



SAFE NEWCASTLE PLAN 2017-2020

Tackling Crime, Protecting Communities



Contents

1. Foreword from Chair and Vice Chair
2. Introduction
3. Demand for Community Safety in Newcastle
4. What we will continue to do
5. Our priority for 2017/18 – Tackling Violence
6. Our priority for 2017/18 – Addressing Community Tensions
7. Cross cutting issues

1. Foreword

Newcastle is a safe city. We have worked hard over many years to improve community safety, tackle offending and to protect and support victims. After a sustained period of crime reduction both nationally and locally recorded crime levels have started to increase in recent years. This increase can in part be explained by improvements in recording practices and changes to the way in which victims are supported through the criminal justice process. However, it is also a reflection of the changing nature of crime with issues such as cyber-crime, fraud and modern slavery becoming a more significant part of the community safety picture.

There are many new and existing challenges which impact on community safety in Newcastle and therefore feature in this Plan either through our priorities or continuing business as usual. This includes reducing crime in particular theft and violence and ensuring victims of crime receive the support they need. We also need to make best use of legislation to improve community safety, such as the powers included in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the new offence of coercive control under The Serious Crime Act 2015. There is increasing harm caused by Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and we have taken significant action to tackle the harm and anti-social behaviour associated with NPS. We welcomed the enactment of the new Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 and will continue to use its powers to full effect.

This plan identifies three priorities that we will pay particular focus on this year, these are violence (including violence against women and girls, domestic violence and violence linked to alcohol and the night time economy), community tensions (including hate crime and tackling neighbourhood tensions caused through anti-social behaviour and radicalisation) and modern day slavery, this is a cross cutting issue and we need to do some work to understand what partners are doing to tackle this issue before we can provide a clear delivery plan, we will however take the coordination lead for this issue to ensure that it is tackled across partners effectively. These priorities sit in addition to the vast amount of work that we already deliver across the partnership to tackle crime and disorder, support victims and improve community confidence.

Safe Newcastle continues to face the significant task of meeting these existing challenges in the context of unprecedented year on year cuts to public services in Newcastle and personal uncertainty for some of our residents. This affects the work we can deliver to communities, families and individuals and presents us with difficult choices around demand and how we continue to deliver our services. Nevertheless this threat further highlights the importance of partnership working and pulling together to ensure the best use of limited and reducing resources across all agencies and sectors.

We know that feeling safe and being safe are important to local residents and communities and key to attracting business investment. We also know that crime is expensive, it impacts on victims who can be frightened and less confident, it costs to get damage repaired and property replaced, it costs to be off work and crime can cause distrust and fear between people and communities.

By working together to tackle crime fewer people are victims, as a community we are stronger and more confident - and we save money. We are pleased therefore to introduce the Safe Newcastle Delivery Plan for 2017-20.

Cllr N Kemp
Chair

Supt D Felton
Vice Chair

2. Introduction

Safe Newcastle is required by law to produce a delivery plan. This plan is for 2017-2020 with a focus on delivery in 2017-2018. The plan is aligned to other key plans such as Northumbria's Police and Crime Plan, the Youth Justice Plan, the new National Drug Strategy (2017) and the Newcastle Drug and Alcohol Delivery Plan 2015 – 2018, Gateshead Community Safety Partnership Plan, Counter Terrorism Local Plan and those of our statutory partners - Newcastle City Council (NCC), Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), National Probation Service (NPS), Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) and the Newcastle and Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

We will continue to work on core business such as tackling and preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, supporting victims, keeping neighbourhoods safe and improving community confidence. Some of the work we will continue as part of our core business is shown in section 4 of this plan.

We undertake an annual strategic assessment of community safety issues across Newcastle to understand what the key issues are that need to be prioritised. Information from a wide range of sources and partners are sourced and brought together. The strategic assessment allows us to look at our core business and make any necessary adjustments to interventions but more importantly it provides us with the intelligence to agree what our key priorities are and assists us to allocate resources where we will have the greatest impact or how best to work with partners to use existing resources or services more effectively. The executive summary of the strategic assessment and the Safe Newcastle annual report can be found on www.safenewcastle.org.uk.

