



Safer Vale Partnership Strategy 2023-2028

Work together to Prevent and Reduce Crime and Disorder and Improve Public Perception, Wellbeing and Community Safety for those who Live, Work and Visit the Vale of Glamorgan.

Introduction



I am pleased to introduce the new Safer Vale Partnership Strategy 2023-2028. The change from a three year to a five year strategy reflects the scale of the anticipated changes within the field of community safety across the next few years. During the course of this strategy's lifetime, the partnership will be responding to the expectations laid out in both the Serious Violence and Protect Duties, where Community Safety Partnerships will have to

demonstrate improved information sharing, identification, prevention and responses to these pertinent issues affecting our communities. The Safer Vale Partnership recognises the increasing importance of working together effectively to prevent and reduce crime and disorder in a world that is still recovering from the effects of the pandemic and through a newly emerging community safety landscape affected by increased cost of living, pressurised community cohesion as a result of a changes in migration and ever changing criminality and vulnerabilities in our rapidly evolving digital world.

Miles Punter

Chair of the Safer Vale Partnership

How to use this document

This document outlines the **landscape** of the Safer Vale Partnership. That is **who** we are, **why** we exist, **what** our vision, mission and priorities are as well as **what** we have in place to achieve them. These are things that aren't likely to change very much in the next five years and therefore this Strategy Document covers the period 2023-2028.

The **bridge** between our Strategy and the work that we do is our Delivery Plan. A new plan will be written each year based on the findings of a yearly Strategic Assessment. The plan outlines **how** we plan to achieve our mission and vision.

This Delivery Plan will be accompanied by a yearly annual report which will outline what the Partnership has achieved, and the **progress** made against the Delivery Plan in that year.



This icon indicates that a specific commitment will feature in one of the Delivery Plans.

Background to Community Safety Partnerships

Since the Scarman Report in 1981, successive governments recognised that effective partnership working resulted in better crime reduction outcomes. This was consolidated by the Morgan Report in 1991 and culminated in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. This Act established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, defines a Community Safety Partnership as “An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”.

They are statutorily responsible for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in each local authority area.

The make-up and role of CSPs has been altered since 1998, through the Police and Justice Act 2006, Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, the Local Government and Health Act 2007, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 and finally the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011.



“An Alliance of Organisations which generates strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

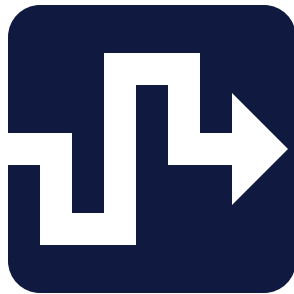
The Safer Vale Partnership - "SVP"

The Vale of Glamorgan's Community Safety Partnership is known as the "Safer Vale Partnership".

The Safer Vale Partnership is made up of representation from

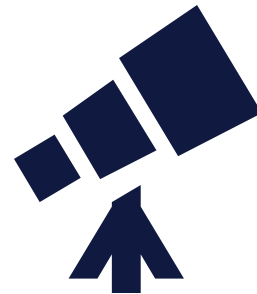
- The Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority
- South Wales Police
- South Wales Fire and Rescue
- National Probation Service
- Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board.

In addition to our statutory partners there are a large number of voluntary and private sector partners as well as community groups who collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep the Vale of Glamorgan a safe place to live, work and visit



The mission of the Safer Vale Partnership is to

Work together to prevent and reduce crime and disorder and improve public perception, wellbeing and community safety for those who live, work and visit the Vale of Glamorgan.



The vision of the partnership is to create

A Vale where everyone is safe and free from the fear of crime and disorder.

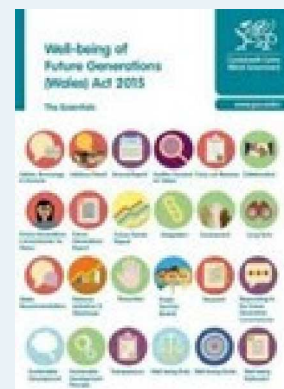
Legislation Behind the Partnership

Welsh Government's Safer Communities Programme



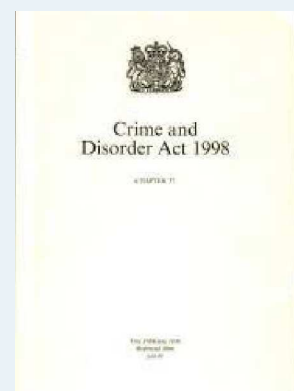
The Welsh Government's Safer Communities Programme was established in December 2017 following the completion of the Working Together for Safer Communities Review – Welsh Government's response to the Auditor General's Community Safety in Wales report of the previous year. At the heart of the programme is a new shared vision for community safety in Wales in which:

1. Every community is strong, safe and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity and social justice, resilience and sustainability for all;
2. The shared responsibility of government, public and third sector agencies is to work together with the communities they serve and the private sector to address activity or behaviour that is unlawful, anti-social, harmful to individuals and society and to the environment;
3. Sharing knowledge and ensuring early intervention with prompt, positive action tackles local issues and addresses vulnerabilities.



Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The Act has developed a "sustainable development principle" which calls upon organisations to consider 5 ways of working in order to meet their duty under the Act.



Crime and Disorder Act 1998

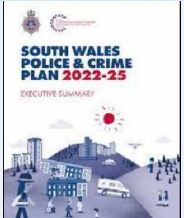
The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and police services duties to work together to develop crime and disorder assessments and implement reduction strategies and to work in partnership with other agencies as a Community Safety Partnership - to tackle the identified problems.

Organisation Plans



Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan

The Vale of Glamorgan is a diverse area comprising of very different communities with different aspirations, needs and concerns. The Corporate Plan sets out how the Council will work to meet those needs, address concerns and help people of all ages to achieve their aspirations.



Police and Crime Plan 2022-2026

The plan sets out the priorities against which the PCC will hold South Wales Police to account in the creation of safe and confident communities across South Wales.



South Wales Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan 2020-2030

The Plan introduces the service's new longer-term strategic themes and explains how they intend to continue to deliver high quality services that meet the needs of communities now and in the future.



Cardiff and the Vale UHB's Shaping our Future Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2025

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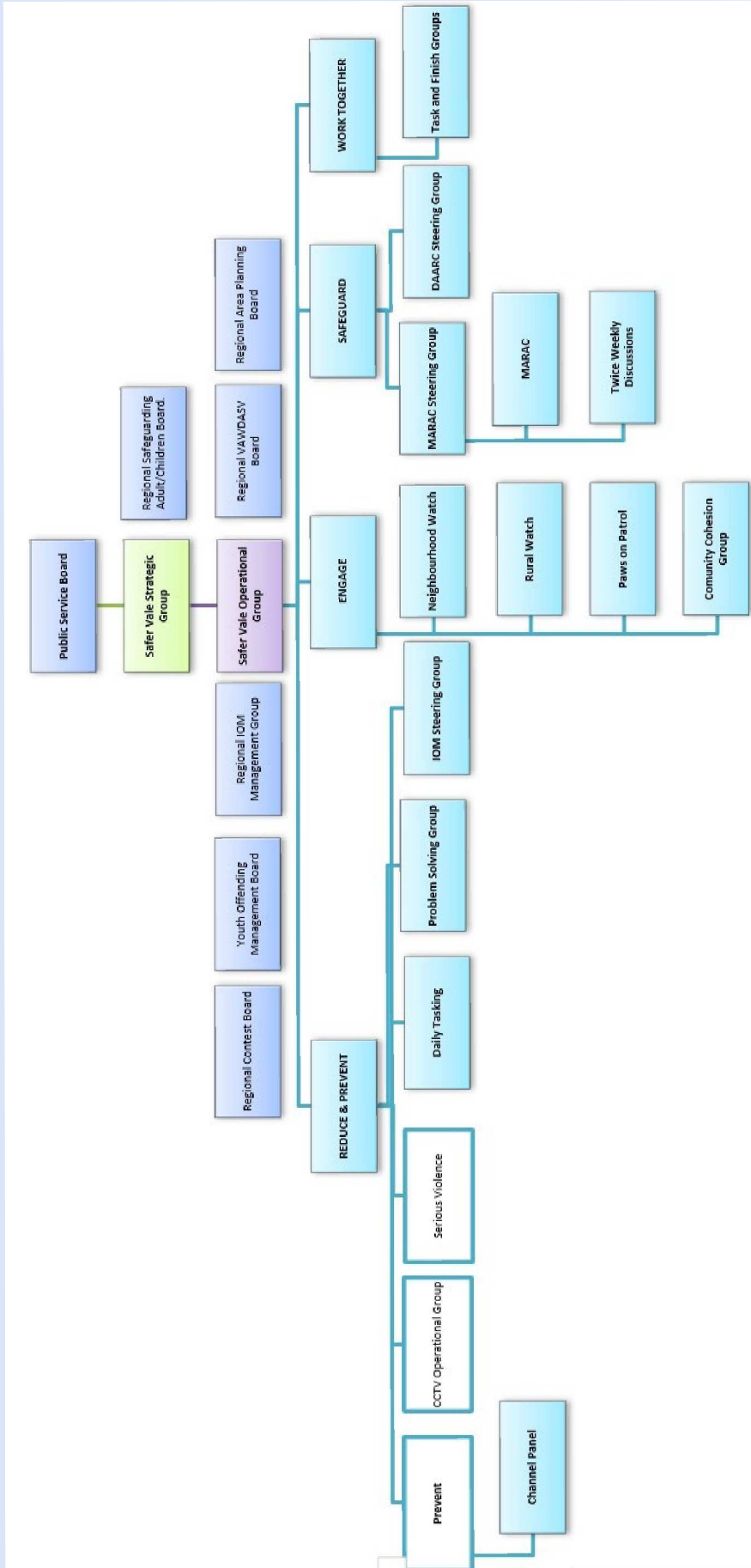
The National Probation Service - Reducing Reoffending Plan

