



Redcar and Cleveland

Adults Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Crime and Community Safety

Feb 2021

CONTENTS PAGE

OUR APPROACH TO THE JSNA.....	3
WHY IS CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPORTANT?.....	4
WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF NEED?	5
WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY DOING?.....	7
WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO ACHIEVE?	9
WHAT DO LOCAL PEOPLE SAY?	10
WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES & CHALLENGES?.....	11
WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS?	12
REFERENCES	13

OUR APPROACH TO THE JSNA

The needs assessment process aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current and future needs of the local population to inform service commissioning and help improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities. The Redcar and Cleveland Adults Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) uses data, intelligence, and evidence to identify the current and future health and social care needs of the adult population in Redcar and Cleveland. It provides a compendium of evidence of the health needs of our local population for use by anyone working with, delivering, or planning services for our local population.

The local authority and CCG have a joint statutory duty to produce and maintain the JSNA, and health and social care commissioners are obliged to have “due regard” to the JSNA in exercising their functions. Having an effective Adults JSNA underpins the effectiveness of local strategies, services, and programmes for addressing poor health and care outcomes.

The Adults JSNA will help to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population by:

- Providing an up-to-date evidence-based resource to support health and wellbeing planning and commissioning. Please note: There are a variety of groups within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that discuss issues and prepare bespoke analysis relevant to those groups on a regular basis.
- Highlighting areas where there is a need to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the local community. As mentioned, the CSP responds to a wide variety of crime and incidents in a timely manner and highlights areas to improve outcomes.
- Identifying groups with a greater or unmet need (vulnerable groups). The CSP works with a wide range of victims and offenders. For example, adults with a care and support need would also be more susceptible to crime like distraction burglary.
- Supporting decision makers to allocate resources. All the subgroups within the CSP provide information to help each other tackle issues. A huge amount of work takes place to tackle community safety issues and the issues are constantly changing. Regular meetings are held to allocate where resources are needed. Some partners must react very quickly to an issue and will request bespoke briefings when required, to see if the issue is still continuing or has reduced in a particular area.

To ensure that our local ‘Adults JSNA’ is comprehensive and adequately describes the current and future needs of our local population it has been broken down into several individual Needs Assessments for specific topic areas or population groups. The Crime and Community Safety JSNA is one of these topic areas.

However, the ‘Crime and Community Safety JSNA’ document which assesses the needs of adults living in Redcar and Cleveland in relation to their ‘Crime and Community Safety’ also covers a wide range of topics and encompasses a multitude of groups discussing the needs of a whole variety of victims, offenders, and locations. So, this Crime and Community Safety JSNA can only give an overview as a starting place. This JSNA topic will have links to many other JSNA topic areas and should be read in conjunction with these to give a more detailed assessment of local needs, for example to name a few topics look at Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence & FGM, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Self-harm & Suicide, Substance Misuse & Alcohol, Refugees, Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Communities, Migrants & Asylum Seekers, Homelessness, Learning Disability & Autism, Loneliness & Social Isolation, Dementia with respect to vulnerable victims.

WHY IS CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPORTANT?

Why is this topic important?

Community Safety is about communities feeling safe, whether at home, in the street or at work. To help achieve this, authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and disorder to help them feel safer. These collective authorities are known as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP attempt to deal with local crime and disorder issues including antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and re-offending.

Perceptions of community safety, whether they are real or perceived, impact on the way people feel and interact in their community. A positive perception of community safety in the local area has been proved as an effective intervention to improve the mental health of the community. This is achieved with community development and engagement.

The CSP uses the 'Victim – Offender – Location' (VOL) problem solving approach to achieve Priority Outcomes that are set annually. The idea being that if one of these aspects are removed then the crime will not be committed. The CSP undertake a range of methods, including prevention; early intervention; enforcement; rehabilitation and support to ensure the on-going success and sustainability of any action taken.

