

# EDINBURGH'S JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2020-2023

## VISION

We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.

## PRINCIPLES

- Prioritise prevention, early intervention and support
- Safeguard the most vulnerable
- Work in collaboration

The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership is determined to:

## PRIORITIES

Reduce harm and safeguard people from Antisocial Behaviour specifically the impact of noise



Reduce the likelihood of children and young people engaging in harmful or offending behaviour



Digital Safety: Safeguard people from online harm



### Working in Partnership

Supporting the delivery of each priority is a city wide plan which implements the principles of the **Stronger Edinburgh model** focusing on vulnerable adults, young people and complex antisocial behaviour.

Adopting a solution focused methodology, **Stronger Edinburgh** advocates for a single agency coordinated approach that embraces GIRFEC principles.

The methodology is driven by recognising that need, vulnerability and strength can be present for both the victims and the person responsible and supporting them to make positive behavioural changes that increases quality of life and avoid further disruption.

Elements of this strategy will also be delivered and linked through the multi agency **Locality & Thematic Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPs)**.

The **local CIPs** where partners such as Fire and Rescue, Health and Voluntary Sector (led by Police Scotland and the Council), agree the correct course of action on a monthly basis to tackle ongoing or future local community safety issues.

**Thematic CIPs** are established to address issues affecting communities across the city that require a longer term solution, wider participation and a more focussed approach for example, street begging.

## Reduce harm and safeguard people from ASB specifically the impact of noise



Noise related issues account for the highest proportion of ASB complaints, and aside from the demands placed on public service resource, these behaviours negatively impact on the wellbeing of victims, their households, the wider community, and indeed, the perpetrators themselves. Characterised by complexity, noise complaints are routinely a sign of underlying vulnerabilities, including mental health and addiction.

This priority therefore seeks to deliver sustainable positive behavioural change through a programme of work. This includes the development of enhanced support, such as embedding the Council's Mediation service and improving our recording and referral mechanisms to ensure that we are working in a coherent and informed way.

The work will also be complemented by a bespoke communications plan, which will seek to educate and raise awareness around the inherent complexities of noise as well as promote people's rights and responsibilities ensuring that individuals who impact negatively on their community are aware of the consequences.

## Reduce the likelihood of children and young people engaging in harmful or offending behaviour



Children and young people (under 18) play a vital role and make an important contribution to the future development of the City of Edinburgh. For many, their development into adulthood is positive and untroubled. Some however do not experience the childhood we would wish. The *Edinburgh Transition Study* (2010) informs us that children who offend are often the most disadvantaged, and services do not respond quickly enough to address their problematic behaviour. Most victims of youth crime are other children.

This priority area aims to address both aspects of this issue – to work with young people who offend as early as possible to address factors that may be contributing to their offending, and to listen to the voices of young people who may be fearful of becoming victims of crime and taking action to address their concerns.

## Digital Safety: safeguard people from online harm



Online bullying, threatening communications, accessing distressing or upsetting content are significant risks to our young people. The fact that many parents and carers remain unaware of how to support their children to stay safe online exacerbates the risks posed. However, the impact of online harm does not just affect young people. Adults, whether they are perceived as vulnerable or not, can place themselves at risk of a variety of issues including fraud and financial exploitation.

This priority area does not seek to address all issues within this area such as child exploitation, as this sits firmly within the delivery remit of Police Scotland. This priority theme will instead seek to improve the resilience of our communities and work towards preventing people from becoming victims by providing consistent advice and accurate information including learning resources to be targeted at a wide range of audiences including parents, young children and vulnerable adults.