

Melton Community Safety Partnership
Draft Strategic Plan
2021-2024

Introduction to Melton

Melton Borough is an attractive rural area located in north-east Leicestershire and includes the market town of Melton Mowbray and more than 70 small villages. The town is about 28 kilometres from the surrounding cities of Leicester and Nottingham and the towns of Loughborough and Grantham.

The population for Melton Borough is 52,000. The majority (52%) live in Melton Mowbray and the remainder in the surrounding villages. Melton includes a small proportion of residents from a non-white ethnic background and has an ageing population.

Melton is host to a variety of unique tourist attractions including a weekly cattle market and the annual East Midlands Food Fair, one of the biggest food fairs in the country. The reality of crime and anti-social behaviour levels recorded in the audits and strategic assessments correspond directly to the local perception of crime and strengthens the actuality that Melton is a safe place to live with low crime and disorder levels.

About the Partnership

The Safer Melton Partnership (SMP) formed as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which placed a statutory duty on the Police, Local Authority, County Council, Primary Care Trust, Police Authority, Probation Trust and Fire Authority to work together in order to develop and implement a community safety strategy designed to reduce crime and disorder within their local authority area. The partnership also engages with as many local agencies and voluntary groups as possible in order to achieve a truly community-based multi-agency approach to crime reduction.

About the Community Safety Plan

Every three years the partnership is required to produce a three year community safety plan which is informed by an audit of crime and disorder and through consultation with the wider public. The Safer Melton Partnership is required to produce a three year 'rolling' community safety strategy which is reviewed annually through a strategic assessment. Each year the Partnership will prepare a Strategic Assessment to assist in revising the plan and the community safety priorities for Melton.

Setting the Partnership Priorities

This Community Safety Strategy outlines the main priorities for the Partnership, with regard to crime, disorder and other aspects of safety for communities. For each priority the partnership has identified what we want to achieve and how we will work to achieve this. Communities themselves know the issues that affect them the most,

and have a major part to play in making themselves as a community safer. We have worked with communities and neighbourhoods to listen to their concerns and issues and these are reflected in the priorities.

This document also seeks to reset the relationships our services have with communities. We recognise that over recent years, services across the public sector have begun to withdraw from communities. The Safer Melton Partnership has sought the views of communities, partner agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the community is placed at the centre of decision making and service delivery.

In applying a more holistic approach to problem solving, the Safer Melton Partnership will aim to solve deep rooted complexities across individuals and communities.

Partners will continue to use accepted partnership working mechanisms such as SMO meetings, Joint Action Group (JAG operational meetings) and Adults at Risk meetings to manage risk and support those most in need of assistance.

Community safety service delivery in Melton

Our communities

Services from across the Safer Melton Partnership are engaged in supporting residents, businesses, voluntary organisations and community groups in tackling complex issues which can be seen on both a national and local scale and are affecting communities across the nation.

To meet this challenge, services are committed to building on the many successes and positive elements of living in Melton, creating an environment of empowerment, confidence and growth to enable communities to thrive.

Recent engagement across our borough has identified the following pressures:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Underemployment and Social Mobility
- Physical health and mobility
- Mental Health and substance misuse
- Community resilience and organisation
- Educational attainment and future prospects
- Housing quality, cost and availability
- Environmental quality
- Financial stability and welfare reform

These issues are barriers to, and opportunities for, ensuring our communities are thriving and engaged places and require bespoke solutions to be applied to maximise effectiveness. We recognise that a one size fits all approach does not help residents become independent, or assist communities in finding solutions which fit

their precise circumstances. The Partnership therefore needs to be flexible in its approach, and build upon existing strengths within each area of focus.

Communities with identity and resilience

Melton is a community with myriad different identities, faiths, skills, histories, cultures, and circumstances, of great potential and creativity. Harnessing such elements is key in developing engaged and self sustaining communities.

We will adopt an asset based approach to community development, utilising the many positives of each community to facilitate change. We will look to develop both the physical assets of each community, e.g. community centres, alongside the identification of residents or groups of residents, who are committed to supporting others within their community.

The varied 3rd sector and voluntary organisations working in each area will be engaged, alongside community groups, faith groups, housing associations, schools, GP's and public sector partners to ensure that expertise and resources are maximised.

Understanding what really matters

To truly understand what matters to our communities, we need to listen to residents, outside of our organisational silos. This can only be achieved once a position of trust has been established between the Council and the community. A position of trust can only be gained by spending time with, and working alongside our communities.

Specific listening events will be facilitated in each community, in the process identifying individuals who feel empowered to lead a community effort to address any identified issues alongside organisations and agencies. This approach will build a collaborative and sustainable environment for change.

Aims and Outcomes

By adopting this neighbourhood and community orientated approach, we hope to:

Earn the trust of our communities. We will spend time getting to know residents, businesses and organisations, doing so in a non confrontational, open way. We will listen to them, and help solve issues when they arise.

Utilise community assets. Community centres, communal lounges, empty properties, shops, and community halls, amongst others, provide opportunities to connect with communities in new and innovative ways. We will ensure opportunities to work from these bases are maximised.

Create a sense of ownership. We know that it is not possible to solve all issues for everyone on our own. To have long lasting and sustainable communities, we need to

develop solutions from within the community itself, ensuring the community is empowered to identify and solve issues alongside partner agencies.

Develop a true picture. We will not assume that we know what the problems are, or how to solve them. We will rely on local knowledge, and create bespoke solutions in collaboration with stakeholders to define problems and improve situations.

Improve communication. We will not rely on digital engagement to create a rounded picture of our communities, however we will ensure that if someone needs to contact us, they have numerous options available to them. The rich story of our communities will be gained through talking to residents, face to face, ensuring clarity of message.