Safe Newcastle has considered the findings of the strategic assessment and agreed the following priorities for 2017-18;

Tackling violence

- Assaults linked to the 'Night Time Economy'
- Domestic and sexual violence
- Carrying and / or use of weapons
- Public order
- Use of online social media to create fear and harassment

Community Tensions

- Tensions between communities linked to international, national or local events
- Hate crime
- Development of Community Tensions Framework
- The Home Office Partnership Campaign - part of Building A Stronger Britain Together Programme

We will build a stronger Newcastle together through a series of campaigns, community engagement events and social media promotions. Together we will work with communities to promote Newcastle as a friendly, diverse and open minded city. We will work in partnership with the Home Office to develop and deliver a city-wide campaign in order to promote our shared values and strengthen community cohesion and resilience.

There were also a number of priority areas which cross over the work of other partnership structures (safeguarding & wellbeing boards). These are covered in the section on cross cutting issues.

3. Demand for Community Safety in Newcastle



On an average day in Newcastle there are...

321 separate incidents reported to the police

8 incidents of domestic abuse involving children

2-3 road traffic collisions

92 crimes recorded

20 reports of fly tipping



In an average week in Newcastle there are...

22 domestic abuse victims assessed as high risk

45 incidents of noise/neighbour disputes

20 deliberate secondary fires started

15 Hate crimes recorded

35 presentations to Accident and Emergency suffering assault-related injuries



In an average month in Newcastle there are...

270 incidents of domestic violence and 83 incidents of sexual violence recorded by the Police

199 reports of littering, 180 reports of graffiti and 40 reports of dog fouling

571 offenders being managed by Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company

17 deliberate primary fires taking place

322 reports of youth-related disorder



Last year in Newcastle there were...

17,940 incidents of anti-social behaviour reported

522 young people started a programme with the Youth Offending Team

6481 Home Safety Checks carried out by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

14 Drug Related Deaths

25% increase in recorded crime – an additional 5 crimes for every 1,000 residents

4. What we will continue doing

Preventing Violent Extremism

We work with partners and communities to reduce the impact of community tensions and to raise the profile of Preventing Extremism. We lead in the Channel Panel Prevent Referral process.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We continue to implement and use a range of ASB Tools and Powers (including the roll out of a Public Space Protection Order). We also commission and oversee an ASB Volunteer Scheme to provide help, guidance and support to victims of ASB including mediation

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to review local practice to ensure robust and effective processes to safeguard local residents

Darker Nights

A partnership intelligence-led approach is taken to help minimize the impact of deliberate secondary fires within Newcastle in the lead up and during the Bonfire period

Violence Against Women & Girls

We continue to develop and deliver a range of projects and programmes to reduce risk, reduce repeat victimisation and ensure support for victims and their children to recover from the impact of domestic violence and abuse

Domestic Abuse Champions

Safe Newcastle has continued to train Domestic Abuse Champions across a range of Council services and partner agencies to raise profile of support available

Strategic Assessment

We undertake an annual strategic assessment to ensure that we prioritise the issues most important to us, this enables us to allocate resources more effectively

Community Tensions

We will continue to work with partners to identify and manage community tensions at a local and national level. We will work with partners to inform local problem solving work to address emerging tensions in the city and prevent escalation.

Community Safety Funding

We continue to successfully bid for national and local funding to increase local provision linked with domestic abuse, preventing violent extremism and supporting victims

Neighbourhood support

We have secured additional funding to ensure that neighbourhood problems are tackled through problem solving which is embedded into our structure and part of everyday working

Tackle Begging

Work with our partners to tackle the increasing problem of begging, particularly in the City Centre. We are developing a multi-agency strategy to tackle the increases

Training

We deliver a range of training sessions to multi agency practitioners on a range of issues connected to domestic and sexual violence. We also train all registered taxi drivers on how they can identify and support vulnerable passengers

CCTV

Continue to manage both re-deployable and static CCTV across Newcastle, making sure that re-deployable CCTV is placed where needed to tackle issues of crime and ASB

Young people

We work closely with both Safeguarding Children and the Youth Offending Team to prevent young people from becoming offenders and supporting young people who are victims