Currently, coronavirus is having a varied impact on crime and community safety. During various lockdowns and restrictions, the different levels of need for various issues is vast. The level of need for several crimes is reduced i.e., burglaries and shoplifting; however, the need to respond to antisocial behaviour was amplified.

Why is this topic an issue?

Outcomes of community safety is mostly measured through levels of crime. Higher levels of crime in the main, is measured as a poor outcome. These poor outcomes then ultimately have a negative impact on the whole society and individually. The negative impacts include having more victims of crime, which in turn can have a negative impact on mental and physical health, as well as financially on individuals, businesses, and the wider community.

It is also found that certain crime categories have a bigger impact on the perception of crime in the area than others, even if these crime types are committed much less often. For example, burglaries and robberies have a much bigger influence on the perception of crime than shopliftings.

The CSP constantly assess the issues that are negatively impacting on the community. Monthly, multi-agency meetings, led through reports and intelligence, are held to overcome these issues. Also, an annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment is completed to monitor performance indicators set by the CSP, with many aspects of crime and disorder, whether they are positive and poor outcomes are analysed, and a problem-solving approach is used to improve outcomes.

What are the key risk factors?

Risk factors can be the reason or part of the reason why the problem exists; or why certain individuals or communities are more likely to become victims of crime or involved in crime.

There are clear links of being a victim/offender of crime with deprivation, as well as drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, certain types of crime bring about other risk factors; including sex/gender of victim, adults with a care and support need would also be more susceptible to crime; location of offence and the level of opportunities to commit the crime.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF NEED?

What does the data tell us?

Using data from the 2019/20 Strategic Intelligence Assessment (data based on 1st October 2019 – 30th September 2020) the main contributors to the overall crime picture are violence (36%) and theft & handling offences (23%). Separately to crime, of the ASB incidents, the majority (80%) were classed as ‘nuisance’ behaviour.

Violence is made up of five subcategories, one of which is stalking & harassment, accounting for 42% of all violent offences; and many include phone calls and contacts on social media. The increased and varied use of numerous social media platforms means it is more difficult for the CSP to have a positive impact on this crime type. There are many more victims being established through this crime type than ever before, having a negative impact on these individuals, which may be affecting their mental health.

Shoplifting accounts for 39% of all theft & handling offences, a fifth occurring at six large supermarket stores in the borough. Food and alcohol are stolen on most occasions, but a large rise in laundry/cleaning products suggests many items are being stolen to sell on.

Almost a fifth of all ASB incidents in the 12 months were reports of COVID lockdown restriction breaches in April and May alone. In addition, over a quarter of all ASB incidents were classed as being youth related. The behaviours mostly including missiles being thrown, off road bike nuisance, verbal abuse, and fire setting. Despite these not being crimes, these types of behaviours create a negative impact on individuals and communities feeling safe.

How does R&C compare with national / regional / statistical neighbours?

Comparisons can be made with the neighbouring boroughs in the Cleveland force area and the Most Similar Group (MSG). The MSG is where the borough has been placed in a group to compare with other boroughs around the country that have similar population and deprivation levels.

Compared to other boroughs in Cleveland, Redcar & Cleveland had the lowest total crime and ASB rates. As part of the MSG, Redcar & Cleveland has a lower total crime rate than the MSG average.

Has the data changed over time? Are we improving or not?

Total crime incurred a very minimal increase of 0.1% from the previous year, increasing by 10 offences to 13,087 in total for the year.

	Direction Of Travel	2018/19	2019/20	Change	% Change
Total Crime	↑	13077	13087	10	0%
Publicly Reported Crime	↓	11547	11218	-329	-3%
Antisocial Behaviour	↑	6139	6596	457	7%
Residential Burglary	↓	829	663	-166	-20%
Business & Community Burglary	↓	383	259	-124	-32%
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	↓	3234	3072	-162	-5%
Bicycle Theft	↓	91	88	-3	3%
Theft From The Person	↓	53	50	-3	6%
Vehicle Crime	↑	660	776	116	18%
Shoplifting	↓	1262	1207	55	4%
Other Theft	↓	1168	951	217	19%
Robbery	↑	86	100	14	16%
Violence Against The Person	↑	4548	4695	147	3%
Drug Offences	↑	206	252	46	22%
Sexual Offences	↓	382	325	-57	-15%
Domestic Incidents	↑	3895	3938	43	1%
Hate Incidents	↓	122	120	-2	-2%
Criminal Damage and Arson	↑	2085	2104	19	1%

