



Safer Halton **PARTNERSHIP**

Safer Halton Partnership - Strategy 2024 – 2027

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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.

The priorities are linked to the whole systems approach that focuses on people and places aligned with the One Halton Health and Wellbeing Board and correlates to the Police and Crime Commissioner Plan for Cheshire. We know that people who feel safe and secure in their home and community is a contributing factor to them feeling and staying healthy.

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 meet the changing environment in which we work. We have partnership leads for each of them 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 were created when the crime and disorder act 1998 placed 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 with a strategy and plan.

The aim of the partnership is to work together to make Halton a safe place to live and work. 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 and Domestic 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.*
- *To understand and work in partnership to deliver interventions to target Child Sexual Exploitation.*
- *To fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews.*
- *To fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Serious Violence Duty.*
- *Ensure all appropriate measures are undertaken in relation to Counter Terrorism.*
- *Recognise the support that partners can provide to the Right Care Right Place agenda.*

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
Asylum and Refugee Multi-Agency Forum
Integrated Offender Management
Emergency Planning / Cheshire Local Resilience Forum
Channel / Prevent Board
Cheshire Road Safety Group

Strategic Needs Assessment

Every year a strategic assessment of crime and disorder within Halton is carried out. This is used to inform the Safer Halton Partnership priorities.

The strategic assessment for 2022 tells us that the total number of crimes recorded in Halton has increased by 1% from 13,418 in 2021 to 13,546 in 2022. However, when comparing data over 5 years crime in Halton it appears that the crime rate has remained stable since 2018.

The total number of incidents recorded in Halton has remained static with a very small decrease from 30,864 in 2021 to 30,821 in 2022 and overall since 2019 has decreased from 34,733.

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

Merseyside and Cheshire NHS

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/Childrens Services

Health including Mental Health

Outside of the core membership, where appropriate, we 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 our priorities to respond to emerging issues and changing trends so 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:

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women & Girls
3. Serious and Organised Crime
4. Integrated Offender Management
5. Counter Terrorism/Prevent
6. Hate Crime
7. Substance Misuse
8. Serious Violence
9. Road Safety

1. Anti-Social Behaviour

We recognise 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 different 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 certain spikes at key dates ie Halloween, Bonfire Night and school holidays and we plan specific operations at these times.

Aside from legal power, 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 approached 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.

2. 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 Board (HDAB). However, Safer Halton Partnership will retain overview of Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensure 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 safe to pursue their lives free from fear and harassment. We believe 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

3. 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
- All Age Slavery
- Cyber Crime - Sexual/Scams/Financial
- Country Lines

4. Integrated Offender Management

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-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.

Areas of Focus

- Reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending
- Reducing the number of people who become victims of crime
- Helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system

5. Counter Terrorism / Prevent

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) as modified by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, placed 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 but entirely to safeguard those at risk of radicalisation and support them to change direct in a way that will help them.

Areas of Focus

6. 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. We want 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.

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.

7. 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 is up 12%. There are close links to other proprieties such as domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour as well as 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

- To break the drug supply chains
- To provide a world class treatment and recovery offer
- To reduce demand for drugs

8. 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 means taking 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.

In Halton the work will be developed and implemented as part of Cheshire Serious Violence Strategy.

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.

9. 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 and will not be achieved overnight. Crime is often linked to other social issues such as poverty, lack of education, substance misuse amongst many other others. It's important that Halton works strategically with partners and across our community to achieve change.

This strategy sets out the priorities for Safer Halton Partnership and this will inform the partnership delivery plan. The partnership delivery plan will provide information on each of the identified priorities. The document will include a 4 P's plan (prepare, prevent, pursue and protect) an identified responsible lead agency/agencies, information on activity/progress and outcomes. Progress will monitored quarterly at Safer Halton Partnership meetings.