Cross cutting issues

Continue working closely with safeguarding and other partners to tackle cross cutting issues such as hate crime, human trafficking, modern slavery and drug and alcohol misuse

Hate Crime

We have worked to secure additional resources as part of the 'Building a Stronger Britain' fund. We encourage reporting of hate crime and ensure victims are appropriately supported. Effective monitoring of hate incidents is crucial in assessing levels of community tensions

Night Time Economy

We manage a late night levy scheme which provides additional income that is put back into the late night economy to ensure people are kept safe whilst enjoying a night out

Reducing fires

We work closely with Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service to gather intelligence on where anti-social fires are being set and put interventions in place to tackle this

5. Tackling Violence

Why it is important and what are the key challenges?

Violence continues to be a key focus for Safe Newcastle. In terms of harm caused, both to the victim and to the wider community, violence has one of the greatest overall impacts of all community safety issues. Issues such as violence towards women and girls have seen increased emphasis on a national level over recent years.

Violence is also one of the costliest issues to tackle, with high costs to health services, lost income and cost to the criminal justice system. This was reflected in a partnership exercise to determine priorities, where violence came high up on the list.

Levels of recorded violent crime have been increasing over the past few years. In 2015/16 there was a 38% increase overall in recorded violent crime in Newcastle, compared to the previous year. In some respects, the increase is due to increased confidence in victim reporting. There have also been improvements in recording practices following the HMIC report "Making the victim count" in 2014. These changes do not just affect Newcastle, and similar increases have been seen in other cities across the UK.

There was a 41% increase in assaults in Newcastle over the same period. A large proportion of this increase was due to higher levels of violence without injury, including common assault and harassment. There are links to issues such as hate crime and the impact of social media has also played a part in this.

There was a small increase in reports to the police of domestic abuse in 2015/16. The changes in recording practices meant more of these were recorded as crimes. In particular, there were more victims assessed as high risk and supported through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). There was also around a 19% increase in repeat cases heard at MARAC. Through Operation Encompass around thirty children were identified each week as living with domestic violence in Newcastle. Operation Encompass is a process whereby schools are notified the day after the police have been called out to the home of one of their pupils due to domestic violence,

2015/16 saw around a 29% increase in recorded sexual offences in Newcastle compared to the previous year, though in part this was due to reporting of historical offences linked to increased confidence in victim reporting.

Nationally, police are recording more crimes involving the use of weapons, and whilst numbers are relatively small this is also the case in Newcastle. There was a 67% increase (+113 crimes) in possession of weapons offences recorded in Newcastle during 2015/16 compared to the previous year. However, long term trends show crimes involving knives and sharp instruments are reducing since 2011.

Public Health carried out interviews with NPS users in 2016, who described a range of serious physical, mental and social consequences associated with NPS use. They reported increases in begging, criminal behaviour and homelessness linked to NPS use and described the intoxication after use making them vulnerable to exploitation (for example being 'spiked' and robbed – known colloquially as 'smegged') and violence. They described changing dynamics on the street, with an atmosphere of reduced safety

that has also led to increased knife carriage within transient groups. NPS use remains an issue within this group, however other substances are also linked (heroin, alcohol and increases in crack)

What we will do?

Night Time Economy – We will ensure that we closely monitor levels of violent crime that happens during the evening and early morning. Through the proceeds of the late night levy we will continue to deploy interventions aimed at keeping people safe, this includes marshalled taxi ranks, street marshalls, street pastors, additional police patrols when needed, safe haven for vulnerable people to go.

CCTV – The City Centre CCTV will be continually reviewed to make sure there is sufficient CCTV where needed.

Alcohol related disorder – We will continue to deliver and promote the Alcohol Behaviour Change programme, this programme allows people to attend a course after an arrest for being drunk and disorderly to consider the implications of their behaviour.

Raising the Bar – The Raising the Bar scheme is an accreditation scheme which awards licenced venues based on their policies and procedures in place that reduce crime and disorder and promote public health. The scheme is currently under review to ensure its ongoing effectiveness.

