders and without fully understanding the implications of the proposed change.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

- Approve a 90 day stakeholder consultation to seek feedback on the current provision and proposal to remodel VAWDASV accommodation based services.
- Officers present a report on the consultation findings and recommendations for re-commissioning of VAWDASV accommodation-based services following the consultation period.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure that any changes to current provision is informed by a wide range of stakeholders including people that may have experience of using VAWDASV services.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Business Case (RESTRICTED)

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

- NPT VAWDASV Strategy 2023-2026.
- Statutory guidance for the Commissioning of VAWDASV Services in Wales.
- Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual Violence Strategy 2022-2026.

Officer Contact:

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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Hayley Short, PO for Commissioning

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Email: h.short@npt.gov.uk

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Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

| Version | Author | Job title | Date |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Version 1 | Sarah Hockin | Commissioning Officer | 21/11/2023 |
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| | | | |

1. Details of the initiative

| | |
|-----------|---|
| | Title of the Initiative: Business Case to consult on VAWDASV Emergency Accommodation |
| 1a | Service Area: Housing and Communities |
| 1b | Directorate: Social Services, Health & Housing |
| 1c | Summary of the initiative: To seek Members' approval to conduct a consultation exercise to understand how the VAWDASV emergency accommodation should be modelled for the future in Neath Port Talbot |
| 1d | Is this a 'strategic decision'? Yes |
| 1e | Who will be directly affected by this initiative? People aged 16+ who are seeking VAWDASV emergency accommodation |
| 1f | When and how were people consulted? Permission is sought from Members for Officers to undertake a consultation period of 90 days, consisting of online surveys, face to face engagement including 1-2-1 or group sessions and stakeholder forums. The format will be dependent on the client group and support available to facilitate the engagement. |

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| | To date officers have consulted with Providers, Service Users and other stakeholders to develop the business case to consult on the remodel proposal. |
| 1g | <p>What were the outcomes of the consultation?</p> <p>The consultation identified a number of gaps in the emergency accommodation provision, which includes multiple complex needs, families with older male children, transgender, males and some religious or cultural beliefs.</p> |

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

- Monitoring of the services,
- Data submitted to the Common Commissioning Unit as part of ongoing reporting processes
- Housing Support Grant Outcomes data which is routinely collected and reported to Welsh Government.
- Data on people accessing Housing Support Grant funded Floating Support services
- Neath Port Talbot Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan [Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan \(npt.gov.uk\)](http://npt.gov.uk)

- Age/ Gender

| Age Range | Female | Male | Other / Not Known | Non-Binary |
|-----------|--------|------|-------------------|------------|
| 16-17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18-24 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24-34 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35-49 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 50-64 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
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| 65+ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
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- Ethnicity

| | |
|---|----|
| Asian or Asian British | 1 |
| Black, Black British, Caribbean or African - African | 1 |
| Black, Black British, Caribbean or African - Other | 2 |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 4 |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Other | 3 |
| Other ethnic group | 1 |
| White - any other White background | 5 |
| White - Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 77 |

- Religion

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Christian (all denominations) | 13 |
| Muslim | 2 |
| None | 72 |
| Not known | 7 |

- Sexuality

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Bisexual | 5 |
| Gay or Lesbian | 1 |
| Heterosexual | 88 |

- Breakdown of Disability

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| None | 85 |
| Not known | 1 |
| Yes - Learning Disability | 1 |
| Yes - Mental Health | 1 |
| Yes - Physical & mental | 2 |
| Yes - Physical disability | 4 |

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

| Protected Characteristic | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----|--|
| Age | X | | | <p>The majority (82%) of people receiving a service are aged between 24 - 49, with small numbers of survivors above and below this age range accessing the services.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people aged 16+ with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> |

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| | | | <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people's personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> |
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| | | | <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| Disability | X | | <p>The majority of people (90%) receiving a service do not have a disability. Of those who identify a disability (10%), the majority have a physical disability.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people’s personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> |
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| | | | <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| Gender reassignment | X | | <p>Current refuge provision is only accessible by those who born as, and still identify as female. There is no provision for survivors who have reassigned gender.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to increase the accommodation options available to offer individuals across all genders and gender identities, with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> |

