

# Overview & Scrutiny Report



**REPORT TO :** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 12th September 2019

**SUBJECT:** Community Safety update

**REPORT FROM:** Councillor Sharon Briggs

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Tom Houghton – Community Safety Manager

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**TYPE OF DECISION:** For Information

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**FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION/STATUS:**

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**SUMMARY:** This report provides feedback from the Community Safety Partnership on crime statistics in Bury and progress in implementing priorities of the Community Safety Plan.

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**OPTIONS &  
RECOMMENDED OPTION** To note the content of the report

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**Corporate Aims/Policy  
Framework:** Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework?

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Yes

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**Statement by the S151  
Officer:**  
**Financial Implications  
and Risk  
Considerations:**

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**Statement by Executive  
Director of Resources &  
Regulation:**

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**Equality/Diversity  
implications:** None

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**Considered by  
Monitoring Officer:**

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**Wards Affected:** All

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**Scrutiny Interest:**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides feedback from the Community Safety Partnership on crime statistics in Bury and progress in implementing priorities of the Community Safety Plan.

## 2.0 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

- 2.1 Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the current activity and future direction of Community Safety.

## 3.0 SUMMARY

- Crime levels in Bury are at or below projected levels in 23 out of 26 areas.
- Bury is the second safest borough in GM in terms of Household crime.
- Bury has some of the lowest Juvenile reoffending rates in GM, well below national averages.
- Adult re-offending is also below National averages and Bury is in the top half of GM boroughs.
- Hate-crime levels are also below the GM average but in line with national trend have increased over the last couple of years.
- This report has been written with limited available Police data. However, the Police are in the process of implementing a new IT system which will ultimately enhance data quality and improve general efficiency.

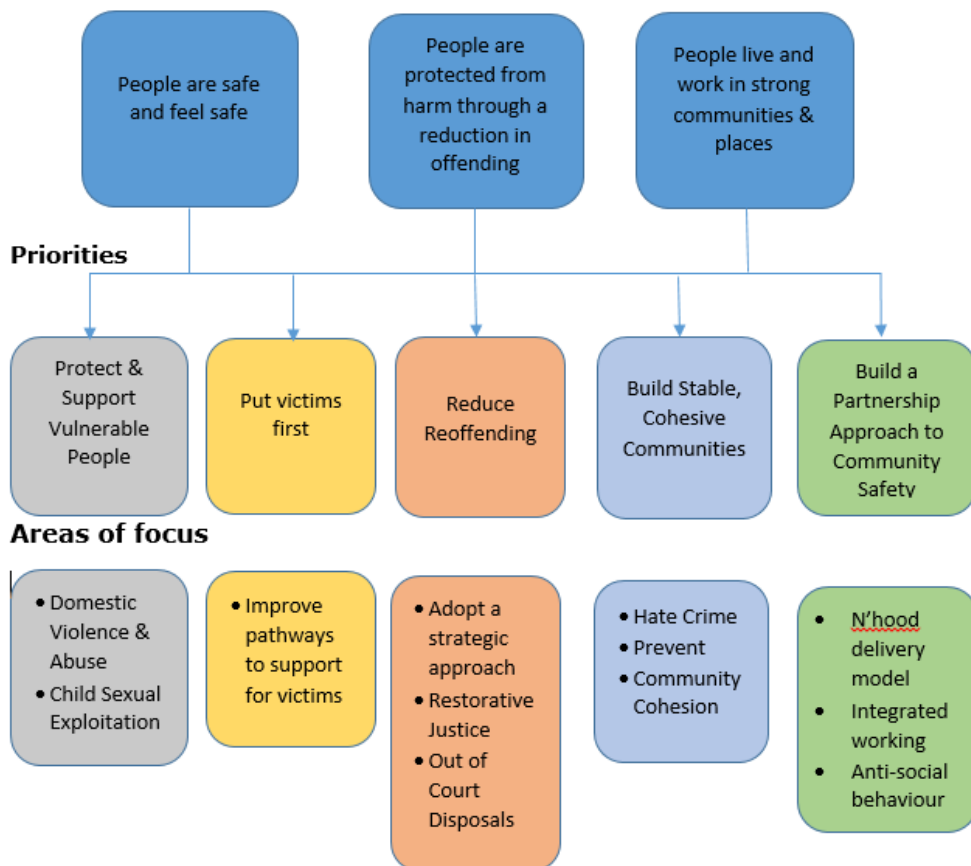
## 4.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2019-21