Begging – Develop and implement a partnership policy to tackle begging, this will include actions which encourage vulnerable people to get support needed to change their lifestyle habits which reduces the risk of them being victims of violent crime, a begging communications campaign to educate the public on the work underway and the consequences of giving cash and enforcement structures.

Adolescent to parent violence - Develop and deliver work to support parents/carers, young people and children impacted by patterns of violence, abusive, controlling and coercive behaviour from a child or young person towards a parent or carer. This work aims to reduce

Region wide dispersed accommodation - Secured over £660,000 funding to work in partnership with DCLG and 6 local authorities – Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, and Sunderland to provide 29 additional dispersed and move on accommodation units and support 280 additional victims of domestic violence and abuse across the region; increase specialist provision to victims with complex needs, specialist BMER support Dedicated dispersed accommodation for BMER women develop Stronger cross authority and cross agency working based on assessment and referral pathways.

DVA champions - Develop and expand our network of domestic violence and abuse champions across a range of organisations, workplaces and schools.

Training - Deliver a comprehensive a multi-agency training programme on domestic violence and abuse as well as bespoke training will be developed to meet specific organisational requirements. We will also continue to deliver training to taxi drivers on how to safeguard vulnerable passengers to improve the safety of people in the night-time economy and support them to get home safely.

Health based Advocate-Educator - In partnership with Newcastle Gateshead CCG, Safe Newcastle will develop a role of Domestic Abuse Advocate-Educators in Primary Care Settings to provide training and support, alongside a clear and workable referral pathway to domestic violence and abuse specialist support services for primary health care professionals.

Recovery support for families – We will support and promote work with children and families to recovery from the impact domestic violence has had on them. The DARE Programme and the Recovery Toolkit will be delivered across the city.

Who is responsible?

- Northumbria Police
- Safe Newcastle
- Newcastle Gateshead CCG
- Children North East (DARE Programme)
- Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS)
- Community and voluntary sector specialist organisations

How we will measure our success?

- Increase in venues applying and accredited through the Raising the Bar scheme
- Reductions in alcohol related violent crime in the City Centre
- More families identified as impacted by domestic violence and referred to support including those experiencing adolescent/child to parent/carer violence and abuse
- A wider range of accommodation options available to victims of domestic violence, in particular for those with complex needs
- Increase in the number of DVA champions trained across the city
- Increase in the number of professionals attending DVA training
- More victims of domestic violence and abuse identified through their GP practice and referred to support
- Levels of support maintained for those entering the Channel Programme

6. Community Tensions

Why it is important and what are the key challenges?

Monitoring and responding to community tensions is a key priority for Safe Newcastle. Monitoring involves reviewing international, national and local issues impacting on cohesion to ensure that a timely response can be implemented to prevent them from escalating into more serious incidents of social disorder.

It is important to recognise that all communities have the potential for tensions to arise, which may lead to some form of conflict – and that the nature and severity of tensions will vary from one area to another.

Tensions have the potential to emerge and fluctuate between any group of people, or within neighbourhoods based on specific issues or circumstances (e.g. high levels of burglary and known offenders etc.) The impact of high-profile international, national and regional events, such as the recent terrorist incidents in London and Manchester can also often manifest themselves at a local level increasing community tension and cohesion.

It is important that Safe Newcastle and its partners routinely share intelligence and data in relation to local trends in community cohesion so that, as a partnership, we are able to identify hotspots and carry out early intervention in order to prevent issues from escalating into potential conflict. We work closely with Northumbria Police Community Engagement Team and our partners in the community and voluntary sector.

Hate crime continues to be a focus of our work. In 2016 the Home Office announced a series of measures to tackle hate crime including new tools for schools, additional funding for places of worship (in terms of security and protection) and an HMIC inspection to police response to all forms of hate crime.

CONTEST is the government's strategy for tackling counter terrorism. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. It was first published in 2008, and revised in 2011. Government has announced a further review of the strategy in the wake of national events. It is expected that any new strategy will be published during 2017.