ASB incurred an increase of 7%. ASB has three subcategories; 'personal' incidents reduced by 43%, but 'nuisance' incidents increasing by 16% and 'environmental' incidents increasing by 240%. 28% of all ASB incidents were reported in April and May alone, many of which were related to breaches of COVID lockdown restrictions, as referred to earlier.

The police set a target of increasing the number of drug offences; therefore, the rise in offences is highlighted as green/on target. However, it can be argued that a positive performance for this, as well as domestic incidents and hate incidents can be by either increasing or decreasing from the target. It is believed these offences/incidents are under reported, so initiatives in the past have been to increase reporting.

What patterns can be seen in different parts of Redcar & Cleveland?

The CSP host multi-agency meetings for three neighbourhood areas: Coastal, Greater Eston and Guisborough & East Cleveland (G&EC). Each area has different issues to the others due to its geographical make-up, but also all have similar problems. Each area, sporadically, incur youth related ASB issues. The Coastal area incurs a lot of business crime and night-time economy violence, which are not so prevalent in the other two areas. The Greater Eston area incurs many of the reported domestic incidents, fires, and criminal damages. Regarding volume of crime, G&EC does generally incur less offences than the other two areas but does often incur offences to rural settings (farms etc) and is victim to crimes committed by offenders from urban areas and those out of the force area.

Are there inequalities in Redcar & Cleveland?

Part of the VOL problem solving approach is that 'inequalities' for the victim, in fact make them a victim. For example, levels of crime can often be related to deprivation.

A quarter of the LSOAs in the borough are within the 10% 'most' deprived LSOAs in the country, with only 5% of the LSOAs in the borough being in the 10% 'least' deprived in the country.

Hate incidents mostly impact on minority groups – those from various races, those with disabilities, transgender people as well as the GLBT community. Approximately two-thirds of the 120 hate incidents in the year were race related. Many of these are committed against refugees and asylum seekers.

What do we know about the projected future needs?

Several locations in the borough have been identified for regeneration projects. Redcar, Loftus and Skelton included, with plans in place for some and works due to start imminently. With these regeneration projects, considerations must be given to community safety issues for while the works take place and for when they have finished. While works are ongoing, building sites are often vulnerable to crime – thefts, burglaries etc. Therefore, attention towards safeguarding property is essential. During the planning and development processes, crime prevention officers are often consulted for 'design out crime' techniques. This will reduce the vulnerabilities the area/buildings are to crime.

WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY DOING?

What are we currently doing?

Community safety is a shared issue, which must be delivered collaboratively and in partnership to provide solutions at strategic, tactical, and operational levels. The delivery of services is much more effective with a holistic approach, and reduces duplication, silo working; but provides a mechanism for information sharing and the sharing of ideas.

There are several services provided by RCBC, as well as commissioned services to help increase community safety. These are:

- Domestic Abuse services
 - Commissioned Service Provider
 - Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA)
- RCBC Community Safety Team
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services
- Fair Trading
- Environmental Protection
 - Housing
 - Noise
- Early Help
 - Streetz Team
 - ASB Ambassadors
 - Links to Sport & Leisure groups to provide diversionary activities.

What partnerships, programmes and projects are in place?

Community Safety Partnership

- Community Safety Groups (CSGs)

Three area based CSGs involve a variety of agencies meeting monthly to discuss local community safety issues. The aim is to discuss and proactively tackle these issues that require a multiagency approach. The groups also coordinate plans and procedures for future seasonal issues, which are anticipated based on previous experiences.

