



Safer Halton **PARTNERSHIP**

Safer Halton Partnership - Strategy 2024 – 2027

Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Co-ordination

Strategic Needs Assessment

Partnership Members

Safer Halton Priorities

Introduction

I am pleased to present Safer Halton Partnership's Strategy for 2024-27. Tackling crime and disorder to improve community safety is a priority for us in Halton and we will continue to work together to ensure that issues the community are facing are at the forefront of our work as we understand the long lasting impacts of crime and disorder can have on individuals, families, business and our communities.

Our priorities are linked to the whole systems approach that focuses on people and places aligned with the place agenda and correlates to the Police and Crime Commissioner Plan for Cheshire. How people feel about where they live significantly impacts individual wellbeing and how resilient Halton's communities are.

This strategy sets out our key priorities over the next 3 years but we are mindful of the need to be flexible to meet new challenges should they emerge so we will review this strategy annually to ensure we can be flexible in a changing environment. We have partnership leads for each of the priorities to enable individual delivery plans to be developed and implemented.

Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones

Executive Board Member - Community Safety

The Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Partnerships came into being in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placing responsibility on Local Authorities and Police Chiefs to meet regularly with responsible authorities to discuss crime and disorder issues within their area. They are tasked to carry out an annual Strategic Assessment and have a strategy and plan to tackle community safety matters.

The aim of the partnership is to work together to make Halton a safe place to live, work and visit. It will do this by tackling identified crime and disorder priorities to mitigate the risk to Halton's residents.

The partnership is continually evolving and in more recent years there has been the emergence of the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and the requirement to liaise and work with their office. The area of responsibility is also constantly developing and it now has the additional responsibility of the Serious Violence Duty, Domestic Homicide Related Death Reviews and Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews. There is also an increasing link with Public Health in particular when looking at the risk and harm of drugs and alcohol.

Safer Halton Partnership is chaired by Halton Borough Council and meets quarterly with terms of reference that are in place and reviewed annually.

The functions of Safer Halton Partnership are to:

- *Fulfil the statutory requirements of a Community Safety Partnership as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.*
- *Prepare a Strategic Needs Assessment at least once a year.*
- *Prepare and review a forward strategy for community safety and crime prevention.*
- *Prepare, agree and implement a Partnership Delivery Plan that will be refreshed each year.*
- *Refresh the Terms of Reference and Membership of Safer Halton Partnership each year.*
- *Develop and review information sharing protocols across the partnerships.*
- *Manage performance against the objectives set out in the Partnership Delivery Plan.*
- *Manage and monitor the Partnership Delivery Plan including funded projects.*
- *Co-ordinate the work of partner agencies in developing a safe Halton.*
- *Engage with other relevant strategies.*
- *Adopt a victim focused approach across all work streams in line with the PCC Plan.*
- *Report progress of Safer Halton Partnership to Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board and One Halton Health & Wellbeing Board.*
- *Understand and work in partnership to deliver interventions to target Child Sexual Exploitation.*
- *Fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.*
- *Fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews*
- *Fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Serious Violence Duty.*
- *Ensure all appropriate measures are undertaken in relation to Counter Terrorism.*

Strategic Co-ordination

Safer Halton Partnership does not and cannot exist in isolation from other partnership and boards. In order to manage its work, Safer Halton Partnership will convene and provide strategic leadership to whatever supporting groups it requires.

Other strategies and boards include:

Operational Problem Solving Group

Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership

Cheshire Criminal Justice Board

Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership

Contextualised Safeguarding Operational Group

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board

Halton Combatting Drugs Partnership

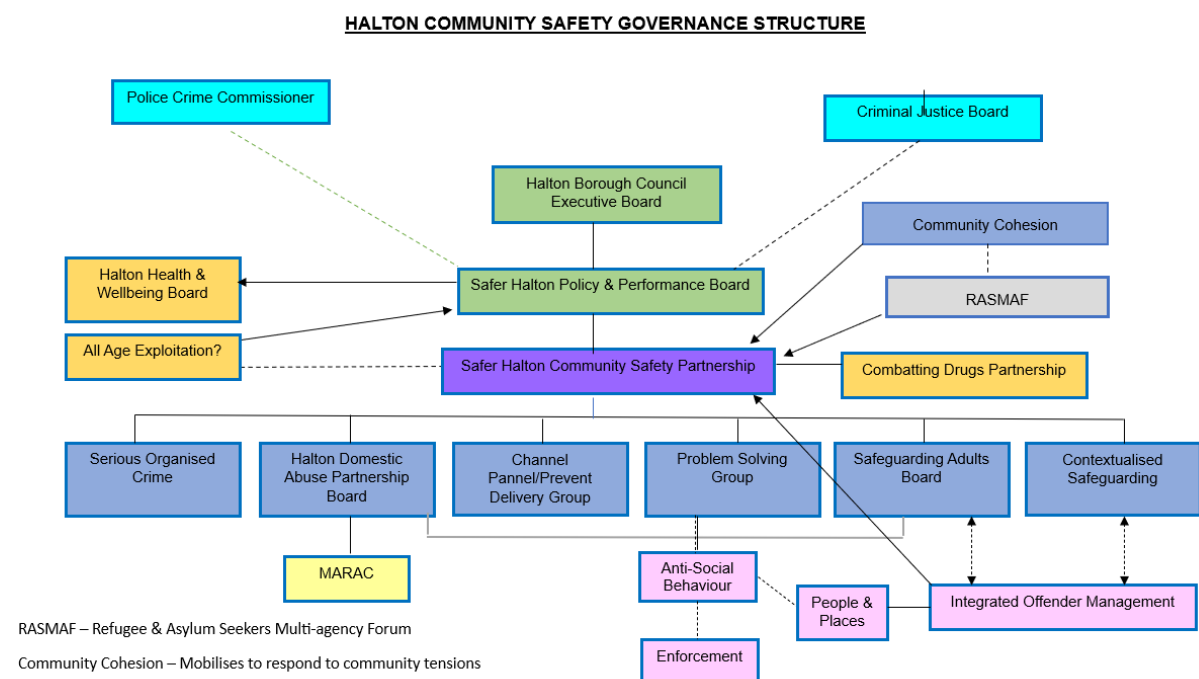
Cheshire Road Safety Group

Refugee & Asylum Multi-Agency Forum

Integrated Offender Management

Channel

Prevent Delivery Group



Strategic Needs Assessment

There is a statutory requirement to ensure a strategic needs assessment of crime and disorder within Halton is carried out; this is used to inform Safer Halton Partnership priorities.

The strategic assessment for 2022 details the total number of crimes recorded in Halton increased by 1% from 13,418 in 2021 to 13,546 in 2022.

The total number of incidents recorded in Halton has also remained static with a minor decrease from 30,864 in 2021 to 30,821 in 2022 with a more significant decrease from 34,733 in 2019.

Safer Halton Partnership Members

The partnership is made up of local key strategic organisations, statutory members include;

Halton Borough Council

Cheshire Police

Cheshire Fire and Rescue

Probation Service

Health Partners

Other members involved but not under the same statutory duty include;

Housing

Voluntary Sector

Public Health

Police Crime Commissioner

Youth Offending Service

Department of Work and Pensions

Education/Children's Services

Outside of the core membership, where appropriate, Safer Halton Partnership will seek to work with relevant partners across the public, private and voluntary sector. These partners may be co-opted for targeted work for inclusion in the delivery plan and funded initiatives.

Safer Halton Partnership Priorities

Many of the priorities do not change year to year as they follow long-term trends but our strategic priorities will be established for a three year period. The partnership recognises that it may need to re-focus priorities to respond to emerging issues and changing trends, these will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Following the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder in 2022 the Community Safety Partnership agreed 9 priorities. Importantly they align with the priorities set by Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The current priorities identified, in no particular order are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women & Girls
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Integrated Offender Management
- Counter Terrorism/Prevent
- Hate Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Serious Violence
- Road Safety

Anti-Social Behaviour

Safer Halton recognises the deep and lasting impact that anti-social behaviour has on victim's health and wellbeing and the wider negative impact on the community. Safer Halton Partnership has strong multi-agency arrangements and interventions which are making a difference.

There are varying levels of ASB across the borough; we share information between partners so that we can respond to emerging issues in neighbourhoods and deliver relevant local responses with place-based delivery models. Using a problem-solving approach, we are able to respond appropriately with a number of interventions. Anti-social behaviour fluctuates through the year with peaks at key dates ie Halloween, bonfire night, school holidays. As a partnership we aim to plan specific operations at these times to provide diversionary activity and mitigate impacts.

Aside from legal powers, partner agencies work together to deliver sensitive mediation interventions including restorative justice approaches, which guide the offender to address their behaviour and the impact this has on their victims.

Areas of Focus

- Restorative approach to low level crime and ASB where appropriate.
- Improve the offer of diversionary activities to promote positive behaviour.
- Increase engagement with residents to encourage them to report crime and promote community cohesion.
- Recognise the impact of dangerous dogs and changes in legislation. The partnership will work together to respond to changes and build confidence in the community.

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent in 2021 and became the largest piece of legislation in history in relation to Domestic Abuse. The strategic direction and the response to Domestic Abuse will be driven by the Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (HDAPB). However, Safer Halton Partnership has responsibility for Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and ensuring there is a strategic line of sight between both boards.

Safer Halton Partnership is committed to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and wants Halton to be a place where women and girls are safe and feel able to pursue their lives free from fear and harassment. Safer Halton believes that with effective earlier intervention, joint working and a drive to challenge the culture and attitudes that give rise to all forms of abuse, we can make Halton a safe place for women and girls to live, work and enjoy their leisure time.