The strategy has four themed sections;

- Pursue – Work by Police and Security Services to address persons and or groups intent on carrying out terrorist acts.
- Protect – Is about strengthen our protection against terrorism attacks, such as buildings and infrastructure.
- Prepare – Is about mitigating the impact of a terrorist attack.
- Prevent – Is the work to stop people becoming terrorist or supporting terrorism

We need to safeguard the community from the threat of radicalisation which potentially leads to acts of violence and terror.

What we will do?

Manage tensions - Develop a community cohesion/tensions framework and toolkit and disseminate this through our all our networks. This will ensure we have a consistent methodology and approach to sharing information and developing solutions.

Hate Crime - Review how we respond to hate crime in all its forms, this will include consultation regarding classification of misogyny as a hate crime

Share information - Develop new structures across local authority boundaries to ensure information sharing and problem solving are robust

Tackle Counter Extremism - through Home office support, this includes a dedicated member of staff to engage with communities directly and a high-profile campaign to highlight harms and extremism in all its manifestations within our communities.

PREVENT – We will work to safeguard anyone vulnerable to radicalisation before they look to acts of violence or terror. We lead a multi-agency working group that brings together key agencies to develop and monitor all operational arrangements that support the Channel Panel programme locally. Arrangements agreed by the CONTEST Board utilise existing referral routes as other forms of safeguarding maybe more appropriate. We are aware there is a strong need to communicate what Prevent is and is not as part of our work, particularly given it is sometimes seen as a challenged narrative We will continue to promote the PREVENT training and awareness throughout partner agencies. Delivery of national requirements and embedding PREVENT as part of safeguarding.

Who is responsible?

- Safe Newcastle
- Northumbria Police
- Local community and voluntary sector organisations according to the emerging issues
- Channel Panel Multi-Agency Working Group
- CONTEST Panel

How we will measure our success?

- More people in Newcastle will feel confident and to report hate incidents or concerns about emerging tensions within their community
- Emerging community tensions will be identified early so that interventions can be put in place through a measured partnership response
- We will be better equipped to predict and anticipate events
- Communities will feel better informed and involved in tackling issues which impact on them
- Communities will be more resilient to counter extremist views

7. Cross cutting issues

Through the Safe Newcastle Strategic Assessment, a number of priority areas were identified where they cross over the work of other partnership boards. These include:

- **Substance misuse.** This has an impact across a variety of community safety issues and requires a multi-agency response. Newcastle's Wellbeing for Life Strategy recognizes that harmful levels of alcohol consumption and use of controlled drugs give significant risk to wellbeing and health (and community safety) – both directly and indirectly through the impact on others. The Wellbeing for Life Board therefore incorporates substance issues into its programme for strategic discussions. Safe Newcastle makes a key contribution on this agenda particularly in terms of drug supply and the impact of drugs and alcohol on crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Sexual exploitation.** Significant work has taken place in recent years to tackle the issue of sexual exploitation across Newcastle and the wider Northumbria Police force area. This work is coordinated through the two safeguarding boards (children and adults) and links to the Wellbeing for Life Board's strategic concern for safeguarding across the life course.
- **Reducing reoffending.** This is a statutory responsibility for community safety partnerships and is also a concern for safeguarding boards, particularly in terms of protecting vulnerable people from repeat victimisation.
- **Preventing radicalisation.** This is a statutory responsibility for community safety partnerships and links to the work around community tensions & hate crime. Preventing radicalisation is a safeguarding issue and Safe Newcastle will link into the work of the safeguarding boards.

Safe Newcastle will continue to work together around tackling organised crime. It was also recognised that further development work should take place around the emerging issues of cyber-crime and modern day slavery in terms of the role for community safety partnerships and supporting national and regional strategies.