- Domestic Abuse Operational Partnership

The groups purpose is to ensure all residents of Redcar & Cleveland live free from the fear, threat and effects of domestic abuse and are enabled to build sustained healthy relationships. The recent Domestic Abuse Consultation and Review that has been undertaken will inform future commissioning strategy, support the review of current approaches to service delivery and assist the development of effective working partnerships that will encompass and reflect the complexity of domestic abuse service provision.

- Team around the Individual (TATI)

The focus of the TATI approach is to improve communication, coordination and interagency risk management with the adult's carers and their families where inter agency planning forums have not made sufficient progress to reduce risk and secure improved outcomes.

- Problem Solving Group (PSG)

This group meets monthly to discuss individuals who are actively engaging in antisocial behaviour (ASB). The aim is 'information sharing' and creating achievable outcomes of enforcement and support for each of the individuals discussed. Any agency can refer any individual to be discussed. This group meets the consultation process requirement when deciding to apply for Antisocial Behaviour Injunctions.

- Tactical and Coordination Group (TCG)

This group meets every four weeks and discusses various aspects of crime and disorder, mostly from a police tactical point of view with partner assistance.

- Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

The IOM model highlights the most prolific and priority offenders in the borough and uses a multi-agency approach to assess their needs to help them stop their offending.

- PREVENT

The purpose of the PREVENT Operational Group is to satisfy the statutory functions of the Local Authority under the CTSA (2015) to ensure the safeguarding of those at risk of extremism and radicalisation in our local community, and to ensure coordinated partnership work around PREVENT, at operational level.

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs)

NAPs is a councillor led forum for various topics to be discussed within a local community. Community safety issues are raised and discussed here, if they cannot be resolved immediately with CSP partners that are in attendance, they are escalated to the relevant CSG, and feedback is provided.

- Op Endurance

This multi-agency approach is to reduce crime and nuisance behaviour caused by off road vehicles, particularly in rural areas.

- Rural Crime Group

The Forum enables community safety agencies to engage with rural residents, business owners and landowners to engage on matters regarding rural crime and prioritise activity.

- Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime Group

This multi-agency meeting occurs monthly and identify issues throughout the Cleveland area, sharing best practice in how to deal with hate crimes and coordinate ideas to prevent hate crimes, how to respond to community tensions, increase the confidence for victims to report hate crimes and improving the support for victims.

What objectives have already been identified in local strategies and business plans?

The CSP set priorities each year, based on information supplied through the Strategic Intelligence Assessment, and are set out in the annually refreshed Community Safety Plan. From the current 2020/21 Community Safety Plan, the CSP priorities are:

- Reduce Antisocial Behaviour
- Reduce Violence
- Reduce Business Crime

The first priority also includes criminal damages, hate incidents and environmental crime.

The second priority also includes domestic incidents, sexual offences, as well as harm caused by alcohol and drugs.

The third priority also includes business burglary and shoplifting.

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO ACHIEVE?

What would we like to achieve?

RCBC sets a three yearly Corporate Plan, each are designed to support residents and improve the quality of life for local people, especially those in greatest need. The Corporate Plan sets what the council will do to deliver the councillors commitments to residents. Of the four commitments, the one that crime and community safety focuses on is 'Meeting our residents' needs'. The council will 'take more preventative actions, to keep people safe, to enable more children and older people to live safely at home, with the right support at the right time'.

The progress of several performance measures will be tracked as part of the Corporate Plan regarding crime and community safety. These include crime and ASB, adult safeguarding, child protection and fly tipping measures.

To support this we will;

- Work more effectively with partner agencies and services to identify vulnerable adults.
- Encourage improved information sharing and joint working to facilitate Prevention, Early Intervention and Support to vulnerable residents.
- Raise awareness of both national and local issues to encourage residents to report crime, ASB and concerns and access suitable support and services.
- Increase awareness of the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on health and wellbeing.

What does the evidence base identify as effective approaches to address Community Safety issues?

