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Safer Gloucestershire

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Presentation Aims

- To give an overview of the work of Safer Gloucestershire, in particular:
 - Why it exists
 - What it does
 - How it links to existing partnerships and work streams
 - An example of work
 - Current/future work streams



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Background and Gloucestershire Context



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Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 recognised that crime prevention was not the sole responsibility of the police.
- The Act established **Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)** as statutory partnerships operating at a district level with the role of **preventing crime and anti-social behaviour** (including environmental ASB).
- A number of **'responsible authorities'** are named in the Act who, by law must be members of the CSPs - these include local councils, health partners, probation, fire and rescue service as well as the police and OPCC.
- **Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007** established requirement for County-level strategy group.



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Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- **Section 5** of the Act places a responsibility on CSPs to **develop crime and disorder reduction strategies** every three years which should be based on an **audit of crime related issues** in their areas (**section 6**).
- **Section 115** of the Act established the **power to disclose information** between partner agencies for the purpose of preventing / reducing crime and increasing community safety.
- **Section 17** of the Act places a duty on the responsible authorities to **consider crime and disorder and community safety in all of their functions** meaning crime reduction and prevention should be considered in all decision and policy making, including budgetary:

Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it – it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent , crime and disorder in its area.



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Gloucestershire Context

- There are six district CSPs across Gloucestershire:
 - The Communities Partnership (Cheltenham)
 - Stronger & Safer Gloucester Partnership
 - Cotswold Community Safety Partnership
 - Tewkesbury Community Safety Partnership
 - Stroud Community Safety Partnership
 - Forest of Dean Community Safety Partnership
- As a two-tier council area, we've recognised over the years that many of our key challenges are best tackled by agencies structured at a county level. The **Safer Gloucestershire Board is therefore the umbrella strategy group bringing together the district CSPs and county agencies and fulfil the requirements for a community safety agreement and joint Strategic Assessment.**



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Gloucestershire Strategic Assessment

Purpose and Statutory Requirements

- Statutory requirement for community safety strategies to be informed by a strategic assessment of crime and disorder, refreshed annually (Section 5 & 6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998).
- The last Strategic Assessment was undertaken in 2018 by the County Council and was a joint Strategic Needs Assessment incorporating health data.
- We worked with an independent consultant – Chris Williams earlier this year, to bring together data from the Force Strategic Assessment and county thematic strategies. Looking into patterns and trends within Gloucestershire as well as looking at how Gloucestershire compares to national and most similar groups to help identify performance issues and outliers in the data.
- The Safer Gloucestershire Board commissioned South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) in 2022 to undertake a piece of work looking at how the Board and CSPs worked together, the recommendations from the audit have been considered and we are incorporating them into the way we work together.



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Purpose and Statutory Requirements

- In addition to the analysis of crime data, a resident's survey was undertaken in December 2022 and the results analysed by DJS Research on behalf of the OPCC. The results from the survey has also been used to inform the selection of county-wide priorities.
- The Strategic Assessment is a high-level overview document and it's used to support thematic and localised profiles to develop specific action plans. It is vital that these are underpinned by a thorough victim-offender-location-time (VOLT) analysis.
- The Strategic Assessment for Gloucestershire aims to identify priorities for the Safer Gloucestershire Partnership, and support the six district CSPs in identifying their priorities.



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Key Findings

- Gloucestershire remains one of the safer places to live in England.
- Violent crime and sexual offences are rising.
- 14% of violent crimes are domestic in nature and violence and intimidation against women and girls is a key risk.
- Drug offences are falling but urban street gangs, organised crime groups and County Lines are a threat.
- Hate crime is rising across Gloucestershire.
- Acquisitive crime and ASB are falling across the county.
- The Safer Gloucestershire Board should be strengthened to be able to manage the delivery of these priorities.
- There is an opportunity to divide priorities between Safer Gloucestershire Board and CSPs as appropriate.