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| | | | <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people's personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| Marriage & civil partnership | X | | <p>People who access services may be married or in a civil partnership. Staff that deliver the service may be married or in a civil partnership.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities' legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people's personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | X | <p>It is possible that people accessing services will have a protected characteristic due to their pregnancy/maternity status.</p> <p>Employees of providers may have a protected characteristic due to their pregnancy/maternity status.</p> <p>There are contractual clauses within the commissioned provider contracts relating to compliance with employment law.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Staff recruitment will be in line with HR policies, process and all relevant legislation.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>Providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people’s personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| Race | X | | <p>Services are delivered across all ethnic groups, with the majority (82%) of people receiving a service identifying as ‘White British’, a further 5% as ‘White Other’, 4% as ‘Mixed Ethnic Group’, 3% as ‘Mixed Ethnic Group Other’, 2% as ‘Black, Black British, Caribbean or African – Other’, 1% as ‘Asian, 1% as Black, Black British, Caribbean or African – African’ and 1% ‘Other Ethnicity’</p> <p>Employees of providers may have a protected characteristic due to their race.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people's personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| <p>Religion or belief</p> | <p>X</p> | | <p>The services are delivered to people across all religions/beliefs. 77% of individuals reported not having an identified religious belief.</p> <p>Employees of providers may have a protected characteristic due to their religion/belief.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people aged with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in</p> |
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| | | | <p>place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people's personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| Sex | X | | <p>Current Refuge provision is only accessible by those who born as, and still identify as female.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to increase the accommodation options available to offer males with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors, including males.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements</p> |

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| | | | <p>resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people's personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> |
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| | | | <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> <p>The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires.</p> |
| <p>Sexual orientation</p> | <p>X</p> | | <p>Services are delivered across all sexual orientations.</p> <p>Employees of providers may have a protected characteristic due to their sexual orientation.</p> <p>The proposal should have a positive impact as the aim is to offer people 16 with safe, secure accommodation which meets their needs, through the provision of more flexible, personalised and outcome focused services.</p> <p>The proposal options could make changes to the eligibility criteria of service users, opening services to a wider range of survivors.</p> <p>All staff members will or have received equality and diversity training.</p> <p>In line with a Housing Support Grant contract, providers of domestic abuse services will develop a support plan, and safety plan in conjunction with the service user which is person centred and will take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes.</p> <p>Contracts with commissioned providers have clauses relating to ensuring compliance with the relevant equalities legislation.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Commissioned services are funded by the Housing Support Grant and monitoring will take place to ensure that that providers meet the Grant conditions, including any that relate to equality and diversity.</p> <p>All services operating on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are monitored by the Common Commissioning Unit, which includes receiving staff and service user feedback. The Unit will also analyse any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the services. This will ensure that the Council can identify if there are any concerns about the service, including any unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned providers are contractually required to implement monitoring systems, which will also help to identify if any aspect of the service has led to unintended/unidentified negative impacts on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have monitoring systems in place to ensure that staff are adequately trained and meet relevant standards. Further monitoring systems are in place to ensure that the services delivered are of a good quality and meet people’s personal outcomes. These monitoring systems will also enable the services to identify whether there are unintended consequences which may impact on people with a protected characteristic.</p> <p><u>Undertaking Consultation</u></p> <p>The consultation will enable any stakeholders impacted by the proposed options to highlight if there are increased negative impacts due to a persons protected characteristics.</p> |
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| | | | | The consultation exercise will be undertaken in a range of mediums to ensure that people with a protected characteristic are able to fully participate, including easy read documents, face to face discussions and questionnaires. |
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

- Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of Housing Support Grant outcome data
- Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and individuals accessing services