The CSP have the VOL problem solving approach to tackling community safety issues. On the topic of crime and community safety issues, it is believed that if one of these aspects are removed then the crime will not be committed. Therefore, in tackling community safety issues in the various meetings, identified earlier, this approach is adopted to prevent the issues from happening again.

WHAT DO LOCAL PEOPLE SAY?

What do local people say?

From the 2019 Residents Survey for Redcar & Cleveland, ASB was highlighted as one of the main concerns to residents, with several comments asking for more action to be taken. As well as tackling ASB, residents highlighted enforcement as an area of improvement.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES & CHALLENGES?

What are the key issues and challenges?

The challenging economic climate over the last ten years has driven up the demand for services against a backdrop of cuts to budgets and resources, widespread re-structuring and change across all public sector organisations.

The CSP is actively establishing new relationships and embracing new ways of working; bringing together a range of services, organisations, and functions to help increase community safety. Considerations also need to be given to changes and introductions of Government policies.

All public sector organisations have their own internal priorities. So as a CSP, especially during these challenging economic times, we must acknowledge that there may be competing priorities between agencies that take priority for each organisation.

The current Coronavirus pandemic has shown that the CSP is embracing new ways of working, particularly utilising technology to communicate and coordinate work. Coronavirus is also having positive and negative impacts on crime and community safety issues being committed; it can be said to have caused a rise in ASB and domestic incidents, particularly in Spring 2020; but has allowed acquisitive crimes to decrease, particularly shoplifting and burglaries.

Are there challenges/issues to partnership and system working?

In addition to challenges identified above in relation to competing internal priorities, funding, and Coronavirus; Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) are fundamental in enabling agencies to work together to overcome particular issues. For partnership working to be effective, it is essential that agencies agree and sign up to an ISA.

Are there issues with data, gaps in available information?

A vast amount of information is available within all agencies. An important element of partnership working is bringing these various sources of information together and using them to have a positive impact in the community.

Are there any financial or resource limitations?

As explained earlier, a reduction in funding across all public sector organisations has had and continues to have an impact on how we carry out our services.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS?

What are the recommendations?

- To reduce Antisocial Behaviour
- To reduce Violence
- To reduce Business Crime
- To utilise CSP agencies resources more effectively by linking our strategic objectives.

What opportunities exist to enable partners to better address these issues? Do we have any local community assets that we could be making better use of?

There are many forums/meetings/procedures undertaken between partners. In addition, lots of new ideas and initiatives are often created, which in turn creates further forums and procedures for agencies to attend and undertake further work. This is often difficult due to the stretched resources within agencies, as highlighted earlier. A recommendation is to consider whether these functions are already in place elsewhere, or if not, whether they can be included within existing forums.

Identify any recommendations for health and care commissioning / service changes.

Drug and alcohol use has a large impact on crime and community safety issues in the borough. Those found to be committing crime whilst under the influence should be automatically referred into the relevant service. It is widely believed many crimes are committed to fund drug/alcohol addictions. This service would in turn help to reduce this.

The negative impact on people's mental health from being a victim of crime can be great. The Victim Care and Advice Service is a commissioned service in the area, and victims are referred into the service by agencies. Due to this service, it is recommended that all agencies have a better understanding of the impacts on victims, and possibly undertake training in areas such as conflict management/resolution and restorative justice.

When prioritising recommendations consider which ones would provide the greatest increase in met need/have the greatest potential for health gain in the population. This may be informed by the number of people affected by health condition, severity of impact on quality of life, amount that an intervention will improve length or quality of life, cost/benefit of intervention, ability of intervention to reduce health inequalities, political acceptability.

None of the recommendations are prioritised over and above the others. The first three listed above, all have impacts on victims' mental health, and achieving the last recommendation would have a positive impact on the first three.

REFERENCES

Sources of information came from the following reports:

Victim Offender Location Model – <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/intelligence-management/analysis/>

Community Safety Plan 2021-24 – 28/04/2021

Bespoke analysis for the variety of Partnership groups – ongoing as required.

CSP Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2019/20