- 4.1 The Community Safety Plan was agreed at Full Council in November 2018. The priorities identified in the plan link directly to the outcomes identified in the GM Standing Together Police & Crime Plan, which forms the bedrock of all Community Safety Plans across Greater Manchester.
- 4.2 The priorities are implemented through a series of thematic groups under the following structure:



- 4.3 The diagram below sets out the Outcomes we want to achieve for the people of Bury, the Priorities identified for achieving them and the areas of focus under each priority. There is also a suite of Indicators and Measures against which we will measure progress. Oversight of this will take place through the regular portfolio meetings with the Cabinet Member for Communities.

#### High-level outcomes



## 5.0 CURRENT ISSUES

- 5.1 **Domestic Violence & Abuse** (DVA) continues to be a key area of concern, with repeat victimisation being much higher than in other crimes. As a result, an additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocate has been commissioned on a long-term commitment through Victim Support under the direction of a dedicated CSP task group, chaired by the Council to work with high-risk victims. Awareness-raising through campaigns and targeted work with hard-to-reach groups is also a priority and with reported DVA 18% lower than the GM average this year when compared to last year, this looks to be working.
- 5.2 **Violent Youth Crime** - £300k of GM funding has been secured to address the issue of violent crime amongst young people. The Council is responsible for drawing up this allocation on a multi-agency basis, under the direction of the CSP. The proposals include:
- Using Police intelligence to target and then work with young people out in the community to divert them away from Anti-Social Behaviour and violent crime

- Developing a programme of work in schools to bring home the realities of carrying weapons and consequences of violent crime
- Developing increased capacity for the Youth Offending Service through a new mentoring programme, improved victim liaison and a specialist role working specifically with female offenders. All of these functions are jointly commissioned with Rochdale Council.

**5.3 Channel/Prevent** – Local Government has a legal duty to lead the multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals at risk of being drawn into extremism. In recent months there has been a Home-Office sanctioned shift away from the Police towards cases being managed by Council staff – the Council benefits from a Manchester co-ordinated team delivering this work across GM. The hope is that moving it out of the ‘crime sphere’ will encourage the community to better engage with the Prevent agenda. To complement this we are:

- Developing a training programme for delivery across the partnership to ensure all staff are adequately trained to understand what radicalisation, extremism and terrorism mean, who may be vulnerable to it and how to refer people into the programme. Amongst others, training has been delivered to Schools, Colleges, Housing Providers, Social Care teams and Mental Health.
- Working with the Home Office to organise events/meetings to hold difficult conversations with communities who might be sceptical about Prevent.

**5.4 Impact of Brexit** – The Council is updating the corporate risk register to deal with the impact of Brexit, including the risk of no deal, with potential impact on supply chains and economic downturn. Should these risks manifest it is possible that the country will experience some degree of civil unrest, increased crime and community tensions. Whilst there is no intelligence to suggest specific issues will arise in Bury, following a Brexit vote a spike in Hate Crime was experienced all over the country. It is therefore prudent to plan for all contingencies and the Council is working with GMP through the CSP to ensure preparedness in line with national Police planning guidance.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

**6.1** The crime statistics are very positive and reflect the strength of partnership working in Bury.

**6.2** The new Community Safety Plan will provide a clear strategic framework for the Community Safety Partnership and act as a basis for the development of a work programme to meet agreed strategic outcomes.

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	

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