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

| Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|---|----------|----------|------------|---|
| To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation | X | | | Services will support people fleeing, or who have experienced domestic abuse to remain safe either in their own home or in the community. One of the key outcome areas for Housing Support Grant funded services is reducing crime and disorder. |
| To advance equality of opportunity between different groups | X | | | Services will support people fleeing, or who have experienced domestic abuse to overcome challenges in keeping themselves safe and help prevent homelessness. One of the key outcome areas for Housing Support Grant funded services is preventing institutionalisation and preventing homelessness |
| To foster good relations between different groups | X | | | Services will support people fleeing, or who have experienced domestic abuse to engage with local communities and support groups. |

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| | | | | One of the key outcome areas for Housing Support Grant funded services is reducing social exclusion and reducing isolation |
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

- Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of Housing Support Grant outcome data
- Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and individuals accessing services

4. Socio Economic Duty

| Impact | Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage |
|-----------------------|---|
| Positive/Advantage | <p>Housing Support Grant funded services support people that may be more likely to have a low socio-economic status to manage their health and wellbeing needs and enables them to achieve their personal outcomes.</p> <p>Survivors in VAWDASV emergency accommodation will continue to benefit from support that includes access to education, employment and volunteering.</p> <p>Consultation will have a positive impact as it enables stakeholders to inform decisions that impact on them.</p> |
| Negative/Disadvantage | |

| | |
|---------|--|
| Neutral | For employees of support providers, their employment will be expected to continue. The proposal aims to offer current services to a wider range of people needing support. |
|---------|--|

What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome

- Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of Housing Support Grant outcome data
- Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and individuals accessing services

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

| | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|--------------------|---|---|-----|---|
| Community Cohesion | X | | | Will help people that use the service to either return to their community or establish themselves in a new community |
| Social Exclusion | X | | | Will help people that use the service to access social opportunities and become involved in their local communities. A key outcome area for Housing Support Grant funded services includes reducing social exclusion and reducing isolation. |
| Poverty | X | | | A key outcome area for Housing Support Grant funded services includes tackling poverty. Examples of support offered by the services of these contracts include supporting people with benefit and money advice, helping people to manage their finances, helping people to budget and prevent homelessness, helping people to gain employment, education or volunteering, homelessness interventions and temporary accommodation. |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

- Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of Housing Support Grant outcome data
- Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and individuals accessing services

6. Welsh

| | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this effect? |
|--|---|---|-----|--|
| What effect does the initiative have on: – people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language | X | | | There will continue to be a requirement for commissioned providers and in-house services to deliver services to the service users in their chosen first language. Commissioned providers are bound by employment legislation relating to the Welsh Language |
| – treating the Welsh and English languages equally | X | | | There will continue to be a requirement for commissioned providers and in-house services to deliver services to the service users in their chosen first language. Commissioned providers are bound by employment legislation relating to the Welsh Language |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

- Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of Housing Support Grant outcome data
- Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and individuals accessing services

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

| Biodiversity Duty | + | - | +/- | Why will it have this impact? |
|--|---|---|-----|-------------------------------|
| To maintain and enhance biodiversity | | | X | N/A. |
| To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc. | | | X | N/A. |

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

N/A.