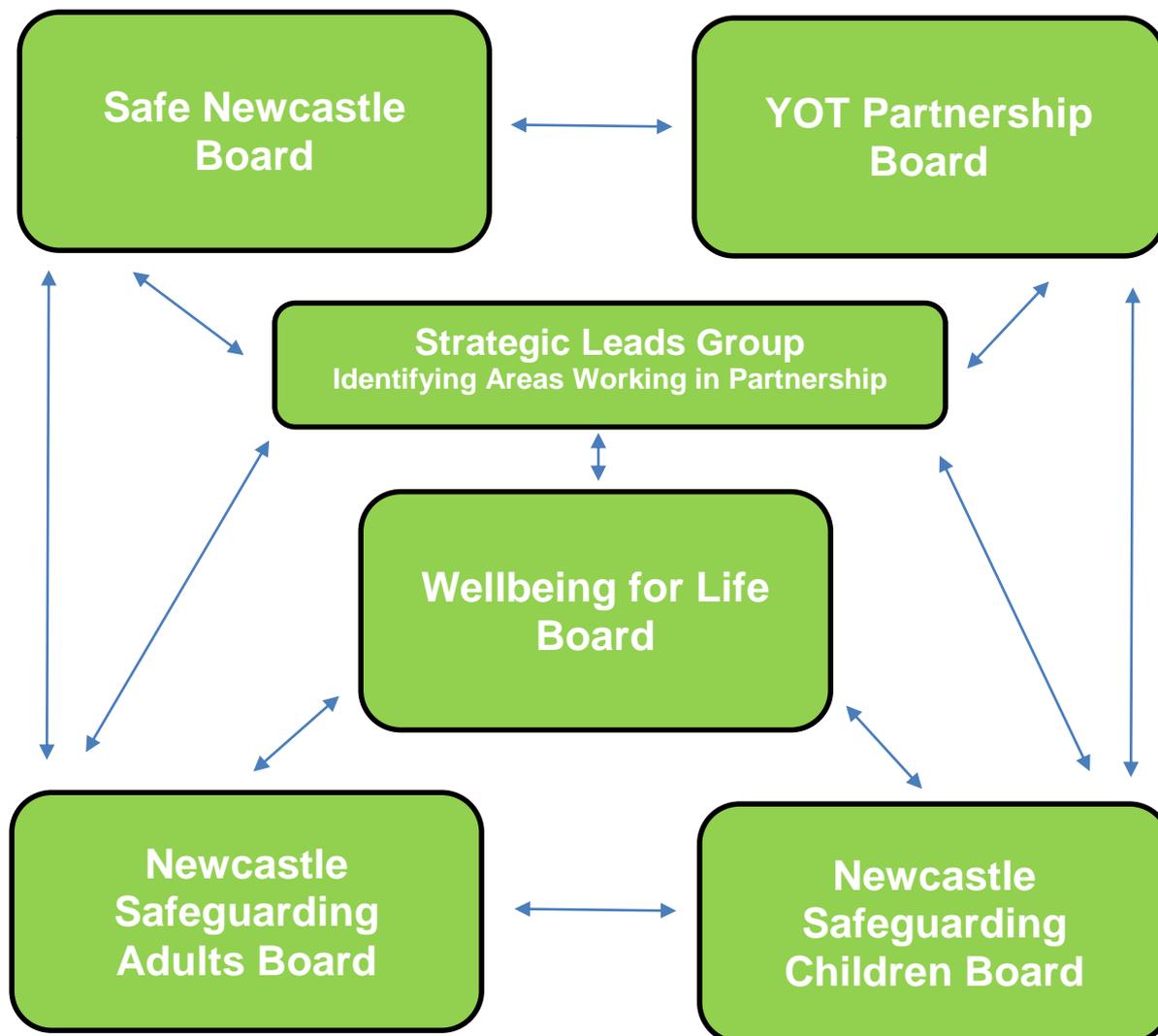
How we will work with our partners and other Boards

Safe Newcastle has led the way during 2016/17 to build improved working relationships with other Boards who share interest in our cross cutting issues.

A Strategic Leads Group has been established who are developing a shared framework which outlines how we will work together and ensure cross cutting issues are led by the most appropriate Board structure whilst ensuring input and scrutiny from others as required.

The Safe Newcastle Board has determined that it should take the lead on the issue of modern day slavery, due to the links to organised crime and the potential for community tensions. A separate working group will be established, looking at the city's response to this issue, reporting directly to the Safe Newcastle Board.

The diagram below illustrates the linkages and how the 5 Boards will work together



For more information about the work of Safe Newcastle please visit our website on www.safenewcastle.org.uk

You can also email us on safenewcastleadmin@newcastle.gov.uk