The plan illustrates how the Probation Service in Wales will work with partners to reduce reoffending, bring down the costs of crime within communities and protect the public over the next three years

The Safer Vale Partnership is also directly responsible for the delivery of Community Safety Specific Actions that come out of these other Partnership plans:

- VAWDASV Cardiff and Vale Regional Strategy 2023-2028
- Youth Justice Blueprint
- Cardiff and Vale Area Planning Board Commissioning Strategy
- Community Cohesion Delivery Plan
- CONTEST Cardiff and Vale Regional Plan

Governance Chart



Understanding the Governance of the SVP



The Vale of Glamorgan Public Service Board

The Public Services Board (PSB) brings together senior leaders from public and third sector organisations across the Vale to work in partnership for a better future.

The Community Safety Partnership feeds directly into the PSB and updates on progress made towards the Delivery Plans in line with the proposed bi-yearly meetings. The Public Service Board is responsible for agreeing the direction of the Safer Vale Partnership and responsible for transmitting strategic information to inform all the actions of the partnership.



The Safer Vale Strategic Group

The Safer Vale Strategic group is responsible for the overall strategic steer and governance of the partnership. It receives progress on the Delivery Plan, performance updates and escalated issues and risks from the Operational Group. It is responsible for scrutinising these updates, making financial decisions and for signing off the Strategy and Delivery Plan.



Regional Boards

The Safer Vale Operational Group will share information with the partnered regional groups to ensure that strategies and delivery plans are aligned and actions are assigned to the most suitable partnership across the landscape. The Partnership are



The Safer Vale Operational Membership

The Safer Vale Operational Membership relates to the individuals and groups nominated to come together as appropriate to oversee and drive forward particular areas of the Safer Vale Delivery Plan. They are responsible for overseeing and receiving information from the subgroups and creating the partnership's strategic assessment and delivery plan each year. The membership manages the risk and issue log, is responsible for sharing information and for effectively consulting with stakeholders, partners and the community to guarantee the Partnership's work will best suit the needs of the wider partnership landscape and the needs of those who live work and visit the Vale.



Sub Groups and Task and Finish Groups

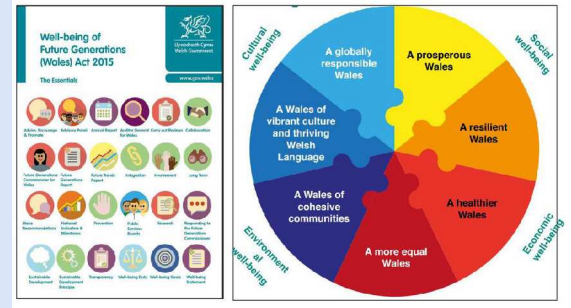
A number of groups are responsible for carrying out the work of the Partnership. These groups will report to the Operational Group who will in turn provide guidance and direction or

The Wellbeing Plan 23-28

The Vale of Glamorgan's Public Services Board (PSB) has created a Well-being Plan 2023-28 that outlines key priorities for the Vale and sets out the focus for the PSB over the next five years. The PSB have identified three Well-being Objectives that will frame the partnerships work in order to achieve its vision for the Vale. These Well-being Objectives are:

- A more resilient and greener Vale
- A more active and healthier Vale
- A more equitable and connected Vale

The Safer Vale Partnership is a significant contributor towards 'A more equitable and connected Vale' through engaging with our communities and providing a safer environment for current and future generations. The priorities of the Safer Vale Partnership have shaped the development of the Well-being Plan, especially the community safety element recognising the role of prevention and partnership working to safeguard our communities, and address inequities between the most and least deprived areas in the Vale.



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The Priorities of the SVP

The Safer Vale Partnership has developed four broad priorities that provide the structure within which the Partnership strives to improve and support the safety of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Each year, a strategic assessment is carried out and this strategic assessment will confirm the focus areas for the Vale of Glamorgan as well as support the development of the delivery actions that the Partnership will focus on for that particular year. The appropriate strategic assessment and delivery plan should be read alongside this Strategy.



The Focus Areas

In response to the legislative requirements and in response to local need, the Safer Vale Partnership Focuses on

Safer Vale Focus Areas

These are the areas that Community Safety legislation require partnerships to work together on and will therefore always feature as part of the work of the Partnership.

Crime and Disorder



Antisocial Behaviour ASB

**Violence Against Women,
Domestic Abuse and Sexual
Violence (VAWDASV)**



Substance Misuse



Counter Terrorism



**Serious
Violence**

Engagement



**Other issue highlighted as a need
for partnership focus in the
annual Strategic Assessment**

**New focus
areas**

PREVENT AND REDUCE

Work to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people who live, work and visit the Vale safe and free from the fear of crime.