Deploy resource more effectively. Through understanding the problem, we can react more effectively, aligned to the community itself. We are not stepping back from our responsibilities – if there is an acute issue, or support needed, we will respond – and officers will be empowered to do what is truly required, not just ‘the done thing’.

Remove organisational barriers. We, as a partnership will align our services in order to address issues in the most effective way, so we operate as a single partnership as opposed to discreet parts.

Intervene early and appropriately. Increased knowledge of our communities will allow earlier identification of issues, and therefore early deployment of resource to assist and support residents.

We will not define outcomes at an early stage, as this assumes we know the issues. Outcomes and goals can only be developed in concert with each community, and with shared ownership of such outcomes. This does not, however, mean we will not be accountable for delivery. We will track and measure success, and be accountable for our actions.

Measuring Success

The effectiveness of our actions over the coming years will be measured by the strides taken by each community, and each individual within them. We will develop measures which include a ‘narrative’, or context, and which inform service delivery. We will not ‘benchmark’ against other Community Safety Partnerships, as we recognise that each area is unique and facing its own individual circumstances.

These measures will be developed with the community, and will rely on their testimony.

Long lasting impact

The aim of this blueprint is to create the conditions within our services and communities that will engender long term, sustainable change within our borough.

We wish to help our communities become self sustaining, independent and healthy places, able to engage with public services effectively and efficiently.

Partnership priorities

The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategic Board (LSCSB) sets the overarching priorities for Community Safety Partnerships across Leicestershire. This includes the Safer Melton Partnership.

The priorities in relation to crime and disorder were agreed by LSCSB in 2018:

- Identify and protect the most vulnerable;
- Reduce crime and fear of crime;
- Reduce incidence and impact of ASB;
- Reduce harm from alcohol and substance misuse;
- Reduce risk of harm to young people from cyber crime and bullying;
- Increase reporting of domestic abuse and protect the most vulnerable; and
- Increase confidence in reporting of hate incidents.

Local Priorities

The forthcoming Violence Crime Bill (2020) is likely to further set out a place based, holistic approach to tackling crime, building on connections within communities to resolve issues. Following an extensive consultation period in early 2020 with communities, voluntary organisation and partner agencies, the Safer Melton Partnership has identified the following aspects of community safety as priorities for the years 2021 to 2023:

1. Drug related crime

Why has this priority been identified?

- Highest polling issue from resident consultation in January 2020.
- Significant partnership resource directed towards preventing and policing issue across Melton in 2020/21.

2. Road safety

Why has this priority been identified?

- Highest polling issue for rural communities across the borough.
- Complements ongoing road safety and speeding awareness programmes being delivered by partner agencies.

3. Violent crime

Why has this priority been identified?

- People carrying knives and knife crime was identified as a priority for young people through the 2020 consultation
- Violence Reduction Network established to address these issues across Leicestershire and specifically Melton.
- Recent increase in violent crime statistics in Melton

4. Cybercrime

Why has this priority been identified?

- Growing area of focus amongst partner agencies with a view to future crime trends
- Key area of focus amongst young and vulnerable groups

5. Communication/ engagement with communities

Why has this priority been identified?

- Key focus of Community Safety Partnership agencies
- Clear guidance from consultation that information regarding services is shared with the public.

Effective Partnership Structure

Safer Melton Partnership is committed to ensuring that the partnership is the most effective vehicle for delivering crime reduction in the borough of Melton. Therefore the partnership has developed an improvement plan which incorporates the key aspects that underpin effective partnership working. This improvement plan will be revised annually and will be managed by the Community Safety Partnership.

Delivering Priorities

Each of the priorities identified within this 3 year plan are supported by detailed action plans which outline appropriate initiatives, timescales, lead organisations and measures of success. Each action plan will have a designated owner whose responsibility is to regularly monitor performance through an agreed performance management framework to ensure successful delivery.

Working Countywide

By working with other partnerships and agencies as part of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Safety Programme Board the partnership aims to use resources effectively in order to achieve the best outcomes for those who live in, work in and visit Melton, and Leicestershire as a whole. Where possible the SMP also works closely with other partnerships across smaller areas on common issues.

Partners

The Safer Melton Partnership is made up of a number of agencies, some of which are required by law to work together to reduce crime and disorder.

The statutory agencies responsible for the work of the partnership are:

- Melton Borough Council
- Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicestershire Police Authority
- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire & Rutland County Primary Care Trust
- Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Trust

Other non-statutory agencies who are involved and contribute to the work of this partnership include:

- Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Service
- Leicestershire Youth Offending Service
- Leicestershire Early Help Service
- Local Businesses – Pubwatch & SMART
- Melton Learning Hub/Voluntary Action Melton
- Melton Town Estate
- Melton Parish Councils
- Me & My Learning
- Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch Associations
- ASRA Housing
- East Midlands Housing Association
- Demotford Housing Association
- Axiom Housing
- Muir Housing Group

Other relevant organisation and agencies also support the partnership in tackling crime and disorder in Melton.

Contribution of partners

Each statutory partner within the Partnership agrees to:

- Participate in the strategic development, performance management and delivery of the partnership's priorities and actions.
- Incorporate priorities and actions from the Community Safety Plan, as relevant, into their own plans, and therefore provide appropriate mainstream resources to deliver these priorities and actions.

- Provide appropriate attendance to and involvement in the partnership's delivery structure to enable it to function effectively.
- Share data and information in accordance with the Partnership and Leicestershire County Information Sharing protocols for the prevention of Crime and Disorder to the benefit of the communities within the Borough of Melton.
- Ensure their duties to consider the impact of their actions on Community Safety under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 are fulfilled by their organisation.
- Ensure the partnership receives full support from their organisation