

BEING AND FEELING SAFE AND SECURE

The Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023

The Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to deliver the Safer Sunderland Strategy.

The SSP has achieved a lot for local people with 14,157 fewer victims of crime than there were five years ago and improvements in residents' concerns about crime.

We've just published our new Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023. It sets out what we believe will make Sunderland the safest it has ever been. It will give you a real expectation of what we can do by working together to deliver our long-term outcome that everyone in Sunderland will be, and feel, safe and secure.

We continue to listen to your concerns. We hold an annual Safer Sunderland Forum and run regular neighbourhood engagement meetings, as well as local and citywide surveys. In response to these, we'll concentrate on the following issues over the next 12 months:

- Tackling anti-social behaviour and perceptions of it.
- Improving feelings of safety, especially among more vulnerable groups.
- Reducing re-offending.
- Reducing repeat victimisation, especially domestic violence.
- Tackling drug and alcohol misuse and the harm it causes, including drug and alcohol related crime and disorder.
- Reducing the problems in those communities who suffer from higher than average crime and disorder.

So what will this mean for you? By 2023:

- No one in Sunderland will feel very unsafe where they live and your feelings of safety will be at their highest ever level.
- You will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime rates.
- More people will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children.

- The following will be at their lowest ever levels:
 - o Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
 - o Drug related (Class A) offending
 - o Re-offending by adult and young offenders
 - o Repeat domestic violence incidents
 - o Assault with injury
- There will be fewer repeat substance misusers accessing treatment.
- No one will perceive hate crime to be a very serious problem in Sunderland and vulnerable groups will feel as safe as other residents across the city.

So, how are we going to do this?

We'll work in partnership to:

- 1. Prevent crime, disorder and substance misuse from happening in the first place. For example we will:**
 - Design out crime by changing the physical environment of our streets and neighbourhoods including CCTV and secured car parks.
 - Provide crime prevention advice on reducing the risks of being a victim.
 - Promote citizenship work with young people that covers respect and helps young people become more active citizens.
 - Promote the fact that every neighbourhood is policed by its own dedicated Policing Team who are working with partners to solve local problems and reassure residents.
- 2. Intervene early to stop problems from escalating. For example we will:**
 - Deliver parenting programmes and provide young people with education and awareness-raising on substance misuse.
 - Remove enviro-crime quickly (e.g. graffiti and abandoned vehicles) to prevent such problems taking hold and becoming more serious.
 - Continue the Safer Homes Initiative which provides a swift response to victims of house burglary, hate crime and domestic violence through improved home security (call 0845 230 9090 for more information).

- Provide activities for young people (e.g. sport, leisure and volunteering) to divert those at risk into more positive activities. Early warning letters to parents and home visits about their children's behaviour is also helping prevent it escalating.
- Continue the taxi marshalling scheme which intervenes immediately in disputes at taxi ranks to ensure they don't lead to more serious violence.

3. Take swift enforcement action against those who break the law. For example we will:

- Intensively target the small number of offenders who cause the most harm to local communities and get those who need it, into drug treatment.
- Run the 'Community Payback' scheme so that offenders make amends to their victims and their community (e.g. environmental clean-ups).
- Enforce the city's Licensing Policy to help reduce alcohol related violence.
- Make use of relevant legal powers where appropriate (e.g. Fixed Penalty Notices, Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, ASBOs and tenancy enforcement).
- Use the latest technologies such as CCTV to support prosecutions and provide reassurance.

4. Provide support victims of crime and help people break the cycle of re-offending and substance misuse. For example we will:

- Support victims of domestic violence to live safely at home through improved home security, or in supported accommodation.
- Prevent further re-offending by helping offenders to be more active citizens through access to drug and alcohol treatment, basic skills, employment, training and settled accommodation.
- Intervene with the most problematic families by taking a whole family approach to help break the cycle of intergenerational crime.

If you'd like more information about the Safer Sunderland Partnership and its Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023 contact the Safer Communities Team at Sunderland City Council on Tel 0191 553 7915 or email community.safety@sunderland.gov.uk

The Safer Sunderland Strategy can be downloaded from: www.sunderland.gov.uk/safersunderland