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Priorities

Three themes must be included in community safety strategies in law:

- **Substance Misuse** (delivered by Combatting Drugs Partnership)
- **Reducing Reoffending** (delivered by Reducing Reoffending Board)
- **Serious Violence** (led by Serious Violence Prevention Coordinator – Neil Smith)

Propose countywide priorities for the SGB:

- VIAWG including domestic abuse
- Hate Crime
- Urban Street Gangs and Serious and Organised Crime
- Prevent
- Road Safety
- ASB



Cost of Crime in Gloucestershire

Crime type	Total crimes 21-22	Unit cost	Total cost
Arson	438	8420	£3,687,960
Criminal damage	4609	1350	£6,222,150
Domestic burglary	1886	5930	£11,183,980
Homicide	13	3217740	£41,830,620
Non-domestic burglary	744	15460	£11,502,240
Rape offences	635	39360	£24,993,600
Robbery of personal property	299	11320	£3,384,680
Theft from a vehicle	1129	870	£982,230
Theft from the person	281	1380	£387,780
Theft of a motor vehicle	429	10290	£4,414,410
Violence with injury	6089	14050	£85,550,450
Violence without injury	7215	5930	£42,784,950
TOTAL COST			£236,925,050



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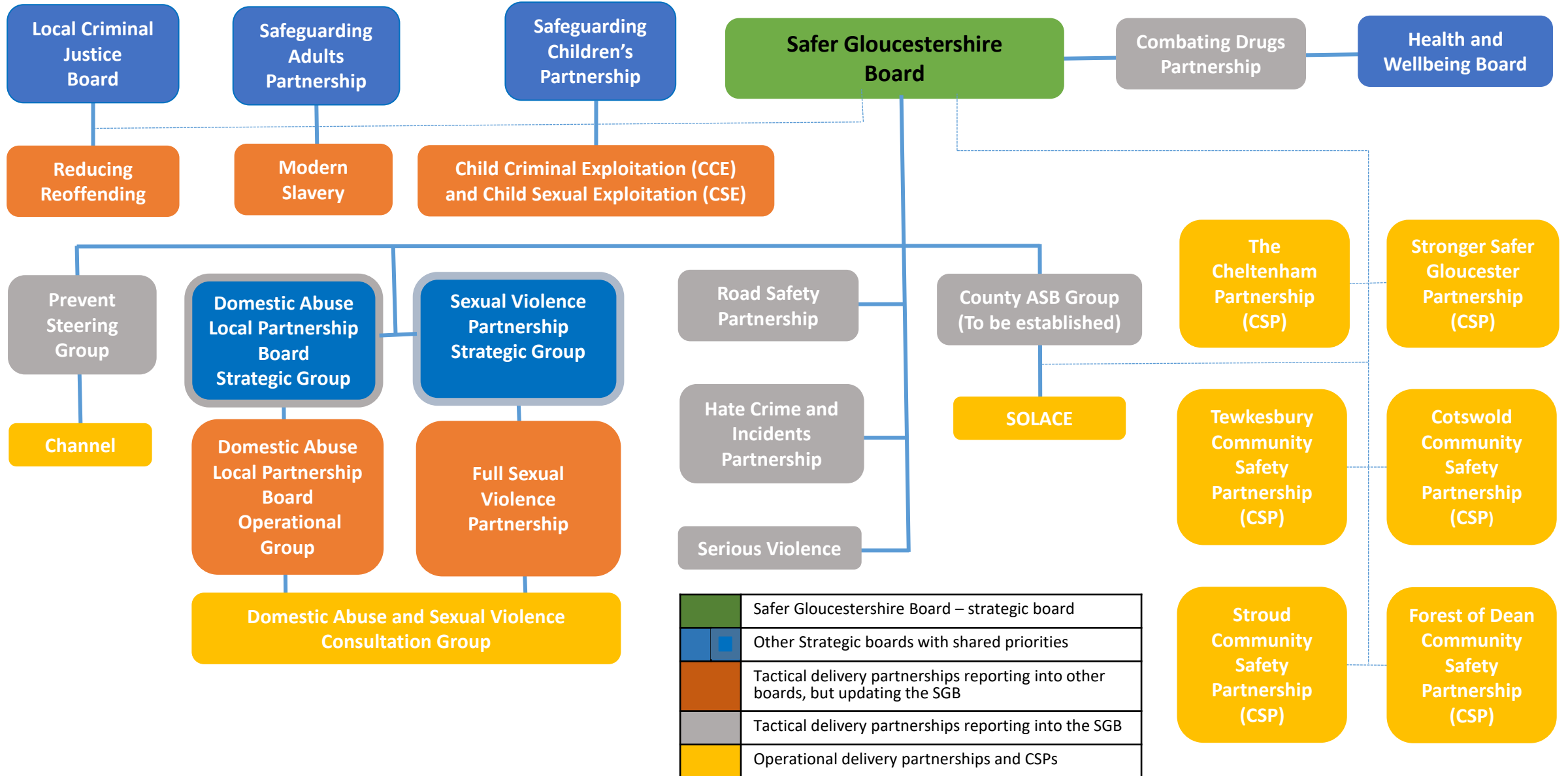
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District CSPs