PREVENT AND REDUCE

This first priority responds to the need to work in partnership to bring down crime and disorder levels and work proactively to prevent these levels from existing in the first place. The Vale remains one of the safest places to live in South Wales, however, this doesn't take anything away from the sometimes-devastating effect of crime and ASB on the individuals and environment that fall victim to them.

The case for prevention makes intuitive sense. It is better to stop a bad thing from happening in the first place than to deal with the deleterious effects afterwards.

Rick Muir

The Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales

Therefore, a key priority is around ensuring the right response to crime, disorder and ASB is achieved through an effective partnership approach. This is both about continuing to deliver the interventions that are already working as well as looking for new funding opportunities to develop services that respond to emerging needs across the Vale.

Prevention is also a key part of this first priority. The Partnership will commit to best practice data collection so that trends can be monitored and responded to as soon as they emerge. It will work in an intelligence-based way to anticipate problems where it is suspected they might grow and enhance prevention through committing to education and training across the Vale.



The current recession, and increased cost of living bring about a number of pressures that will inevitably have an impact on crime, disorder and community cohesion across the Vale. Responding to these will be a key priority for the Partnership across the life of this Strategy.





The structures that already exist...

Community Safety Team

The Community Safety Team are responsible for driving forward the work of the Partnership and responding to the issues that arise in relation to the priorities of the Safer Vale. The Council Community Safety Team work together with South Wales Police Community Safety Team to receive and respond to all incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the Vale. The team also delivers the counterterrorism response, the Violence against Women, Domestic and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) response and engages with the community to support information sharing and community cohesion. The teams work in close partnership with other council departments, notably adult and children's services, education and enforcement as well as working in close partnership with wider policing teams, Probation, Health, substance misuse teams and other third sector organisations across the Vale.

‘Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant).’

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Definition of anti-social behaviour.

Dealing with and preventing anti-social behaviour is a large part of the team's work. The term anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of activity that causes harm to an individual, a community or the environment. In addition to this, anti-social behaviour can also include creating a fear of crime. Broad definitions of the three types of anti-social behaviour can be found below.

Environmental

includes graffiti, damage to street furniture and fly tipping

Nuisance

includes presence of drug dealers or users, setting vehicles alight noisy neighbours and soliciting

Personal

includes various forms of intimidation and harassment such as verbal abuse and nuisance phone calls

Tension Monitoring



WORK TOGETHER

The Community Safety Team are responsible for collecting information from community members, other agencies and partners regarding tensions that exist or are developing in the community.

The Community Safety Team work in partnership to reduce the tensions and resolve any issues of anti-social behaviour that are causing them.

Daily Tasking

Every morning the Police meet in Barry Police Station to discuss the crimes that have occurred over the last 24-hour time period. These meetings are attended by the Local Authority members of the Community Safety Team. This ensures that resolution is happening in partnership from the beginning and that the team are as informed as possible to offer an effective and appropriate response.

Early Action Together

The Early Action Together is a police led initiative that seeks to establish a multi agency approach to tackling offending behaviour by identifying and supporting people who have experienced adverse childhood experiences.

Problem Solving Group

The Problem Solving Group is a monthly group attended by a number of partners, including, Registered Social Landlords across the Vale, SWP, British Transport Police (BTP) South Wales Fire and Rescue, substance misuse services, Health, Probation and the Council Youth Offending Services.

The group is coordinated by the Local Authority and generates multi agency solutions for persistent or complex cases of anti-social behaviour.

Op Elstree

This partnership initiative started as a Local Authority Community Safety Team led group, created to respond rapidly to issues arising during the lockdown periods of the COVID-19 pandemic. The success of the partnership group (made up of Local Authority, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue) resulted in the creation of 'Op Elstree' who continue to meet on a weekly basis to look at issues arising in the coastal resorts during the summer period. Op Elstree ensures a multi-agency approach is taken to proactively responding to anti-social behaviour across the Vale or to develop preventative measures where anti-social behaviour is forecast.



These groups ensure that a robust partnership approach can be taken to dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. Throughout the life of this strategy, audit and review of these groups will take place to ensure that the purpose and productivity remain as effective as possible.



A look at some of the strategic boards that the Safer Vale is aligned to for the delivery of the PREVENT priority



WORK TOGETHER

IOM Management Board

IOM or the Integrated Offender Management Programme provides a framework for partners to work together to jointly develop strategies and interventions to reduce crime and reoffending by enhancing risk management and rehabilitation.

Contest Board

The Cardiff and the Vale CONTEST board focuses on the most significant security threat to the people of the UK today, the threat from international terrorism. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The CONTEST agenda is organised into four workstreams

Prevent – to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks.

Protect – to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack.

Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact.

Youth Offending Management Board

The Vale of Glamorgan Youth Offending Management Board oversees the work and direction of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) who work with children and young people from the age of 8 to 17 identified as at risk of offending. The purpose of the service is to reduce the risk of reoffending and to provide support and rehabilitation to those who do offend.

