



# Co-operative Councils

## Innovation Network

### COMMUNITY



## Sunderland City Council

### **Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations (SARA) – City-wide Partners working collaboratively for the benefit of residents**

In April 2019, following concerns raised in Southwick (ward within Sunderland) by local councillors, a multi-agency partnership was created. City Partners agreed to a targeted piece of place-based work across 12 streets in the Southwick ward area. An action plan was developed focusing on education, prevention and enforcement. Community engagement needed to be a strong part of the plan, as Sunderland Council were concerned that residents had lost confidence in reporting issues to services, or indeed knowing who to report to.

Sunderland Council and their partners also acknowledged that there was a range of other factors affecting the community and neighbourhood.

- Anti-social behaviour and crime
- Unemployment
- Low Income
- Poor housing standards
- Health issues



The partners working collaboratively within the SARA Project are:

Sunderland City Council, Northumbria Police, Gentoo (Sunderland's Social Housing provider), Altogether Better Health partners, Public Health, Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance, Fire and Rescue Service, GP Alliance, Together for Children, Violence Reduction Unit.

To assist in meeting the outcomes within the SARA Action Plan, and ensure cross-sector involvement, a number of approaches have been developed and these include:

- Priorities lead meetings for all operational leads
- Daily multi-agency neighbourhood solution meeting attended by all relevant officers
- Voluntary and community sector partnership meeting for local agencies and organisations
- Other relevant sub-group meetings as and when required

The work that SARA carries out is reported through the agreed governance structure to the SARA Strategic Board which is in place to drive forward the work and ensure it is successful

The foundation of SARA is all about:

- Working effectively on cross-priority work and interventions to improve outcomes
- Increasing access to services
- Improving relationships and establishing partnerships that understand and respect the extensive and vital contributions of residents, voluntary and community organisations and statutory services



A snapshot of the outcomes achieved to-date by the SARA project :

- 252 residents referred to social prescribers
- 1,108 community contacts made
- 30 residents now volunteering through SARA
- 8 consultation events
- 142 hours of patrols - equivalent to one full month of working days patrolling
- 309 warning letters and 59 notices issued for environmental actions
- 51 proactive housing inspections
- 144 victims of crime or anti-social behaviour supported
- 28 young people supported in their tenancies
- 152 adult safeguarding reports and concerns referred
- 1,925 bulbs and flowers planted
- 720 items of intelligence submitted to police
- Winners Northumbria Police Southern Command Problem Solvers of the Year!

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**For further information contact:**

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