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

| Ways of Working | Details |
|---|--|
| <p>i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead</p> | <p>With the proposed options of VAWDASV emergency accommodation there is the opportunity to support a wider range of people to achieve their long term health and wellbeing outcomes, stabilise their housing situation and play an essential part in supporting them to live safely within their own homes and local communities.</p> <p>The aim is to help to ensure that there are sustainable services that are more responsive to people’s individual need.</p> <p>Consultation will ensure that stakeholders views inform final proposals, which will help to ensure long term sustainability of any option that is taken forward.</p> |
| <p>ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> | <p>The proposal focus on preventing individuals from becoming homeless, stabilising their housing situation, or helps people to find and keep accommodation, as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Poverty • Reducing Social Exclusion and Isolation • Preventing Institutionalisation, and • Reducing Crime and Disorder <p>Consultation will ensure that proposals are informed by stakeholders, this will prevent decision making that results in a deterioration of outcomes.</p> |
| <p>iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external</p> | <p>Work has been undertaken in partnership with key stakeholders including support providers, Registered Social Landlords, Community Safety Partnership and Housing Options.</p> <p>The services will work with other organisations to support individuals who are fleeing, or have experienced domestic abuse, including Health, Social Services, and South Wales Police.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | The consultation process will enable a collaborative approach to informing proposals. |
| iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population | <p>The aim of the proposal is to address gaps in service provision, enabling support services to be offered to a more diverse range of client groups, thereby providing support which is more flexible to people’s individual needs. Feedback from current and previous service users, service providers (including staff), and the wider public will be sought as part of the consultation and proposal evaluation process. Ongoing feedback on service provision will also be sought as a matter of course post-consultation for whichever service model is commissioned.</p> <p>Providers are required to undertake engagement with those that use their services to help inform service improvement as part of their contract.</p> <p>The consultation process will ensure that all stakeholders are involved in informing the proposals.</p> |
| v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to: | <p>Services are underpinned by the values and principles of the Housing Support Grant and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Councils wellbeing objectives.</p> <p>Consultation maximises stakeholders’ ability to inform decisions that impact on them.</p> |
| Council’s well-being objectives | <p>To improve the well-being of all adults who live in the county borough by delivering services that support their independence and safeguards them from harm.</p> <p>To develop the economy and the environment so that the well-being of people can be improved.</p> |
| Other public bodies objectives | Street Vulnerable Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee, Area Planning Board, Community Safety Partnership, Homelessness review & strategy, VAWDASV strategy and leadership group. |

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

- Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Analysis of Housing Support Grant outcome data
- Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit
- Obtaining feedback from stakeholders and individuals accessing services

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

| | Conclusion |
|---|--|
| Equalities | <p>Overall there will be more positive than negative impacts associated with this proposal. Any potential negative impacts can be mitigated and the positive impacts outweigh the negative. In addition the proposal does not create a change that will disadvantage a particular group.</p> <p>Systems will be in place that will allow officers to check that the proposal is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences for people with a protected characteristic.</p> |
| Socio Economic Disadvantage | The indication is that the proposal will have a positive impact, however systems will be in place that will allow officers to check that it is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences for people in regards to social economic disadvantages. |
| Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty | The indication is that the proposal will have a positive impact, however systems will be in place that will allow officers to check that it is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended |

| | |
|---|---|
| | negative consequences for people in regards to community cohesion, social exclusion and/or poverty. |
| Welsh | The indication is that the proposal will have a positive impact, however systems will be in place that will allow officers to check that it is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences for people wishing to use the Welsh Language. |
| Biodiversity | N/A |
| Well-being of Future Generations | The indication is that the proposal will have a positive impact, however systems will be in place that will allow officers to check that it is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences against the aims of the well-being of Future Generations. |

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

The proposal options will have a positive impact and processes are in place to monitor the impact of any unintended negative consequences.

The proposal does not create a change that will disadvantage a particular group and does not impact on available resources that can be deployed to support people that require support for which this service may not be appropriate.

The proposal explores how VAWDASV emergency accommodation services can become more diversified and accessible to a wider range of client groups.

11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

| Action | Who will be responsible for seeing it is done? | When will it be done by? | How will we know we have achieved our objective? |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Monitoring of the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit | PO Commissioning | Annually | Monitoring reports |
| Analysis of any complaints and safeguarding referrals relating to the Services by the Common Commissioning Unit | PO Commissioning | Ongoing as they are received | Investigation reports and corrective action plans |
| Analysis of the Housing Support Grant Outcomes by the Common Commissioning Unit | PO Commissioning | As they are published | Monitoring reports |
| Analysis of Provider monitoring data by the Common Commissioning Unit | PO Commissioning | Annually | Monitoring reports |
| Ensure contracts have clauses relating to compliance with relevant equalities legislation | PO Commissioning | Before service commences | Contract |
| Ensure contracts have clauses around Welsh Language | PO Commissioning | Before service commences | Contract |
| Providers to implement own monitoring systems | Provider | On commencement of service | Monitoring reports |
| Service to have in place processes and policies to ensure that there is equality of access and that the individual | Provider | On commencement of service | Monitoring reports |

| | | | |
|---|----------|--|--------------------|
| requirements of the person are supported. | | | |
| Service to put in place individual support plans that take into account any specific requirements resulting from a persons protected characteristic to ensure that there is equality of outcomes. | Provider | Before service commences with the service user | Monitoring reports |