Through its prevention service YOS work with children/young people who have not yet offended and the aim of the service is to address the risks and needs identified to prevent them from entering the Youth Justice System. Prevention and early intervention now make up approximately 50% of the YOS caseload.

Area Planning Board

The Cardiff and Vale Area Planning Board (C&V APB) is made up of partner organisations that work towards a whole system approach. Together, the C&V APB partners share the responsibility for developing, delivering and improving efficient and effective substance misuse services, to meet the need of the population.

These boards are integral to the provision of effective community safety delivery across the Vale of Glamorgan. Throughout the life course of this Strategy, the communication and information sharing channels, processes, protocols and effective multi-agency working with these services will be reviewed to ensure that the most joined up ways of working are implemented and working well.





PREVENT

The Safer Vale Partnership is responsible for implementing the PREVENT Strategy across the county and all partners have a critical role to play in building community cohesion and preventing violent extremism. At the time at which this Strategy was being developed consideration was being given to delivery against the PREVENT requirements.

CHANNEL is a multi-agency panel, that sits under the PREVENT workstream, whereby individuals deemed at risk of radicalisation are discussed, and appropriate support mechanisms are put in place. This process is a well-established function carried out in partnership with Cardiff and the Vale. Previously, governance for CHANNEL was carried out by a joint PREVENT board however, given significant differences in the way the two areas receive funding for the PREVENT agenda, it was agreed that each area will form independent PREVENT boards that each implement and deliver against localised delivery plans. The Vale will focus on developing this PREVENT board and implementing a delivery plan to take forward any necessary improvements in relation to the PREVENT agenda.

PROTECT Duty

In 2021 the Government launched a consultation on a new PROTECT Duty which, in response to the Manchester Arena attack of 2017 aims to impose tighter obligations on those who are responsible for public spaces to have considered and implemented appropriate risk management.

The Vale of Glamorgan have established a Protective Security Preparedness Group (PSPG) where departments in the Council and South Wales Police work together to consider the security around public buildings and spaces in preparations for the requirements that this duty will impose. This group carried out a scoping exercise for need and will continue to work through this action plan making improvements to the responses to protective security preparedness across the Vale.



The areas that will be developed or progressed

Serious Violence Management



WORK TOGETHER

The increase in serious violence since 2014 prompted the Home Office to do more to prevent and reduce serious violence. There has been an acknowledgment that serious violence is not just a policing issue and that to be successful in dealing with this threat, all relevant agencies need to focus on and be held accountable for preventing and reducing serious violence in their local area, targeting activity to the people and places most at risk. As a result, the Serious Violence Duty ('the duty') was legislated for as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022 ('the PCSC Act') and is a key part of the government's commitment to reduce and prevent serious violence.

The duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. The Crime and Disorder Act will be amended to ensure that tackling serious violence is an explicit priority for community safety partnerships.

CCTV Operational Group

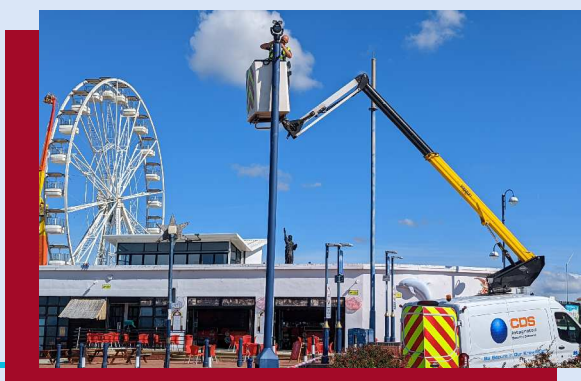


WORK TOGETHER

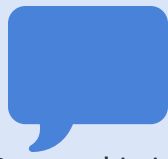
The Vale of Glamorgan Council have worked in partnership with Cardiff Council and South Wales Police to upgrade and update the entire public safety CCTV system across the Vale.

This ambitious and large-scale programme involved reestablishing the evidence base for the upgrade of all 78 cameras across the Vale of which two were relocated and an additional 6 were installed in areas where intelligence proved a need. The upgrade also included the renewal of fibre and connectivity links as well as the software on which the cameras are monitored. A new contract for the monitoring of the cameras is in place with Cardiff Council and a new viewing platform is implemented in Barry Police Station for more effective, less time-consuming viewing of footage and viewing of live incidents that require real time community safety input.

The CCTV work is overseen by a strategic partnership group, who update the Safer Vale Operational Group and the work is carried out by a CCTV Operational Group that was established in 2023. This group is responsible for ensuring that information sharing, evidence gathering and sharing and the direction and development of CCTV is both functional and effective.



ENGAGE



A key purpose of the Safer Vale Partnership is to help people feel safe. Often, people's perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour do not reflect the actual crime and anti-social behaviour that is occurring in an area. This is true for both the types of crimes thought to be committed and the frequency with which they are thought to occur.