Areas of Focus

- Develop approaches that prevent abuse before it happens
- Identify and stop harmful behaviour
- Support and strengthen those at risk
- Improve and expand support for everyone who is affected by abuse

Serious Organised Crime

Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) is criminal activity that is planned, coordinated and committed by people working individually, in groups, or as part of national and or international networks. It usually centres on acquiring money, profit, influence and power. It is likely that serious and organised crime affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat. It has a daily impact on citizens, public services, businesses, institutions, national reputation and infrastructure.

When tackling Serious and Organised Crime Halton follows the four government objectives to tackling this crime ;

- target and relentlessly disrupt the serious and organised criminals and networks that cause the most harm;
- build the highest levels of defence and resilience in vulnerable people, communities, businesses and systems;
- stop the problem at source, and identify and support those at risk of engaging in criminality; and
- establish a single, whole-system approach.

Areas of Focus

- Modern Day Slavery
- Cyber Crime
- County Lines

Integrated Offender Management

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) delivers a multi-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together to reduce reoffending and the impact on communities.

Areas of Focus

- Reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending
- Reducing the number of people who become victims of crime
- Reducing the level of acquisitive reoffending
- Helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system
- Improve outcomes for rehabilitation of offenders

Counter Terrorism / Prevent

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) as modified by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, places a duty on a number of organisations, including the local authority, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The Prevent Duty sets out the guidance for the local authority and its partners to prevent people becoming terrorists or engaging in extremism leading to terrorism. Halton's Channel Multi-Agency Partnership focus is not to criminalise people; it aims to safeguard those at risk of radicalisation and support them to engage with interventions to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, intervening early to support those susceptible to radicalisation, and enabling people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Areas of Focus

- Establish and embed the Prevent Delivery Group with a focus on; multi-agency communication for consistency, awareness raising of referral process and workforce training across all organisations.
- Development of delivery plan to ensure compliance and appropriate focus.
- Participate in the Liverpool City Region Prevent approach.

Hate Crime

Hate crime not only harms its victims, it also harms their families and communities. It can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property.

Safer Halton Partnership is committed to tackling hate crime and strives to raise awareness of what a hate crime is to residents and communities understanding that it is not acceptable to target individuals based on their identity.

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone's race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability. These aspects are known as 'protected characteristics'.

Area of Focus

- Review of Strategy
- Education – to raise awareness of what a hate crime is and help people understand that it is not right to target individuals based on their identity.
- Review the pathway of recording hate crimes including information, advice & guidance and community locations
- Review the availability of data on hate crimes to inform local responses

Substance Misuse

The misuse of alcohol and substances has far reaching negative impacts across Halton and there has been an increase of 34% in drug offences in 2022 and both drug and alcohol related domestic abuse has increased by 12%. This aligns to other Safer Halton priorities domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and serious and organised crime.

Halton Combating Drugs Partnership (HCDP) is a strategic, multi-agency partnership established to support the delivery of the ambitions as set out in "From Harm to Hope: A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives"; the focus is on preventing harm from drugs.

Areas of Focus

- Improve collaboration, information and data sharing between partners
- Disrupt County Lines, breaking drug supply chains
- Protect vulnerable people
- Deliver an integrated drug and alcohol treatment, harm reduction and recovery system
- Rebuild and transform communities, reducing drug use and preventing harm in the long-term

Serious Violence

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced as part of the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022; it requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. This requires a multi-agency, public health approach to understand the causes and effects of serious violence, developing a strategic response focusing on prevention and early intervention, and monitoring the impact of this preventative work.

Halton is part of a Cheshire approach to serious violence with the strategy development and work programme being led and co-ordinated by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Areas of Focus

Long term priorities of prevention, workforce development and intelligence-led practice and commissioning are in place with an immediate focus on;

- Early intervention and targeted preventative work to support children at risk of involvement in serious violence.
- Targeted work with perpetrators and victims to prevent and reduce domestic abuse-related serious violence.

Road Safety

The latest figures (2022) for Halton show a small rise in overall casualty numbers following last year's decrease. This is consistent with the national picture, where there have been increases in casualties of all severities over the previous 12 months (although still below pre-pandemic levels).

Area of Focus

Halton's programme covers and will continue to focus on;

- road traffic collision reduction schemes
- road safety education
- training
- publicity
- targeting effective enforcement action

Summary and Next Steps

Tackling and reducing crime and the fear of crime is a long-term aspiration which requires a multi-agency approach. Crime is often linked to wider socio-economic issues such as poverty, employment, education attainment, access to services and diversionary activity, substance misuse amongst others. It's important that Halton works strategically with partners and Halton's community to understand the impacts of crime and disorder and strive for a safer borough with thriving communities.

This strategy sets out the priorities for Safer Halton Partnership which informs the partnership annual delivery plan. The partnership delivery plan will provide information on each of the identified priorities and includes a 4 P's approach; prepare, prevent, pursue and protect, with an identified responsible lead agency/agencies, information on activity/progress and outcomes. Progress will be monitored quarterly at Safer Halton Partnership meetings.