12. Sign off

| | Name | Position | Signature | Date |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Completed by | Sarah Hockin | Commissioning Officer | S.Hockin | 22/11/2023 |
| Signed off by | Chele Howard | Head of Service/Director | | 05/01/2024 |

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Name and date of Meeting

ACCESS TO MEETINGS/EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Purpose: | To consider whether the Public should be excluded from the following items of business. |
| Item (s): | <p>Agenda Item 10: Contractual arrangements with the Hollins</p> <p>Agenda Item 11: Housing Renewal & Adaptation Service Repayment of Disabled Facility Grant Monies</p> <p>Agenda Item 12: Review of client fees to ensure quality and sustainable assistive technology services.</p> <p>Agenda Item 13: Nomination Agreement for Private Sector Temporary Accommodation</p> <p>Agenda Item 14: Permission to consult on the review of commissioned violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence emergency accommodation services. – Appendix 1</p> |
| Recommendation(s): | That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | set out in the Paragraphs listed below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 subject to the Public Interest Test (where appropriate) being applied. |
| Relevant Paragraph(s): | 12, 13, 14 and 15 |

1. Purpose of Report

To enable Members to consider whether the public should be excluded from the meeting in relation to the item(s) listed above.

Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, allows a Principal Council to pass a resolution excluding the public from a meeting during an item of business.

Such a resolution is dependant on whether it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Exclusion of the Public/Public Interest Test

In order to comply with the above mentioned legislation, Members will be requested to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the item(s) of business identified in the recommendation(s) to the report on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Exclusion Paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

Information which falls within paragraphs 12 to 15, 17 and 18 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended is exempt information if and so long as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The specific Exclusion Paragraphs and the Public Interest Tests to be applied are listed in Appendix A.

Where paragraph 16 of the Schedule 12A applies there is no public interest test. Members are able to consider whether they wish to waive their legal privilege in the information, however, given that this may place the Council in a position of risk, it is not something that should be done as a matter of routine.

3. Financial Implications

Not applicable

4. Integrated Impact Assessment

Not applicable

5. Valleys Communities Impact

Not applicable

6. Workforce Impact

Not applicable.

7. Legal Implications

The legislative provisions are set out in the report.

Members must consider with regard to each item of business the following matters.

- (a) Whether in relation to that item of business the information is capable of being exempt information, because it falls into one of the paragraphs set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and reproduced in Appendix A to this report.

and either

- (b) If the information does fall within one or more of paragraphs 12 to 15, 17 and 18 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the public interest test in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information; or
- (c) if the information falls within the paragraph 16 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in considering whether to exclude the public members are not required to apply the public interest test by must consider whether they wish to waive their privilege in relation to that item for any reason.

8. Risk Management

To allow Members to consider risk associated with exempt information.

9. Recommendation(s)

As detailed at the start of the report.

10. Reason for Proposed Decision(s):

To ensure that all items are considered in the appropriate manner.

11. Implementation of Decision(s):

The decision(s) will be implemented immediately.

12. List of Background Papers:

Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

13. Appendices:

Appendix A – List of Exemptions

Appendix A

| NO | Relevant Paragraphs in Schedule 12A |
|-----------|--|
| 12 | Information relating to a particular individual |
| 13 | Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual |
| 14 | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). |
| 15 | Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority |
| 16 | Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. |
| 17 | Information which reveals that the authority proposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person, or • To make an order or direction under any enactment. |
| 18 | Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. |

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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