Positive, proactive and meaningful engagement is therefore key to ensuring that the Safer Vale Partnership knows and understand the community and that the community know and understand the purpose, role and responsibilities of the partnership. Consultation with the community has already made the Partnership aware that improvements are needed to help the community understand who the Partnership are and how the community can engage with it.

This Strategy will look to improve:

- the sharing of community safety data and stats with the community to improve awareness and understanding of the issues that are truly affecting the community.
- The sharing of community safety messages to promote safety and the prevention of crime and disorder.
- The gathering of views from the community regarding anti-social behaviour and disorder issues that are affecting them.
- The methods of consultation with the community on new policies/legislation responses/strategies or other changes that will affect community safety.

This engagement requires the Community Safety Team to have good open communication channels with different sectors of society and particularly the harder to reach groups. This requires an understanding of how different community groups prefer to communicate as well as positive engagement with community leaders who can diffuse messages throughout their communities.

"Community engagement with a CSP allows members of the community to express their needs, fears and expectations of community safety, including the fear of crime and perceived risks, threats and harms to the community and for the CSP to respond by providing a service that the community wants and not what the CSP believe the community wants"

Lowe and Innes, 2012

Lowe, T. and Innes, M. (2012) "Can we speak in Confidence? Community intelligence and Neighbourhood Policing v2.0, Policing and Society: An International Journal of Research and Policy, 22(3): 295-316



The initiatives that already exist

Vale Connect

The Safer Vale partnership maintains a community messaging service that enables important communications, safety messages or other information to be transmitted to residents who have subscribed to the service. Community Groups can request to send messages in this way to help increase and facilitate the reach of information across the Vale.



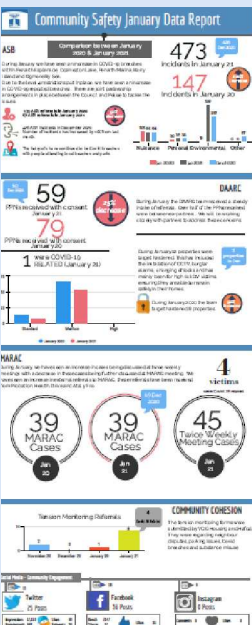
Social Media

The Safer Vale Partnership has established a presence online through Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. This includes reaching out to residents in the Vale through posts to provide information but also involves engaging with discussions through comments and gaining feedback from residents through comments or polls. The Community Safety Team have established structures to ensure that each week, new relevant content is posted on the social media sites and this is monitored in terms of numbers of interactions, likes and comments in order to get a better understanding of what content is appealing to residents of the Vale.



Throughout the life of this strategy the Safer Vale commit to continuously improving their presence, following and content on social media sites in line with feedback from residents of the Vale.

Highlight Report



The Safer Vale Partnership publishes a monthly highlight report that outlines community safety activity across the course of the month and compares it with the previous year and previous month. This enables partners, stakeholders and residents to get a snapshot of community safety activity in a format that is easy to read and easy to understand. The highlight report includes a page summarising data and a second page where one community safety topic is explored in greater detail. These topics are decided in Operational Group meetings so that all partners have an opportunity to flag pertinent topics that are relevant to the months in which they will be published.



The initiatives that already exist

Community Groups

The Safer Vale is fortunate to have the active and engaging participation of its community groups who play a key role in keeping neighborhoods safe and working as community safety champions in their areas. This role enables the easier dissemination of community safety messages and helps to actively promote community safety across the Vale.



The Neighbourhood Watch vision is for a caring society, which focuses on trust and respect and, where people are safe from crime and are able to enjoy a good quality of life.



Airport Watch helps to prevent crime and terrorism by asking its members to look out for anything out of the ordinary and to contact the Police if they see anything suspicious within the perimeter of the airport and the airport grounds and local communities.



Paws on Patrol is a scheme to build community spirit where dog walkers can contribute towards the protection of their neighbourhoods, reduce the opportunity for crime and anti social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime, especially among the vulnerable.



Rural Watch aims to raise awareness of rural communities in respect of crime prevention, reduce opportunities for crime to occur in farming and rural communities, reduce local opportunities for theft and livestock/deadstock, reinforce community spirit, encourage people to report suspicious behaviour and, to introduce intelligent flow and early warning systems in farming and countryside areas.



Throughout the life of this strategy the Safer Vale commit to continuously improving their interaction with community groups to ensure open lines of communication, mutual support and effective consultation is at the heart of these important partnerships.

Central to the regular activities of the Community Safety Team is engagement with the public through events, engagement campaigns and visits around the Vale on TREV - the reassurance and engagement vehicle.

TREV and Community Engagement



One of the regular undertakings of the Community Safety Team is engagement with the public through events, engagement campaigns and visits around the Vale on TREV - the community reassurance and engagement vehicle. This provides an opportunity to get out to areas where the community might require messages brought to them and provides a chance to consult with the community.

