



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.

Officer Contact

Chele Howard, Head of Housing and Communities
c.howard@npt.gov.uk

Claire Jones, Strategic Manager, Partnerships and Community Cohesion
s.c.jones@npt.gov.uk

Elinor Wellington, Principal Officer, Community Safety
e.wellington@npt.gov.uk