- The inclusion of statutory priorities in the Safer Gloucestershire Board Community Safety Agreement fulfils the requirements of each district CSP to meet those duties.
- The district CSPs should be aware of their role in delivering countywide priorities and action plans should acknowledge this.
- District CSPs should agree their own priorities locally, using the strategic assessment as a source but combining with local needs analyses and knowledge.

Governance Model





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Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

- ASB Pledge
- Holistic ASB training for partners
- ASB case review officer
- ASB awareness week activities
- Solace expansion

SOLACE

BRIEF HISTORY OF SOLACE

- Foundation of Solace is the tragic case of Fiona Pilkington and her daughter with the persistent ASB they experienced.
- Previously based only in Gloucester (2009) – Police, Gloucester City Homes and Gloucester City Council as “Project Solace”
- Model reviewed by Cheltenham Borough Council and plans made to extend.
- From January 2018 team became urban wide across both sites.
- May 2018 – official launch with new name “Solace”.

SOLACE

The aim of the Solace team is to **reduce repeat incidents and victims** of anti-social behaviour by providing a **consistent partnership approach** between the Constabulary, Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucester City Council to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Objectives:

- Reduce repeat victims of ASB
- Provide an holistic approach to resolving ASB
- Increase public confidence
- Provide sustainable long-term solutions to resolving ASB



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SOLACE



Priorities for Solace

1. Anti-social behaviour assessed as **high risk** to the victim and/or having a **high impact** upon the community.
2. Partnership priorities as agreed between Gloucestershire Constabulary, Gloucester City Council and Cheltenham Borough Council, which require a **multi-agency response**.
3. Support for cases where **urgent civil action** is required (e.g. closure orders)
4. Anti-social behaviour assessed as **medium risk** that would;
 - Benefit from a **multi-agency response**, and/or
 - Has a significant **potential to escalate**
5. Support for all other cases where **civil enforcement action** is being considered (e.g. criminal behaviour orders and civil injunction).



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SOLACE

Main piece of legislation used: Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the powers contained:

- Civil injunction
- Criminal behaviour order
- Dispersal power
- Community protection notice
- Public space protection order
- Closure order
- Absolute ground for possession



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SOLACE

Enforcement is not always needed and an alternative is to use restorative justice/restorative mediation – all run by Restorative Gloucestershire.

To support victims:

- Victim Support.
- Work with colleagues in Local Authority teams / other agencies to support.
- Close links with Restorative Gloucestershire and the offer of mediation.

SOLACE

Solace expansion to rural areas

- With Solace embedded in the urban areas tackling ASB, it highlighted that all areas in Gloucestershire could benefit from being part of the team.
- Increase skillset, use of powers and options on tools to use can strengthen partnership working and links across the county.
- Safer Streets 5 funding allowed us to expand Solace into the remaining four districts and with continued funding from OPCC we are able to extend this until the end of March 2023.



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Solace Cases Opened in (Years)

2020 – 81

2021 – 170

2022 – 135

2023 (to April) – 144

Data Source: Solace Team
April 2023

Gloucester

66 new ASB cases (including 34 from Street Aware work) of the new cases:

- **19** related to drugs/alcohol
- **21** related to crime, intimidation and abuse
- **26** related to noise and general estate management

Cheltenham

46 new ASB cases:

- **9** related to drugs/alcohol
- **23** related to crime, intimidation and abuse
- **14** related to noise and general estate management

Rural Districts

26 new ASB cases:

- **9** related to drugs/alcohol
- **13** related to crime, intimidation and abuse
- **4** related to noise and general estate management



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Current/Future work streams

- ASB county group
- County hate crime group
- Enhanced reporting
- Strengthen process and timelines
- Scorecard
- Perception of crime survey