Every year the Community Safety Team hold a summertime Fun Day where all partners showcase the work they do, and consultation can be had with the public regarding all

regarding all things community safety. This event is always very well attended and feedback from residents demonstrates that this is an event that is anticipated and loved by a large number of residents in the Vale





The groups that already exist...

Community Cohesion

The importance of community cohesion has always been at the forefront of the Safer Vale Partnership. This importance was amplified through the events following the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. The importance of being well equipped to understand the dynamics within the community and respond rapidly to issues as they are beginning to emerge was amplified as the world was plunged into a situation it had never before faced. The benefits to community cohesion of having contact with multiple and varied groups within the Vale was immediately obvious and continues to be as communities evolve through ever emerging global issues that affect the local dynamics of communities.

This will continue to be of particular importance through a changing landscape affected by a recession where increased cost of living is likely to increase pressures on the community and change the ways in which people live.

In support of the community cohesion agenda, a community cohesion group meet on a quarterly basis. This group is made up of key representatives from a number of different community networks who are able to bring to the meeting the voice of their respective communities. The meeting covers key community safety data and trends and provides a platform upon which these can be discussed to anticipate any issues that might affect community cohesion. It also provides the members with information that can be disseminated among their communities to assist with the promotion and improvement of community safety.



Throughout the life of this strategy the Safer Vale commits to continuously seeking out new members for the community cohesion group and to a regular system of audit within the group to ensure that the content and method of engagement is appropriate to meaningful promotion of community cohesion across the different communities within the Vale.



The areas that will be developed/progressed.

Communications Strategy



WORK TOGETHER

Within Community Safety there has always been a heavy focus on engagement and ensuring that relevant messages are sent out to the community. The very nature of community safety work, however, frequently results in particularly reactive work that often sees the shifting of priorities with little or no notice. This has often meant that certain responsibilities, such as keeping up with national or local campaigns becomes harder to commit to consistently unless it is carried out with the support from a robust structure to hold it in place.

In addition to this, there is recognition that meaningful community engagement isn't something that has always been easy or particularly successful with certain harder to reach community groups. As a result of this, who the partnership are and what they do isn't always well understood by all members of the community. There is the need for the partnership to understand and adhere to a consistent method of communicating to the public, where the partnership speak with one voice in a way that will appeal and be familiar to residents of the Vale.



The Safer Vale Partnership commits to developing and renewing a communications strategy to drive the ways in which the partnership engages and communicates with the public and other stakeholders. This strategy will be based on robust evidence from consultation with residents and partners.

The Community Safety Partnership has a duty under the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure that all work considers and makes provisions for the eight protected characteristics of

- Age
- Race
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Gender Reassignment
- Sex
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Sexual Orientation

Equality and Diversity



The partnership have made significant improvements to data collection over the course of the last strategy and delivery plan and further work will be built on these improvements to analyse what the data concerning protected characteristics is saying about who the partnership successfully engages with different groups across the Vale.



The Safer Vale Partnership commits to continually reviewing protected characteristics data and analysing this data so that lessons can be drawn from what this says about how the partnership engages with the public and how this might be improved to become more inclusive of all groups.



WORK TO SAFEGUARD THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

This third priority addresses the need to respond to the fact that at the heart of community safety issues are victims whose lives are affected by the issues that they face. The Safer Vale Partnership has close interactions with both the Child and Adult Safeguarding Boards to ensure that the crossovers with Safeguarding are well established and drive work that is transparent to both boards.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect. Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding. Everyone should be protected from being hurt, put at risk of harm or abused, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity. **Abuse** is when someone does or says things to another person to hurt, upset or make them frightened. It can consist of single or repeated acts. The abuse can be committed by anyone, but is usually from someone who is in a position of trust – a relative, friend, paid worker or volunteer.

The abuse is usually from someone who is in a position of trust

Abuse can take many forms

- Physical (hitting, kicking, undue restraint, over or misuse of medication, or inappropriate sanctions).
- Psychological / emotional (threats of harm or humiliation, controlling relationships and isolation, verbal or racial abuse).
- Sexual (unwanted sexual activity which the adult at risk has not consented to/and or was pressured into consenting).
- Financial (theft, fraud or applying pressure around property or wills). □ Neglect (failure to meet the everyday needs of the individual at risk, failure to access medical care or services or failure to give prescribed medication).

It is well known that a victim is likely to have been suffering abuse over a much longer period of time than from when public services become involved. This highlights the need to work on prevention and early help to offer the most appropriate and effective interventions for the safety of victims across the Vale.



The services that already exist...





The areas that will be developed/progressed

Children and Young People



WORK TOGETHER

Where vulnerabilities are concerned there is no doubt that children and young people are often the most vulnerable in our society.

The Safer Vale Partnership has established links with Child Safeguarding Boards, Children's Services, Education, Youth Offending Services and Youth Services across the Vale. Work to improve data collection to better understand how much children are affected by community safety issues is underway. This has driven the need to improve the structures and services available to children and young people across the Vale.

