

COMMUNITIES & LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
5 MARCH 2026

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2026-2029

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of five responsible authorities; Darlington Borough Council, Durham Constabulary, NHS (Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys), County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and the National Probation Service. These agencies all have a statutory duty to work together to tackle crime and disorder. Furthermore, additional members of the Darlington CSP include County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and representative of the voluntary and community sector.
2. The CSP has a 2021-2026 Partnership Plan which is coming to the end of its life cycle. To inform the development of the new plan, the CSP consulted with the public to understand which areas were a priority for the community to address as part of the new plan. A consultation exercise was undertaken in October and November 2025 to inform the development of an updated plan.
3. The new CSP Plan will be a three-year plan (2026-2029) as all partners felt a three-year plan period provides a more flexible approach to planning, enabling partners to develop and adjust their plans and approaches to ensure it can respond to any changes.
4. The plan sets out the key priorities of the CSP. The draft plan has been developed following feedback from members of the public and was considered at the last Community Safety Partnership meeting in late January 2026. The draft plan sets out the aims and objectives for the next three years and what the partnership intend to do to ensure Darlington becomes an even safer place to live, work and visit. The draft plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Summary

5. CSP's were created to tackle crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour through collective place based action, recognising that enforcement alone cannot address the root causes of harm. Therefore, the CSP looks at early intervention and prevention as well as physical actions to try to deal with issues.
6. Darlington CSP remains committed to providing an environment where people can go about their everyday lives confident in the knowledge that Darlington is a place where people treat each other fairly and with respect, and they are safe from harm or the effects of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. The CSP is aware that we still have to work to

build upon our successes and focus on a range of new challenges and activities.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that :-

- (a) Scrutiny note the content of the report, the consultation responses and the draft Community Safety Partnership Plan 2026-2029.
- (b) Scrutiny advise if they believe there should be any changes to the Plan before these are considered by Cabinet and full Council.

Ben Grabham

Assistant Director – Environmental Services and Community Safety

Council Plan	One of the objectives of the Council plan is to support a strong Community safety Partnership to ensure the issues affecting the safety and security of our communities are addressed collectively, including addressing hate crime.
Addressing inequalities	The CSP plan seeks to ensure that we support all members of the community to seek ensure no-one is adversely impacted by crime and disorder.
Tackling Climate Change	Not applicable to this report
Efficient and effective use of resources	Not applicable to this report
Health and Wellbeing	Crime and anti-social behaviour can affect a person's health and well-being and the CSP plan and the CSP will work to make Darlington a safe place to live, work, and visit.
S17 Crime and Disorder	The CSP is committed to making Darlington a safe place to live, work, and visit and aim to achieve this through early intervention and prevention as well as actions delivered across the Partnership.
Wards Affected	All wards affected
Groups Affected	The priority areas of the CSP seek to ensure that no group is adversely affected by crime and disorder.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report will make changes to the Council's current policy framework and therefore requires approval by full Council
Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Consultations

8. The CSP consulted with the public to understand their views and perceptions on crime and anti-social behaviour and to identify the public's views on what the priorities for the CSP should be. The consultation was live on the Council's website between 13th October and 25th November 2025. The consultation was promoted by partners through various social media platforms and an article was placed in the One Darlington magazine (Autumn edition).
9. 117 responses were received from members of the public to the consultation, and the results of the survey are included in Appendix 2. The results of the survey have been used by the CSP to inform the priority areas included in the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2026-2029.
10. The headline results from the survey are as follows:-
 - 39.6% of respondents had been a victim of crime whereas 60.4% had not been a victim of crime
 - 52.9% of respondents had been a victim of anti-social behaviour whereas 47.1% had not been a victim of anti-social behaviour
 - 78.2% of respondents felt that incidence of anti-social behaviour had increased over the past 12 months whereas 3% felt it had decreased (18.8% of respondents felt it had stayed the same)
 - 59% of respondents felt that incidence of hate crime had increased over the past 12 months whereas 6% felt it had decreased (35% of respondents felt it had stayed the same)
 - 59.4% of respondents felt that incidence of overall crime had increased over the past 12 months whereas 4.95% felt it had decreased (35.65% of respondents felt it had stayed the same)
 - 46.5% of respondents were very concerned about anti-social behaviour of adults, 42.6% were somewhat concerned and 10.89% were not at all concerned
 - 64.36% of respondents were very concerned about anti-social behaviour of youths, 32.67% were somewhat concerned and 2.97% were not at all concerned
 - 14% of respondents were very concerned about their safety when out during the day, 39% were somewhat concerned and 47% were not at all concerned
 - 40.2% of respondents were very concerned about their safety when out during the night, 51% were somewhat concerned and 8.8% were not at all concerned
 - 28.4% of respondents were very concerned about hate crime, 42.2% were somewhat concerned and 29.4% were not at all concerned
 - 34.65% of respondents were very concerned about overall crime, 59.4% were somewhat concerned and 5.95% were not at all concerned
11. When respondents were asked which three issues the CSP should focus on over the next three years the highest responses were:
 1. Anti-social behaviour
 2. Drug dealing and substance mis-use

3. Off-road motorcycles
 4. Domestic abuse
-
12. The results of the CSP survey are included in full in Appendix 2 (please note that when the survey was first published an error in the wording relating to the question on equalities was discovered. This was corrected and only the figures for the 'correct' wording have been included in the Appendix).
 13. In addition to the CSP survey, the CSP have also considered other consultation exercises undertaken in recent months. These include the 'Being Included in Your Community' survey. The survey was undertaken in summer 2025 and this survey attracted 2,395 responses. As part of the survey, respondents were asked 'how safe do you feel in the area you live'? 66.49% of people said they felt very safe or safe whilst only 8.65% said unsafe or very unsafe (24.86% of people answered 'neutral').
 14. In addition, as part of the Being Included in your Community survey, respondents were asked which types of anti-social behaviour they experienced in the community in which they live. The highest responses were as follows:
 - Litter or rubbish (including fly tipping) or dog fouling
 - Vehicle related anti-social behaviours such as abandoned vehicles, off road bikes, speeding cars or motorcycles, cars revving etc
 - People hanging around or loitering
 - Drugs or evidence of drugs

Priority Areas for the CSP Plan 2026-2029

15. The CSP have digested the results of the surveys undertaken and coupled with intelligence data and trend analysis, the partnership has agreed the following areas should be identified as the priority areas in the CSP Plan 2026-2029. The priority areas are:
 - Anti-social behaviour and off-road motorcycles
 - Drugs and substance mis-use
 - Domestic abuse and sexual violence
 - Community cohesion
16. The CSP will work towards a (i) coordinated and efficient multi-agency response to reports of anti-social behaviour (ii) ensuring effective support is in place to meet the needs of victims (iii) that effective pathways are in place to deal with perpetrators and (iv) that there is an increase in community confidence to continue to report incidents
17. The CSP will continue to meet regularly and members will ensure that performance and progress are regularly monitored. This will cover a range of activities but will include (i) working with and supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour (ii) applying prevention and early intervention approaches to seek to reduce people becoming victims of crime and anti-social behaviour (iii) increasing public confidence to report crime and anti-social behaviour (iv) improving partnership working in Darlington and beyond via strategic groups and partnership boards and (v) providing support to the MAPS Group (multi-agency problem solving) to prioritise crime and disorder, threat, risk and action.

18. The draft CSP Plan 2026-2029 is included at Appendix 1. Please note that the figures of page 4 of the plan are historic data but are included to highlight an example of what the page will look like – when the plan is finalised up to date figures will be included in the document.