Education

There is an identified need to develop consistent approaches towards the community safety training and programmes that are implemented within schools

Domestic Abuse

There is a lack of provision for children who are victims of domestic abuse across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There are always a cohort of young people who become known to community safety teams for the ASB that they perpetrate. These individuals are frequently at significant risk of complex issues related to CSE, and county lines. There is a need for more joint up working to ensure appropriate and joined up approaches are applied to dealing with this particularly complex cohort.

Contextual Safeguarding

Safeguarding of young people is something that requires an in depth and informed understanding of the issue that happen all around that young person's life and beyond their front door. This requires effective collaboration to truly understand the impact of the different vulnerabilities that might exist within a young person or a child's life.



The areas that will be developed/progressed

Approved Providers



WORK TOGETHER

When organisations commission services there is a significant amount of work that goes into ensuring the viability, safety and appropriateness of the services that are being commissioned. However when individuals are signposted to or referred to other agencies, outside of formal tendered frameworks, fewer checks take place. This has highlighted the need to establish a process that can create consistency across the Partnership in checking the standards that are expected from other agencies. This has in turn highlighted the importance in establishing closer links with the third sector to ensure that the Partnership are as aware as possible of the breadth of services available to residents across the Vale and have open channels of communication with these services to inform and improve the delivery of community safety services across the Vale.

WORK TOGETHER



WORK TOGETHER

Strengthen the innovative partnership working and information sharing within the Vale to improve efficiencies and enhance problem solving.

This final priority focuses on the importance of true collaborative partnership working in order to achieve the outcomes and purpose of the Safer Vale Partnership.

Throughout the course of this Strategy Document a number of structures have been outlined that demonstrate some of the excellent partnership working that currently goes on between the agencies working within the Safer Vale Partnership. This icon can be seen throughout this document, alongside all of the areas where joint working is a feature of the work of the partnership.

Partnership approaches are largely built on the premise that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety and crime problems. There are a range of ways of describing what constitutes a partnership approach; however it can be described in simple terms as a cooperative relationship between two or more organisations to achieve a common goal.



WORK TOGETHER

The Safer Vale Partnership is actively involved in, or supports the work of, a number of Boards to help ensure collaboration and effective partnership working across the Vale.

- Area Planning Board
- Regional Safeguarding Boards
- VAWDASV Board
- CONTEST Board
- Youth Offending Board
- IOM Board

The delivery plans of the Safer Vale will always include the action to proactively support the action plans of each of these boards and ensure that effective communication and collaboration are in place to ensure there is no duplication of work and that effective information sharing can enable the most appropriate responses to the shared issues across the Vale.

These structures are continually reviewed.

The Safer Vale Partners also ensure that they are proactively involved with networks such as the All Wales Anti-Social Behaviour Practitioners Network to enable the sharing of information and best practice.





The areas that will be developed

Information Sharing



WORK TOGETHER

There are some very good examples of information sharing that already exist across the Partnership however there is also an acknowledgement that more work is needed to make sure that the commitment to and processes for information sharing are consistent across the different organisations of the Partnership. This also requires a better and more consistent understanding of the safe and appropriate parameters of information sharing and therefore more interactions and guidance with the information commissioner's office so that decisions are based on accurate direction. There is also the need to look at creating platforms for information sharing where departments or organisations might not have considered a community safety link.

Data Collection

Data collection and data analysis are areas of community safety that requires input from a number of different data sets and therefore relies on the consistency of data collection across different organisations and the resource to pull together these data sets and analyse them meaningfully. It is acknowledged that this resource is lacking and therefore work will focus on developing a solution to ensure that data collection can progress effectively to ensure the work of community safety is informed by the most reliable and accurate evidence based data.

Funding Arrangements

Funding for Community Safety Partnerships is limited and a partnership approach needs to be applied towards ensuring that the Partnership is always in a strong position to apply for external funding opportunities when they present themselves.

Aligning Priorities

There is the need to work together to look at how community safety can be better championed within organisations to ensure that community safety is prioritised appropriately, is considered alongside other 'business as usual' functions and is incorporated into organisation's functions in a way that helps residents of the Vale receive a more seamless service.



Working Together

The delivery of this strategy will be overseen by the Safer Vale Partnership and as a living document it will ensure that all delivery plans are reflective of changes in the landscape and the real time needs of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Residents are one of the main stakeholders in the Safer Vale Partnership. Without an understanding of the unique issues affecting the diverse groups that make up the Vale, the Partnership will always struggle to respond to its vision of creating a strong, safe and confident community.



every community is strong, safe and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity, social justice, resilience and sustainability for all’.

Vision for Community Safety Partnerships as set out in the Government’s “Working Together for Safer Communities” Review.

The Vale Council's Community Safety Team are responsible for the coordination and secretariat of the Partnership. They are always keen to hear from those who live and work in the Vale to create a truly collaborative and effective partnership. If you would like to get involved or have any thoughts that you would like to share contact the Safer Vale on **Safervale@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

